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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that alert programs like  
2 the AMBER alert and silver alert have been highly successful  
3 tools for helping to locate missing persons. According to the  
4 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, since the  
5 implementation of the AMBER alert in 1996, 1,221 missing  
6 children have been recovered due to its use. The same center  
7 reports that since 2022, more than six thousand silver alerts  
8 have been activated nationally, and more than eighty per cent of  
9 those missing elders were safely located.

10           The legislature recognizes that in missing persons cases,  
11 it can be critical to locate the person quickly. Law  
12 enforcement agencies have emphasized that the first seventy-two  
13 hours of a missing person investigation offer the best hope of  
14 finding helpful witnesses and of locating the person alive. By  
15 quickly disseminating information in cases involving child  
16 abduction or a missing elder, the AMBER and silver alerts allow  
17 the community to assist in the search.



1           Based on the success of the AMBER alert and silver alert  
2 programs, the legislature believes that a wider age range of  
3 missing persons would benefit from a similar alert. A more  
4 expansive alert system would also benefit Native Hawaiian and  
5 Pacific Islander women and children between the ages of fifteen  
6 and seventeen, who are disproportionately represented in the  
7 State's missing person cases.

8           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish an  
9 alert program in remembrance of Charli Scott, a twenty-seven  
10 year old woman who went missing and was murdered by her former  
11 partner on the island of Maui. The intent of the Charli alert  
12 is to supplement the AMBER alert and silver alert and to help  
13 locate a broader age range of vulnerable persons who go missing  
14 in the State.

15           SECTION 2. Chapter 353C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
17 and to read as follows:

18           "§353C-       Charli alert program. (a) The department  
19 shall develop and implement a Charli alert program to rapidly  
20 disseminate information about a person subject to the alert.



1        (b) If a person is reported missing to a law enforcement  
2 agency and that agency determines that the conditions of  
3 subsection (g) are met, the agency may request the department to  
4 activate a Charli alert. If the department concurs that the  
5 conditions of subsection (g) are met, the department shall  
6 activate a Charli alert within the geographical area requested  
7 by the investigating law enforcement agency.

8        (c) Radio, television, cable, and satellite systems are  
9 encouraged to, but not required to, cooperate with disseminating  
10 the information contained in a Charli alert.

11       (d) Upon the activation of a Charli alert, the department  
12 shall assist the investigating law enforcement agency by issuing  
13 a be-on-the-lookout alert, issuing an electronic flyer, or  
14 activating a changeable message sign, as permissible.

15       (e) The department, as permitted, may use the Wireless  
16 Emergency Alerts System.

17       (f) The department, as permitted, may use a changeable  
18 message sign if the following conditions are met:

19       (1) The investigating law enforcement agency determines  
20 that a vehicle may be involved in the missing person  
21 incident; and



1       (2) Specific vehicle identification is available for  
2           public dissemination.

3       (g) A law enforcement agency may request from the  
4 department that a Charli alert be activated if the agency  
5 determines that all of the following conditions are met  
6 regarding the investigation of the missing person:

7       (1) The missing person is between the ages of eighteen and  
8           sixty-four;

9       (2) The law enforcement agency has utilized all available  
10           local resources;

11       (3) The law enforcement agency determines that the person  
12           has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious  
13           circumstances;

14       (4) The law enforcement agency believes that the missing  
15           person is in the company of a potentially dangerous  
16           person, or there are other factors indicating that the  
17           missing person may be in peril, including factors  
18           indicating that the missing person has been the victim  
19           of domestic violence; and



1       (5) There is information that, if disseminated to the  
2                   public, could assist in the safe recovery of the  
3                   missing person.

4       (h) For purposes of this section, "Charli alert" means a  
5       notification activated pursuant to this section, designed to  
6       issue and coordinate alerts with respect to a situation that  
7       meets the conditions of subsection (g)."

8           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                   or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
12 2026-2027 for the establishment and use of the Charli alert  
13 program.

14           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
15 of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.

16           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Kanani Salyer*

JAN 22 2025



# H.B. NO. 1192

**Report Title:**

Missing Persons; Missing and Murdered Women; Charli Alert;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates moneys for a Charli Alert program to help locate persons who are 18 to 64 years old, missing, and thought to be in danger.

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

