

JAN 17 2025

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# 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 is 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 is established a gun  
2 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       §   - 4   **Gun violence prevention special fund.**   (a)   There  
12 is established in the state treasury the gun violence prevention  
13 special fund, to be administered by the office of gun violence  
14 prevention, into which shall be deposited all moneys received by  
15 the office in the form of:

- 16       (1)   Grants;  
17       (2)   Donations; and  
18       (3)   Appropriations made by the legislature to the fund.

19       (b)   The office shall submit an annual report to the  
20 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of



1 each regular session on the sources of moneys deposited into the  
2 fund and expenditures of moneys from the fund.

3       §    **-5 Gun violence resource bank; duties.**   (a)   The  
4 office shall create and maintain a resource bank of regularly  
5 updated and accurate materials and resources as a repository for  
6 data, research, and statistical information regarding gun  
7 violence in the State.

8       (b)   As part of maintaining the resource bank, the office  
9 shall:

10       (1)   Assist researchers who are seeking information about  
11 gun violence in the State;

12       (2)   Collaborate with researchers, including organizations  
13 that conduct gun violence research, to:

14       (A)   Identify gaps in available data needed for gun  
15 violence prevention research and develop  
16 strategies to improve relevant data collection  
17 the State;

18       (B)   Use existing available research to enhance  
19 evidence-based gun violence prevention tools and  
20 resources available to communities in the State;  
21 and



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1 (C) Improve the understanding of the disproportionate  
 2 barriers to safety from gun violence by  
 3 encouraging disaggregation of data by race and  
 4 ethnicity when research is conducted; and

5 (3) Promote new and relevant research regarding gun  
 6 violence prevention and, if possible, make this  
 7 research accessible to researchers and the public.

8 § -6 **Reporting.** The office shall submit an annual  
 9 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
 10 convening of each regular session that contains a summary of its  
 11 activities during the preceding year, including:

- 12 (1) Grants awarded;
- 13 (2) The office's engagement with community entities and  
 14 other stakeholders; and
- 15 (3) Any other findings and recommendations, including any  
 16 proposed legislation.

17 § -7 **Rules.** The office shall adopt rules pursuant to  
 18 chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of this chapter."

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2026-2027 to be deposited into the gun violence prevention  
3 special fund.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the gun violence  
5 prevention special fund the sum of \$ or so much  
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
8 2026-2027 for the awarding of grants to organizations to conduct  
9 community-based gun violence intervention initiatives.

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

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
16 2026-2027 for the purposes of this Act, including the hiring of  
17 personnel and the establishment of a gun violence resource bank.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Karl N. N. N.





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**Report Title:**

Office of Gun Violence Prevention; Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund; Gun Violence Resource Bank; Establishment; Grants; Appropriation

**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. Establishes the Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund and appropriates funds into and out of the special fund. Appropriates funds.

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