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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HABITUAL VIOLENT CRIME.

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

1        SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 213, Session  
2 Laws of Hawaii 2024 (Act 213), was enacted to deter certain  
3 habitual violent crimes such as sexual assaults, abuse of family  
4 or household members, and assaults against law enforcement  
5 officers, by increasing the offense to a class C felony if the  
6 person had three or more prior convictions for a violent crime  
7 within a five-year period.

8        The legislature further finds that Act 213 sought to  
9 protect the public from habitual violent criminal offenders but,  
10 as a caution against the increased numbers of incarcerations,  
11 also included a provision to repeal the offense of habitual  
12 violent crime on June 30, 2027, pending an assessment of its  
13 effectiveness. Given the amount of time it takes for felony  
14 cases to travel through our criminal justice system, more time  
15 is needed to evaluate Act 213's effectiveness in reducing  
16 habitual violent crimes. For a valid assessment, best practices



1 in research methodology recommend that data be collected for at  
2 least five years both before and after the law was passed.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Amend Act 213 by:

5 (A) Requiring the criminal justice research institute  
6 to submit a one-time report to the legislature  
7 prior to the regular session of 2031; and

8 (B) Repealing its sunset date; and

9 (2) Require the attorney general, in consultation with  
10 criminal justice research institute, to submit ongoing  
11 annual reports to the legislature.

12 SECTION 2. Act 213, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, is  
13 amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

14 "SECTION 3A. The criminal justice research institute shall  
15 analyze data on the effectiveness of this Act in reducing  
16 violent crime and submit a report to the legislature no later  
17 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
18 of 2031. The department of attorney general, judiciary, and  
19 other criminal justice agencies as needed shall provide data to  
20 the criminal justice research institute to complete the report."



1 SECTION 3. Act 213, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, is  
2 amended by amending section 6 to read as follows:

3 "SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval[–  
4 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2027]."

5 SECTION 4. Chapter 28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
6 by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated  
7 and to read as follows:

8 "§28- Habitual violent crime; reports. (a) The  
9 department of the attorney general, in consultation with the  
10 criminal justice research institute, shall submit an annual  
11 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
12 convening of the regular sessions of 2027, and every year  
13 thereafter, on the effectiveness of section 707-712.2 in  
14 addressing repeat violent crime in Hawaii. Each report shall  
15 include data for that calendar year that includes, but is not  
16 limited to:

17 (1) The number of persons arrested or cited for an offense  
18 listed under section 707-712.2(1), Hawaii Revised  
19 Statutes, who are also habitual violent crime  
20 offenders;



1                   (2) The number of habitual violent crime offenders from  
2                   paragraph (1) who have been arrested or cited for an  
3                   offense listed under section 707-712.2(1), Hawaii  
4                   Revised Statutes, more than once since the enactment  
5                   of this Act;  
6                   (3) The number of cases charged under section 707-712.2,  
7                   Hawaii Revised Statutes; and  
8                   (4) The outcomes of the cases charged under section  
9                   707-712.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, such as the number  
10                   of cases that led to a trial, plea agreement,  
11                   conviction, deferred acceptance of guilty or nolo  
12                   contendere plea, incarceration, or probation.  
13                   (b) No later than December 1 of 2026 and every year  
14                   thereafter, the prosecuting attorney of each county shall  
15                   provide the department of the attorney general with the data to  
16                   enable the department to complete the report under subsection  
17                   (a)."

18                   SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
19                   matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
20                   begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Nadine K. Ruth  
By Request

JAN 23 2026



# H.B. NO. 2078

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Law Enforcement Coalition Package; Habitual Violent Offenders; Criminal Justice Research Institute

**Description:**

Amend Act 213, SLH 2024, by repealing its sunset date and requiring the Criminal Justice Research Institute to submit a one-time report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2031. Requires the Attorney General, in consultation with Criminal Justice Research Institute, to submit ongoing annual reports to the Legislature.

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

