
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 legislature finds that gun violence is on
2 the rise and is among the leading causes of premature and
3 preventable death in the United States. The legislature finds
4 that while Hawaii has some of the strongest gun safety laws and
5 lowest rates of gun deaths in the nation, the State is not
6 immune to rising incidents of gun violence, including gun
7 homicides and gun suicides.

8 The legislature further finds that Act 150, Session Laws of
9 Hawaii 2019 (Act 150), establishes a preventative gun violence
10 protective order law that authorizes a law enforcement officer,
11 family or household member, medical professional, educator, or
12 colleague to petition a court to temporarily prevent or remove
13 an individual's access to firearms if the individual poses a
14 danger to themselves or others. Act 150 requires county police
15 departments to take temporary custody of any and all firearms
16 and ammunition for safekeeping from an individual that is the
17 subject of a gun violence protective order.



1 The legislature additionally finds that the use and
2 effectiveness of Act 150 will be greatly improved through
3 sufficient funding for community-based gun violence intervention
4 initiatives to allow state and county law enforcement agencies
5 and stakeholders to conduct public awareness campaigns and
6 improve public access to information through educational and
7 informational opportunities for Hawaii residents on the use of
8 gun violence protective orders.

9 The legislature also finds that state and county law
10 enforcement agencies are uniquely positioned to provide
11 community outreach and community-based gun violence intervention
12 initiatives. Training on gun violence protective orders is
13 necessary to assist county police departments in taking
14 preventative action by assessing whether a gun violence
15 protective order or a referral to mental health resources is
16 appropriate for a person exhibiting warning signs or threatening
17 behavior who is at risk of committing gun violence.

18 The legislature recognizes that the judiciary, which
19 reviews and processes petitions and schedules court hearings for
20 gun violence protective orders, will foreseeably see an increase



1 in caseload and require increased funding to meet staffing needs
2 in fulfilling the requirements of Act 150.

3 The legislature further finds that sensible gun violence
4 prevention requires collaboration among all levels of
5 government, including counties, to educate and promote public
6 safety. Public awareness campaigns and community outreach are
7 essential in educating Hawaii residents about state and federal
8 laws and existing resources relating to gun violence prevention,
9 including safe and responsible gun ownership, filing and
10 obtaining orders of protection, and accessing mental health and
11 substance abuse resources.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
13 funds to:

- 14 (1) The judiciary to effectuate efficient processing of
15 temporary restraining orders and gun violence
16 protective orders, reviewing and processing of
17 petitions, and facilitating court hearings; and
- 18 (2) The department of law enforcement to conduct public
19 awareness campaigns to educate Hawaii residents on gun
20 violence, safety, intervention, and prevention through
21 gun violence protective order laws and recognizing the



1 rights of individuals to take action to protect
2 themselves and others from situations that may
3 escalate or result in gun violence.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
7 staffing and administrative costs, including the hiring of
8 personnel in each circuit, to effectuate efficient processing of
9 temporary restraining orders and gun violence protective orders
10 in accordance with part IV of chapter 134, Hawaii Revised
11 Statutes.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for
13 the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to
17 conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives,
18 including public awareness campaigns on gun violence protective
19 orders.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2055.



Report Title:

Hawaii State Association of Counties Package; Temporary Restraining Orders; Gun Violence Protective Orders; Public Awareness Campaigns; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Judiciary for the efficient processing of temporary restraining orders and gun violence protective orders. Appropriates funds to the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct public awareness campaigns on gun violence protective orders. Effective 7/1/2055. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

