
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 78, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
3 read as follows:

4 "§78- Confidential complaints against public employees;
5 attorney general; annual reports; rules. (a) Notwithstanding
6 any law to the contrary, the attorney general shall establish a
7 confidential process for persons who wish to anonymously file a
8 complaint against any public employee.

9 (b) A complaint shall be deemed properly filed if the
10 complainant provides the attorney general with:

11 (1) The complainant's full legal name and contact
12 information; and

13 (2) Any other information deemed necessary by the attorney
14 general.

15 (c) Except as provided in subsection (f), the attorney
16 general shall review and forward all properly filed complaints
17 to the department that the attorney general deems appropriate;



1 provided that the attorney general shall redact any information
2 that is likely to lead to the identification of the complainant
3 from the complaint. The attorney general shall act as an
4 intermediary in any necessary communication between the
5 department and complainant to protect the complainant's
6 anonymity.

7 (d) Upon receipt of a complaint pursuant to
8 subsection (c), the department shall:

9 (1) Process the complaint pursuant to the department's
10 standard complaint-processing procedures; and

11 (2) Submit a report to the attorney general describing the
12 disposition of the complaint, including the findings
13 of any investigation conducted and any disciplinary,
14 remedial, or other action taken.

15 (e) Each public employer and department shall inform its
16 employees and the public of the confidential complaint process
17 established pursuant to this section, and that the employee
18 should immediately notify law enforcement regarding any conduct
19 or situation that poses an imminent danger or threat to the
20 health or safety of any individual or workplace or the public.



1 (f) The attorney general shall submit a report on the
2 confidential complaint process established pursuant to this
3 section to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
4 the convening of each regular session. The report shall
5 include:

6 (1) The number of complaints the attorney general received
7 in the preceding year; and

8 (2) The departments' disposition of the complaints.

9 (g) The attorney general may adopt rules in accordance
10 with chapter 91 necessary to implement this section.

11 (h) For the purposes of this section, "department" has the
12 same meaning as defined in section 76-11."

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
16 the department of the attorney general to establish a
17 confidential process for persons to anonymously file complaints
18 against public employees.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 the attorney general for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2077.



Report Title:

AG; State and County; Departments, Boards, Commissions,
Agencies; Public Employees; Confidential Complaint Process;
Reports; Rules; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Attorney General to establish a confidential process for persons to anonymously file complaints against public employees. Requires the Attorney General to review and forward the complaints to the department, board, commission, or agency deemed appropriate by the Attorney General. Requires the departments, boards, commissions, and agencies to process the complaint pursuant to their standard complaint-processing procedures and report the disposition to the Attorney General. Authorizes the Attorney General to adopt rules. Requires the Attorney General to submit annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 1/1/2077. (SD1)

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