
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CENTRAL REGISTRY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 350-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately
3 inserted and to read as follows:

4 "Aggravated circumstances" means the same as defined in
5 section 587A-4.

6 "Harm" means the same as defined in section 587A-4.

7 "Threatened harm" means the same as defined in section
8 587A-4."

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 350, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
11 and read as follows:

12 "§350- Central registry; expungement. (a) The
13 department shall maintain a central registry of reported child
14 abuse or neglect cases. When the department confirms a report
15 by a preponderance of the evidence that a person is the
16 perpetrator of child abuse or neglect, harm, or threatened harm,
17 the person's name shall be included in the central registry.



1 (b) The department shall promptly expunge a person's name
2 from the central registry if:

3 (1) The report is determined not confirmed by the
4 department, including after administrative proceedings
5 conducted pursuant to chapter 91; provided that in an
6 administrative appeal hearing, the department shall
7 have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the
8 evidence that the confirmation was correct; or

9 (2) The family court determines that the report is not
10 confirmed after:

11 (A) A petition arising from the report filed pursuant
12 to section 587A-12 has been dismissed by order of
13 the family court because the court did not find
14 sufficient evidence based upon a preponderance of
15 the evidence to assume jurisdiction pursuant to
16 section 587A-5; or

17 (B) A written report with the disposition is
18 submitted to the family court pursuant to a
19 referral under section 586-10.5, and the family
20 court finds that the facts supporting the



1 confirmation were not proven by a preponderance
2 of the evidence.

3 The family court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction
4 for purposes of determining that a report was
5 correctly confirmed under this paragraph as long as
6 the family court matter is pending. The person whose
7 name is included in the central registry shall not
8 request an administrative appeal hearing to contest
9 the confirmation unless the family court dismisses or
10 closes the related matter without making findings as
11 to the facts supporting the confirmation.

12 (c) A person who has been confirmed as the perpetrator of
13 abuse or neglect, harm, or threatened harm, whose name has not
14 been expunged from the central registry pursuant to subsection
15 (b), may submit a request for expungement to the department;
16 provided that:

- 17 (1) The confirmation is more than five years old;
- 18 (2) The record does not involve aggravated circumstances
19 or conduct described in paragraph (1)(B) of the
20 definition of child abuse or neglect in section 350-1;
21 and



1 (3) There are no other reports of abuse or neglect
2 subsequent to the confirmation.

3 Requests submitted that do not meet these minimum requirements
4 shall be denied.

5 (d) A person seeking to have the person's own name
6 expunged pursuant to subsection (c) shall submit a request for
7 expungement to the department on a form prescribed by the
8 department. The request for expungement shall be reviewed in
9 accordance with rules adopted by the department pursuant to
10 chapter 91 that shall consider, at minimum, the following
11 criteria:

- 12 (1) Length of time since the report was confirmed;
- 13 (2) Severity of the abuse or neglect, harm, or threatened
14 harm;
- 15 (3) Age of the child at the time of the report;
- 16 (4) Age of the confirmed perpetrator at the time of the
17 report;
- 18 (5) Evidence of the confirmed perpetrator's
19 rehabilitation; and
- 20 (6) Any other relevant information received and deemed
21 credible by the department.



1 (e) Upon review of a request for expungement, the
2 department may grant the request for expungement based on a
3 finding of good cause shown that the expungement would serve the
4 interests of justice. A person whose request for expungement is
5 denied shall not submit another request for expungement for a
6 period of five years from the date of the denial or five years
7 from the date the denial is affirmed on appeal, whichever is
8 later.

9 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
10 contrary, the department may review reports on its own action
11 and, in its discretion, may expunge a person's name from the
12 central registry based on criteria established in rules adopted
13 pursuant to chapter 91.

14 (g) Records and information contained in a report for
15 which a person's name is expunged from the central registry
16 shall be retained by the department solely for future risk and
17 safety assessment purposes."

18 SECTION 3. Section 350-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:



1 "(d) The department shall maintain a central registry of
2 reported child abuse or neglect cases [~~and shall promptly~~
3 ~~expunge the reports in cases if:~~

4 ~~(1) The report is determined not confirmed by the~~
5 ~~department, an administrative hearing officer, or a~~
6 ~~Hawaii state court on appeal; or~~

7 ~~(2) The petition arising from the report has been~~
8 ~~dismissed by order of the family court after an~~
9 ~~adjudicatory hearing on the merits pursuant to chapter~~
10 ~~587A.~~

11 ~~Records and information contained in a report that is~~
12 ~~expunged may be retained by the department solely for future~~
13 ~~risk and safety assessment purposes.] in accordance with section~~
14 ~~350-_____."~~

15 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



Report Title:

Child Abuse and Neglect; Harm or Threatened Harm; Central Registry; Expungement

Description:

Clarifies that a confirmed report of child abuse or neglect, harm, or threatened harm will result in the perpetrator's name being maintained in the central registry. Clarifies when a person's name may be expunged from the central registry and establishes a process for expungement upon request. Takes effect 7/1/2025. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

