
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 "CHAPTER

5 OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

6 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

7 "Director" means the director of the office of gun violence
8 prevention.

9 "Office" means the office of gun violence prevention.

10 § -2 Office of gun violence prevention; established.

11 (a) There shall be established within the department of law
12 enforcement, for administrative purposes only, an office of gun
13 violence prevention.

14 (b) The head of the office of gun violence prevention
15 shall be known as the director of the office of gun violence
16 prevention and shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to
17 section 26-34.



- 1 (c) The director shall be responsible for:
 - 2 (1) Serving as the principal officer in state government
 - 3 responsible for the performance, development, and
 - 4 control of programs, policies, and activities under
 - 5 the jurisdiction of the office;
 - 6 (2) Administering funds allocated for the office and
 - 7 applying for, receiving, and disbursing grants and
 - 8 donations from all sources for gun violence
 - 9 prevention;
 - 10 (3) Assessing the policies and practices of other state
 - 11 and county agencies relating to gun violence
 - 12 prevention; and
 - 13 (4) Advising state and county agencies on new legislation,
 - 14 programs, and policy initiatives relating to gun
 - 15 violence prevention.
- 16 (d) The office of gun violence prevention shall:
 - 17 (1) Conduct public awareness campaigns in a culturally
 - 18 appropriate manner to educate Hawaii residents about
 - 19 state and federal laws and existing resources relating
 - 20 to gun violence prevention, including but not limited
 - 21 to:



- 1 (A) Safe and responsible gun ownership;
- 2 (B) Reporting of lost or stolen firearms, including
- 3 any state reporting requirements;
- 4 (C) Best practices for safe storage of firearms;
- 5 (D) Filing and obtaining orders of protection; and
- 6 (E) Accessing available mental health and substance
- 7 use resources;
- 8 (2) Administer a grant program for organizations to
- 9 conduct community-based gun violence intervention
- 10 initiatives focused on interrupting cycles of gun
- 11 violence, trauma, and retaliation that are evidence-
- 12 informed and have demonstrated promise at reducing gun
- 13 violence without contributing to mass incarceration;
- 14 (3) Create and maintain a resource bank as a repository
- 15 for data, research, and statistical information
- 16 regarding gun violence in Hawaii; and
- 17 (4) Develop a plan to address gun violence in Hawaii and
- 18 coordinate, improve, and expand upon existing plans
- 19 for gun violence prevention.
- 20 (e) The office may collaborate with any other state or
- 21 county agency to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.



1 § -3 Grant program. (a) There shall be established a
2 gun violence prevention grant program to be developed and
3 administered by the office of gun violence prevention. Subject
4 to availability of funds, the office shall award grants to
5 organizations to conduct community-based gun violence
6 intervention initiatives.

7 (b) The office shall develop criteria for the awarding of
8 grants and shall establish standards, policies, and procedures
9 for the administration of the gun violence prevention grant
10 program.

11 (c) Applications for grants shall be made to the office
12 and shall contain the information required by rules. At a
13 minimum, the applicant shall:

- 14 (1) Agree to use state funds exclusively for the purposes
15 of the gun violence prevention program;
- 16 (2) Indicate capability to properly use the grant for the
17 purpose of the program;
- 18 (3) Comply with all applicable federal and state laws
19 prohibiting discrimination against any person on the
20 basis of race, color, national origin, religion,
21 creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, or



- 1 any other characteristic protected under applicable
2 federal or state law;
- 3 (4) Agree not to use state funds for entertainment or
4 perquisites;
- 5 (5) Comply with all applicable federal, state, and county
6 statutes, rules, and ordinances;
- 7 (6) Agree to indemnify and save harmless the State and its
8 officers, agents, and employees from and against any
9 and all claims arising out of or resulting from
10 activities carried out or projects undertaken with
11 grant funds and procure sufficient insurance to
12 provide this indemnification if requested by the
13 office;
- 14 (7) Agree to make available to the office all records the
15 applicant may have relating to the grant, to allow
16 state agencies to monitor the applicant's compliance
17 with this section; and
- 18 (8) Comply with other requirements the office may
19 prescribe.

20 § -4 Gun violence prevention special fund. (a) There
21 shall be established in the state treasury the gun violence



1 prevention special fund, to be administered by the office of gun
2 violence prevention, into which shall be deposited all moneys
3 received by the office in the form of:

4 (1) Grants;

5 (2) Donations; and

6 (3) Appropriations made by the legislature to the fund.

7 (b) Moneys in the gun violence prevention special fund
8 shall be used for the awarding of grants to organizations to
9 conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives
10 pursuant to section -3.

11 (c) The office shall submit an annual report to the
12 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
13 each regular session on the sources of moneys deposited into the
14 fund and expenditures of moneys from the fund.

15 § -5 Gun violence resource bank; duties. (a) The
16 office shall create and maintain a resource bank of regularly
17 updated and accurate materials and resources as a repository for
18 data, research, and statistical information regarding gun
19 violence in the State.

20 (b) As part of maintaining the resource bank, the office
21 shall:



- 1 (1) Assist researchers who are seeking information about
- 2 gun violence in the State;
- 3 (2) Collaborate with researchers, including organizations
- 4 that conduct gun violence research, to:
- 5 (A) Identify gaps in available data needed for gun
- 6 violence prevention research and develop
- 7 strategies to improve relevant data collection in
- 8 the State;
- 9 (B) Use existing available research to enhance
- 10 evidence-based gun violence prevention tools and
- 11 resources available to communities in the State;
- 12 and
- 13 (C) Improve the understanding of the disproportionate
- 14 barriers to safety from gun violence by
- 15 encouraging disaggregation of data by race and
- 16 ethnicity when research is conducted; and
- 17 (3) Promote new and relevant research regarding gun
- 18 violence prevention and, if possible, make this
- 19 research accessible to researchers and the public.

20 § -6 Reporting. The office shall submit an annual
21 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the



1 convening of each regular session that contains a summary of its
2 activities during the preceding year, including:

- 3 (1) Grants awarded;
- 4 (2) The office's engagement with community entities and
5 other stakeholders; and
- 6 (3) Any other findings and recommendations, including any
7 proposed legislation.

8 § -7 Rules. The office shall adopt rules pursuant to
9 chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of this chapter."

10 SECTION 2. Section 134C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "[+]§134C-1[+] Gun violence and violent crimes commission;
13 established. There is established the gun violence and violent
14 crimes commission that shall be placed within the [~~department of~~
15 ~~the attorney general~~] department of law enforcement for
16 administrative purposes only."

17 SECTION 3. Section 134C-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

19 "(a) The [~~attorney general~~] director of law enforcement or
20 the [~~attorney general's~~] director's designee shall coordinate



1 and serve as the chair of the gun violence and violent crimes
2 commission."

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2026-2027 to be deposited into the gun violence prevention
8 special fund.

9 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the gun violence
10 prevention special fund the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
13 2026-2027 for the awarding of grants to organizations to conduct
14 community-based gun violence intervention initiatives.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
16 gun violence prevention for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2026-2027 for the purposes of this Act, including the hiring of
2 personnel and the establishment of a gun violence resource bank.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
4 gun violence prevention for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2077.



Report Title:

AG; DLE; Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission; Office of Gun Violence Prevention; Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund; Gun Violence Resource Bank; Gun Establishment; Grants; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to conduct community outreach on gun violence prevention, develop and administer a grant program for gun violence prevention, and develop and administer a gun violence resource bank. Moves the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission from the Office of the Attorney General to the Department of Law Enforcement. Establishes the Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund and appropriates funds into and out of the special fund. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2077. (SD1)

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