

JAN 23 2026

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

10 The legislature finds that State and county law enforcement
11 agencies are uniquely positioned to provide community outreach
12 and community-based gun violence intervention initiatives.

13 Training on gun violence protective orders is necessary to
14 assist county police departments in taking preventative action
15 by assessing whether a gun violence protective order or a
16 referral to mental health resources is appropriate for a person
17 exhibiting warning signs or threatening behavior who is at risk
18 of committing gun violence.

19 The legislature recognizes that the judiciary, which
20 reviews and processes petitions and schedules court hearings for
21 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:

13 (1) Appropriate funds to the judiciary to enforce gun
14 violence protective orders, including the creation of
15 a new court officer unit, reviewing and processing of
16 petitions, and facilitating court hearings; and
17 (2) Appropriate funds to the department of law enforcement
18 to conduct public awareness campaigns to educate
19 Hawaii residents on gun violence, safety,
20 intervention, and prevention through gun violence
21 protective order laws and recognizing the rights of



1 individuals to take action to protect themselves and
2 others from situations that may escalate or result in
3 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, to effectuate enforcement of gun violence protective
9 orders in accordance with part IV of chapter 134, Hawaii Revised
10 Statutes.

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

13 SECTION 3. 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 to
16 conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives,
17 including public awareness campaigns on gun violence protective
18 orders.

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



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

2

INTRODUCED BY:


By Request



S.B. NO. 2504

Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Judiciary for the enforcement of gun violence protective orders. Appropriates funds to the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct public awareness campaigns on gun violence protective orders.

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