
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.

18
INTRODUCED BY:

Kanani Saulys

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.

