

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ASSAULT AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that nationwide data
2 demonstrate an increase in the number of law enforcement
3 officers killed and assaulted. Local police officers are facing
4 serious dangers in their daily work. Furthermore, recruitment
5 and retention of law enforcement officers is a significant and
6 growing concern across our state and nation. The frequency of
7 assaults against law enforcement officers discourages applicants
8 from joining the force and makes it difficult to retain senior
9 officers.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish appropriate
11 sanctions, distinguish penalties based on the level of the
12 bodily injury sustained by the officer, and deter future crimes
13 for the offense of assault against a law enforcement officer in
14 the first degree.

15 SECTION 2. Section 707-712.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:



1 "§707-712.5 **Assault against a law enforcement officer in**
2 **the first degree.** (1) A person commits the offense of assault
3 against a law enforcement officer in the first degree if the
4 person:

5 (a) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a
6 law enforcement officer who is engaged in the
7 performance of duty; ~~[or]~~

8 (b) Recklessly or negligently causes, with a dangerous
9 instrument, bodily injury to a law enforcement officer
10 who is engaged in the performance of duty~~[or]~~; or

11 (c) Recklessly causes serious or substantial bodily injury
12 to a law enforcement officer who is engaged in the
13 performance of duty.

14 (2) Assault of a law enforcement officer in the first
15 degree is a class C felony. The court shall, at a minimum,
16 sentence the person who has been convicted of this offense to:

17 (a) An indeterminate term of imprisonment of five years,
18 pursuant to section 706-660; or

19 (b) Five years probation, with conditions to include a
20 term of imprisonment of not less than ~~[thirty days]~~
21 six months without possibility of suspension of



1 sentence[-]; provided that a person convicted under
2 subsection (1)(c) shall be subject to a term of
3 imprisonment of not less than one year without
4 possibility of suspension of sentence."

5 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
6 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
7 begun before its effective date.

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11
INTRODUCED BY: _____


By Request



S.B. NO. 2518

Report Title:

Hawaii Law Enforcement Coalition Package; Law Enforcement Officers; Assault; Penalties

Description:

Establishes appropriate sanctions for the offense of assault against a law enforcement officer in the first degree.

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