

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ABUSE OF FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 709-906, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§709-906 Abuse of family or household members; penalty.**

4 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person, singly or in concert,  
5 to physically abuse a family or household member or to refuse  
6 compliance with the lawful order of a police officer under  
7 subsection (4). The police, in investigating any complaint of  
8 abuse of a family or household member, upon request, may  
9 transport the abused person to a hospital or safe shelter.

10 (2) Any police officer, with or without a warrant, may  
11 arrest a person if the officer has reasonable grounds to believe  
12 that the person is physically abusing, or has physically abused,  
13 a family or household member and that the person arrested is  
14 guilty thereof.

15 (3) A police officer who has reasonable grounds to believe  
16 that the person is physically abusing, or has physically abused,  
17 a family or household member shall prepare a written report.



1 (4) Any police officer, with or without a warrant, shall  
2 take the following course of action, regardless of whether the  
3 physical abuse or harm occurred in the officer's presence:  
4 (a) The police officer shall make reasonable inquiry of  
5 the family or household member upon whom the officer  
6 believes physical abuse or harm has been inflicted and  
7 other witnesses as there may be;  
8 (b) If the person who the police officer reasonably  
9 believes to have inflicted the abuse is eighteen years  
10 of age or older, the police officer lawfully shall  
11 order the person to leave the premises for a period of  
12 separation, during which time the person shall not  
13 initiate any contact, either by telephone or in  
14 person, with the family or household member; provided  
15 that the person is allowed to enter the premises with  
16 police escort to collect any necessary personal  
17 effects. The period of separation shall commence when  
18 the order is issued and shall expire at 6:00 p.m. on  
19 the second business day following the day the order  
20 was issued; provided that the day the order is issued



1                   shall not be included in the computation of the two  
2                   business days;

3                   (c) If the person who the police officer reasonably  
4                   believes to have inflicted the abuse is under the age  
5                   of eighteen, the police officer may order the person  
6                   to leave the premises for a period of separation,  
7                   during which time the person shall not initiate any  
8                   contact with the family or household member by  
9                   telephone or in person; provided that the person is  
10                  allowed to enter the premises with police escort to  
11                  collect any necessary personal effects. The period of  
12                  separation shall commence when the order is issued and  
13                  shall expire at 6:00 p.m. on the second business day  
14                  following the day the order was issued; provided that  
15                  the day the order is issued shall not be included in  
16                  the computation of the two business days. The order  
17                  of separation may be amended at any time by a judge of  
18                  the family court. In determining whether to order a  
19                  person under the age of eighteen to leave the  
20                  premises, the police officer may consider the  
21                  following factors:





11 (a) For the first offense the person shall serve a minimum  
12 jail sentence of forty-eight hours; and  
13 (b) For a second offense that occurs within one year of  
14 the first conviction, the person shall be termed a  
15 "repeat offender" and serve a minimum jail sentence of  
16 thirty days.

17 (6) It shall be a petty misdemeanor for a person to  
18 intentionally or knowingly strike, shove, kick, or otherwise  
19 touch a family or household member in an offensive manner;  
20 subject the family member or household member to offensive  
21 physical contact; or exercise coercive control, as defined in



1 section 586-1, over a family or household member and the person  
2 shall be sentenced as provided in sections 706-640 and 706-663.  
3 Upon conviction and sentencing of the defendant, the court may  
4 order that the defendant immediately be incarcerated to serve  
5 the mandatory minimum sentence imposed; provided that the  
6 defendant may be admitted to bail pending appeal pursuant to  
7 chapter 804. The court may stay the imposition of the sentence  
8 if special circumstances exist.

9 (7) Whenever a court sentences a person ~~[or grants a~~  
10 ~~motion for deferral]~~ pursuant to subsections (5) and (6), it  
11 shall also require that the offender first complete, within a  
12 specified time frame, an assessment at any available domestic  
13 violence intervention program, and then complete a domestic  
14 violence intervention or anger management course as determined  
15 by the domestic violence program, and, if the offense involved  
16 the presence or abuse of a minor, any available parenting  
17 classes ordered by the court. The court shall revoke the  
18 defendant's probation ~~[or set aside the defendant's deferred~~  
19 ~~acceptance of guilty plea]~~ and enter an adjudication of guilt,  
20 if applicable, and sentence or resentence the defendant to the  
21 maximum term of incarceration if:



1 (a) The defendant fails to complete, within the specified  
2 time frame, any domestic violence intervention course,  
3 anger management course, or parenting classes ordered  
4 by the court; or  
5 (b) The defendant violates any other term or condition of  
6 the defendant's probation [or deferral] imposed by the  
7 court;  
8 provided that, after a hearing on an order to show cause, the  
9 court finds that the defendant has failed to show good cause why  
0 the defendant has not timely completed the domestic violence  
1 intervention course, anger management course, or parenting  
2 classes, if applicable, or why the defendant violated any other  
3 term or condition of the defendant's sentence. However, the  
4 court may suspend any portion of a jail sentence, except for the  
5 mandatory sentences under subsection (5)(a) and (b), upon the  
6 condition that the defendant remain arrest-free and  
7 conviction-free or complete court-ordered intervention.

18 (8) For a third or any subsequent offense that occurs  
19 within two years of a second or subsequent conviction, the  
20 offense shall be a class C felony.



- 4 (a) Applying pressure on the throat or the neck with any
- 5 part of the body or a ligature;
- 6 (b) Blocking the nose and mouth; or
- 7 (c) Applying pressure to the chest,

- 8 abuse of a family or household member is a class C felony;
- 9 provided that infliction of visible bodily injury shall not be
- 10 required to establish an offense under this subsection.

11 For the purposes of this subsection, "bodily injury" shall  
12 have the same meaning as in section 707-700.

13 (10) Where physical abuse occurs in the presence of a  
14 minor, as defined in section 706-606.4, and the minor is a  
15 family or household member less than fourteen years of age,  
16 abuse of a family or household member is a class C felony.

17 (11) Any police officer who arrests a person pursuant to  
18 this section shall not be subject to any civil or criminal  
19 liability; provided that the police officer acts in good faith,  
20 upon reasonable belief, and does not exercise unreasonable force  
21 in effecting the arrest.



12 (14) This section shall not operate as a bar against  
13 prosecution under any other section of this Code in lieu of  
14 prosecution for abuse of a family or household member.

15 (15) It shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney of  
16 the applicable county to assist any victim under this section in  
17 the preparation of the penal summons or arrest warrant.

18 (16) This section shall not preclude the physically abused  
19 or harmed family or household member from pursuing any other  
20 remedy under law or in equity.



12 [ (18) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the  
13 contrary, the court may grant a deferred acceptance of guilty  
14 plea pursuant to chapter 853 for misdemeanor or petty  
15 misdemeanor offenses of abuse of a family or household member  
16 when the defendant:

17 (a) Has no prior conviction; or  
18 (b) Has not been previously granted a deferred acceptance  
19 of guilty plea,  
20 for any offense charged in family court under this section  
21 regardless of the final plea.



1        ~~(19)~~ (18) For the purposes of this section:

2        "Business day" means any calendar day, except Saturday,  
3 Sunday, or any state holiday.

4        "Family or household member":

5        (a) Means spouses or reciprocal beneficiaries, former  
6           spouses or reciprocal beneficiaries, persons in a  
7           dating relationship as defined under section 586-1,  
8           persons who have a child in common, parents, children,  
9           persons related by consanguinity, and persons jointly  
10          residing or formerly residing in the same dwelling  
11          unit; and

12        (b) Does not include those who are, or were, adult  
13          roommates or cohabitants only by virtue of an economic  
14          or contractual affiliation."

15        SECTION 2. Section 853-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

17        "(a) This chapter shall not apply when:

18        (1) The offense charged involves the intentional, knowing,  
19           reckless, or negligent killing of another person;  
20        (2) The offense charged is:





1                   been convicted for any conduct that if perpetrated in  
2                   this State would be punishable as a felony;

3                   (7) The defendant is found to be a law violator or  
4                   delinquent child for the commission of any offense  
5                   defined as a felony by the Hawaii Penal Code or for  
6                   any conduct that if perpetrated in this State would  
7                   constitute a felony;

8                   (8) The defendant has a prior conviction for a felony  
9                   committed in any state, federal, or foreign  
10                   jurisdiction;

11                   (9) A firearm was used in the commission of the offense  
12                   charged;

13                   (10) The defendant is charged with the distribution of a  
14                   dangerous, harmful, or detrimental drug to a minor;

15                   (11) The defendant has been charged with a felony offense  
16                   and has been previously granted deferred acceptance of  
17                   guilty plea or no contest plea for a prior offense,  
18                   regardless of whether the period of deferral has  
19                   already expired;

20                   (12) The defendant has been charged with a misdemeanor  
21                   offense and has been previously granted deferred



1 acceptance of guilty plea or no contest plea for a  
2 prior felony, misdemeanor, or petty misdemeanor for  
3 which the period of deferral has not yet expired;

4 (13) The offense charged is:

5 (A) Escape in the first degree;  
6 (B) Escape in the second degree;  
7 (C) Promoting prison contraband in the first degree;  
8 (D) Promoting prison contraband in the second degree;  
9 (E) Bail jumping in the first degree;  
10 (F) Bail jumping in the second degree;  
11 (G) Bribery;  
12 (H) Bribery of or by a witness;  
13 (I) Intimidating a witness;  
14 (J) Bribery of or by a juror;  
15 (K) Intimidating a juror;  
16 (L) Jury tampering;  
17 (M) Promoting prostitution;  
18 (N) Abuse of family or household member [~~except as~~  
19 ~~provided in paragraph (2) and section 709-~~  
20 ~~906(18)~~];  
21 (O) Sexual assault in the second degree;



- 1 (P) Sexual assault in the third degree;
- 2 (Q) A violation of an order issued pursuant to
- 3 chapter 586;
- 4 (R) Promoting child abuse in the second degree;
- 5 (S) Promoting child abuse in the third degree;
- 6 (T) Electronic enticement of a child in the first
- 7 degree;
- 8 (U) Electronic enticement of a child in the second
- 9 degree;
- 10 (V) Commercial sexual exploitation pursuant to
- 11 section 712-1200.5;
- 12 (W) Street prostitution and commercial sexual
- 13 exploitation under section 712-1207(1) (b) or
- 14 (2) (b);
- 15 (X) Commercial sexual exploitation near schools or
- 16 public parks under section 712-1209;
- 17 (Y) Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor under
- 18 section 712-1209.1;
- 19 (Z) Habitual commercial sexual exploitation under
- 20 section 712-1209.5;



1 (AA) Violation of privacy in the first degree under  
2 section 711-1110.9;

3 (BB) Violation of privacy in the second degree under  
4 section 711-1111(1) (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h);

5 (CC) Habitually operating a vehicle under the  
6 influence of an intoxicant under section  
7 291E-61.5(a);

8 (DD) Promoting gambling in the first degree; or  
9 (EE) Promoting gambling in the second degree;

10 (14) The defendant has been charged with:  
11 (A) Knowingly or intentionally falsifying any report  
12 required under part XIII of chapter 11, with the  
13 intent to circumvent the law or deceive the  
14 campaign spending commission; or  
15 (B) Violating section 11-352 or 11-353; or  
16 (15) The defendant holds a commercial driver's license and  
17 has been charged with violating a traffic control law,  
18 other than a parking law, in connection with the  
19 operation of any type of motor vehicle."

20 SECTION 3. Act 19, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, is amended  
21 by amending section 15 to read as follows:



1           "SECTION 15. This Act shall take effect on January 1,  
2 2021; provided that [sections] section 2[~~, 3, and 4~~] shall be  
3 repealed on June 30, 2026; provided further that [sections]  
4 section 706-623, ~~+709-906, and 853-4,~~ Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
5 shall be reenacted in the form in which [they] it read on the  
6 day prior to the effective date of this Act."

7           SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
9 begun before its effective date.

10           SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
13 provided that section 3 shall take effect on June 29, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
By Request

# S.B. NO. 2254

**Report Title:**

Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Package; Abuse of Family or Household Member; Petty Misdemeanor; Deferred Acceptance of Guilty Plea

**Description:**

Maintains the petty misdemeanor offense of abuse of family or household member by repealing the sunset of amendments made to sections 709-906 and 853-4, HRS, by Act 19, SLH 2020. Repeals provisions authorizing a deferred acceptance of a guilty plea for misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor abuse of family or household members offenses.

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

