
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TIME LIMITATIONS ON CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 701-108, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§701-108 Time limitations. (1) A prosecution for murder, murder in the first and second degrees, attempted murder, attempted murder in the first and second degrees, criminal conspiracy to commit murder in any degree, criminal solicitation to commit murder in any degree, sexual assault in the first and second degrees, sex trafficking, and continuous sexual assault of a minor under the age of fourteen years may be commenced at any time.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, prosecutions for other offenses are subject to the following periods of limitation:

(a) A prosecution for manslaughter where the death was not caused by the operation of a motor vehicle must be commenced within ten years after it is committed;



- 1 (b) A prosecution for a class A felony must be commenced
2 within six years after it is committed;
- 3 (c) A prosecution for any felony under part IX of chapter
4 708 must be commenced within five years after it is
5 committed;
- 6 (d) A prosecution for any other felony must be commenced
7 within three years after it is committed;
- 8 (e) A prosecution for a misdemeanor or parking violation
9 must be commenced within two years after it is
10 committed; and
- 11 (f) A prosecution for a petty misdemeanor or a violation
12 other than a parking violation must be commenced
13 within one year after it is committed.
- 14 (3) If the period prescribed in subsection (2) has
15 expired, a prosecution may nevertheless be commenced for:
- 16 (a) Any offense an element of which is fraud, deception as
17 defined in section 708-800, or a breach of fiduciary
18 obligation or the offense of medical assistance fraud
19 under section 346-43.5, within three years after
20 discovery of the offense by an aggrieved party or by a
21 person who has a legal duty to represent an aggrieved



1 party and who is oneself not a party to the offense,
2 but in no case shall this provision extend the period
3 of limitation by more than six years from the
4 expiration of the period of limitation prescribed in
5 subsection (2);

6 ~~[(b) Any offense based on misconduct in office by a public~~
7 ~~servant at any time when the defendant is in public~~
8 ~~office or employment or within two years thereafter,~~
9 ~~but in no case shall this provision extend the period~~
10 ~~of limitation by more than three years from the~~
11 ~~expiration of the period of limitation prescribed in~~
12 ~~subsection (2); and~~

13 ~~-(e)]~~ (b) Any felony offense involving evidence containing
14 deoxyribonucleic acid from the offender, if a test
15 confirming the presence of deoxyribonucleic acid is
16 performed prior to expiration of the period of
17 limitation prescribed in subsection (2), but in no
18 case shall this provision extend the period of
19 limitation by more than ten years from the expiration
20 of the period of limitation prescribed in subsection
21 (2).



1 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or
2 any other law to the contrary, for any offense based on
3 misconduct by a public servant, the applicable period of
4 limitations for a criminal prosecution under subsection (2)
5 shall not commence until discovery of the offense by law
6 enforcement.

7 [~~4~~] (5) An offense is committed either when every
8 element occurs, or, if a legislative purpose to prohibit a
9 continuing course of conduct plainly appears, at the time when
10 the course of conduct or the defendant's complicity therein is
11 terminated. Time starts to run on the day after the offense is
12 committed.

13 [~~5~~] (6) A prosecution is commenced either when an
14 indictment is found or a complaint filed, or when an arrest
15 warrant or other process is issued, provided that such warrant
16 or process is executed without unreasonable delay.

17 [~~6~~] (7) The period of limitation does not run:

18 (a) During any time when the accused is continuously
19 absent from the State or has no reasonably
20 ascertainable place of abode or work within the State,
21 but in no case shall this provision extend the period



H.B. NO. 1912

of limitation by more than four years from the expiration of the period of limitation prescribed in subsection (2);

(b) During any time when a prosecution against the accused for the same conduct is pending in this State; or

(c) For any felony offense under chapter 707, part V or VI, during any time when the victim is alive and under eighteen years of age.

~~[(7)]~~ (8) As used in this section, "public servant" shall have the same meaning as in section 710-1000."

SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

Kanani Iouy

JAN 23 2026



H.B. NO. 1912

Report Title:

Hawaii Penal Code; Official Misconduct; Time Limitations;
Discovery

Description:

Provides that for any offense based on misconduct by a public servant, the applicable period of limitations for a criminal prosecution shall not commence until discovery of the offense by law enforcement.

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