
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COLD CASE INVESTIGATIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has hundreds
2 of unsolved murders, including some cases more than forty years
3 old. According to the nonprofit organization Project: Cold
4 Case, the State reported 2,182 homicides between 1965 and 2023,
5 and 728 of those cases remain unsolved.

6 The legislature recognizes that, while each county in the
7 State has a cold case unit, additional resources and personnel
8 may be needed to assist with the investigation of decades-old
9 crimes. The legislature also recognizes the value in
10 coordinating efforts and sharing information among federal,
11 state, county, tribal, and other agencies.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a cold
13 case investigation unit within the department of the attorney
14 general to assist federal, state, county, and tribal law
15 enforcement, and other cold case units, in investigating
16 unsolved homicide, missing person, and other cases that have a
17 nexus to the State.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 "PART . COLD CASE INVESTIGATION UNIT

5 §28- Cold case investigation unit. (a) There shall be
6 established in the department of the attorney general a cold
7 case investigation unit.

8 (b) The cold case investigation unit shall employ
9 attorneys, investigators, and other personnel as necessary to
10 promote the effective and efficient conduct of the unit's
11 activities. Except for the attorneys, all other employees of
12 the unit shall be subject to chapter 76.

13 (c) The purpose of the cold case investigation unit shall
14 be to assist federal, state, county, and tribal law enforcement
15 agencies, and cold case units within the office of a prosecutor,
16 including law enforcement agencies and cold case units in other
17 states, in investigating unsolved cases where the crime took
18 place in this State or where the victim was a resident of this
19 State.

20 (d) Cases investigated by the cold case investigation unit
21 may include unsolved homicides, sexual offenses, sexually



1 motivated offenses, missing persons, and cases of unidentified
2 remains.

3 (e) The cold case investigation unit may accept
4 investigation requests and may proactively offer assistance to a
5 law enforcement agency or cold case unit.

6 (f) For the purpose of this section, "cold case" means a
7 case where all investigative leads have been exhausted, all
8 physical evidence examined, and all witnesses interviewed to the
9 point where the case has been closed for a significant period of
10 time without any active leads."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
15 year 2026-2027 for the establishment and operation of a cold
16 case investigation unit within the department of the attorney
17 general.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
19 of the attorney general for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



H.B. NO. 610
H.D. 1

Report Title:

AG; Cold Case; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for a Cold Case Investigation Unit within the Department of the Attorney General. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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