
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ASSAULT.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as "Natalie's Law", in
2 honor of Natalie Iwamoto, whose dedication to supporting youth
3 athletics and school communities reflects the vital role that
4 educational workers and sports officials play in protecting and
5 serving Hawaii's young people.

6 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that educational workers
7 and sports officials perform essential public and youth-serving
8 functions that support student safety, youth development, and
9 community well-being. These individuals increasingly face
10 threats, harassment, and physical violence while performing
11 their duties, both on and off school grounds and at school-
12 sponsored and privately organized youth and amateur athletic
13 events.

14 The legislature further finds that such conduct undermines
15 public safety, discourages participation in education and youth
16 athletics, and contributes to growing shortages of qualified
17 educational workers and sports officials across the State.



1 The purpose of this Act is to strengthen protections for
2 educational workers and sports officials by elevating criminal
3 penalties for assaults committed against such persons, while
4 preserving appropriate judicial discretion at sentencing.

5 SECTION 3. Chapter 707, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
7 and to read as follows:

8 **"§707- Aggravated assault against an educational worker**
9 **or sports official.** (1) A person commits the offense of
10 aggravated assault against an educational worker or sports
11 official if the person:
12 (a) Commits an offense under section 707-710(1)(a) or 707-
13 711(1)(a), (b), or (d) and the victim of the offense
14 is an educational worker or sports official who is:
15 (i) Engaged in the performance of official duties; or
16 (ii) Acting in direct connection with a school-
17 sponsored activity or sports event; or
18 (b) Is a habitual assailant against educational
19 workers or sports officials and commits an offense
20 under section 707-711(1)(e) or (n).



1 (2) For purposes of subsection (1)(a), the offense shall
2 be subject to this section regardless of whether the conduct
3 occurs on or off school grounds or at a privately operated
4 venue, so long as the conduct arises from or is directly related
5 to circumstances described in subsection (1)(a).

6 (3) Any person who would otherwise be subject to
7 sentencing for a criminal offense under subsection (1) shall be
8 guilty of an offense one class or grade higher than the
9 classification of the underlying offense provided by law.

10 (4) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5), a
11 person convicted under this section shall be sentenced to a
12 presumptive minimum term of imprisonment of no less than thirty
13 days.

14 (5) The court may impose a lesser sentence or suspend the
15 presumptive minimum term only if the court finds, on the record,
16 that substantial and compelling reasons justify a departure,
17 including but not limited to:

18 (a) The nature and seriousness of the injury;
19 (b) The defendant's criminal history, including the
20 absence of prior violent offenses;
21 (c) The circumstances of the offense; or



1 (d) The interests of justice.

2 Any departure from the presumptive minimum sentence shall be
3 stated with specificity in the record.

4 (6) For the purposes of this section:

5 "Habitual assault offender against educational workers or
6 sports officials" means that the person, at the time of the
7 conduct for which the person is charged, had two or more
8 convictions under this section or section 707-711(1) (e) or (n).

9 "School-sponsored activity" means any event, contest,
10 practice, or activity conducted on school grounds or under the
11 authority or supervision of a school."

12 SECTION 4. Section 706-605.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 **"§706-605.6 Assault against a sports official.** (1) If a
15 person is convicted of the offense of:

16 (a) Assault in the first degree, as provided by section
17 707-710;

18 (b) Assault in the second degree, as provided by section
19 707-711(1) (a), (b), (d), or (n);

20 (c) Assault in the third degree, as provided by section
21 707-712;



1 (d) Aggravated assault against an educational worker or
2 sports official, as provided by section 707- ;
3 [~~(d)~~] (e) Terroristic threatening in the first degree, as
4 provided by section 707-716(a), (e), or (f); or
5 [~~(e)~~] (f) Terroristic threatening in the second degree, as
6 provided by section 707-717; and
7 the victim of the offense is a sports official engaged in the
8 lawful discharge of the sports official's duties, the court may
9 order, in the court's discretion, that the defendant, in
10 addition to any other punishment imposed pursuant to chapter
11 706, be enjoined from attending any sports event of the type at
12 which the sports official was engaged in the lawful discharge of
13 the sports official's duties for a period of up to twelve months
14 from the date of sentencing for a first offense, and for life
15 for a second or subsequent offense.

16 (2) For the purposes of this section:

17 "Lawful discharge of the sports official's duty" means the
18 performance of duties of a sports official from the time the
19 sports official arrives at the venue of a sports event and
20 ending when the sports official returns to their residence or
21 business.



1 "Sports event" means any organized [amateur or
2 ~~professional~~] athletic contest, scrimmage, practice, or
3 exhibition conducted in the State[–] involving participants
4 under eighteen years of age, amateur participants, or
5 professional participants, including events conducted by private
6 leagues or organizations.

7 "Sports official" means a person at a sports event who
8 [enforcees] is authorized to officiate, supervise, or enforce the
9 rules of the event, [such as an] including any umpire, referee,
10 judge, timer, or scorer, or a person who supervises the
11 participants, [such as a] including any coach, regardless of
12 whether the person is [paid] compensated or [provides their
13 services as] an unpaid volunteer[–], and regardless of whether
14 the event is affiliated with a school, league, athletic
15 association, or private organization."

16 SECTION 5. Section 707-700, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding four new definitions to be appropriately
18 inserted and to read as follows:

19 ""Educational worker" means any of the following
20 individuals acting within the scope of their official duties:



- 1 (1) Any administrator, principal, vice principal, athletic
2 director, assistant athletic director, teacher, coach,
3 specialist, counselor, classified employee, or other
4 employee or authorized agent of the department of
5 education, a charter school, or a private elementary
6 or secondary school;
- 7 (2) Any person who is a volunteer, as defined in section
8 90-1, in a school program, activity, or function that
9 is established, sanctioned, or approved by the
10 department of education; or
- 11 (3) Any person hired by the department of education on a
12 contractual basis and engaged in carrying out an
13 educational function.
- 14 "Lawful discharge of the sports official's duty" means the
15 performance of duties of a sports official from the time the
16 sports official arrives at the venue of a sports event and
17 ending when the sports official returns to their residence or
18 business.
- 19 "Sports event" means any organized athletic contest,
20 scrimmage, practice, or exhibition conducted in the State
21 involving participants under eighteen years of age, amateur



1 participants, or professional participants, including events
2 conducted by private leagues or organizations.

3 "Sports official" means a person at a sports event who is
4 authorized to officiate, supervise, or enforce the rules of the
5 event, including any umpire, referee, judge, timer, or scorer,
6 or a person who supervises the participants, including any
7 coach, regardless of whether the person is compensated or an
8 unpaid volunteer, and regardless of whether the event is
9 affiliated with a school, league, athletic association, or
10 private organization."

11 SECTION 6. Section 707-711, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending subsection (1) to read as follows:

13 "(1) A person commits the offense of assault in the second
14 degree if the person:

15 (a) Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes
16 substantial bodily injury to another;
17 (b) Recklessly causes serious bodily injury to another;
18 (c) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a
19 correctional worker, as defined in section 710-
20 1031(2), who is engaged in the performance of duty or
21 who is within a correctional facility;



- 1 (d) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to
2 another with a dangerous instrument;

3 (e) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to an
4 educational worker who is engaged in the performance
5 of duty or who is within an educational facility[.]
6 ~~For the purposes of this paragraph, "educational~~
7 ~~worker" means any administrator, specialist,~~
8 ~~counselor, teacher, or employee of the department of~~
9 ~~education or an employee of a charter school; a person~~
10 ~~who is a volunteer, as defined in section 90-1, in a~~
11 ~~school program, activity, or function that is~~
12 ~~established, sanctioned, or approved by the department~~
13 ~~of education; or a person hired by the department of~~
14 ~~education on a contractual basis and engaged in~~
15 ~~carrying out an educational function];~~
16 (f) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to any
17 emergency medical services provider who is engaged in
18 the performance of duty. For the purposes of this
19 paragraph, "emergency medical services provider" means
20 emergency medical services personnel, as defined in
21 section 321-222, and physicians, physician's



- 1 assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, certified
2 registered nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists,
3 laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, and
4 social workers, providing services in the emergency
5 room of a hospital;
- 6 (g) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a
7 person employed at a state-operated or -contracted
8 mental health facility. For the purposes of this
9 paragraph, "a person employed at a state-operated or -
10 contracted mental health facility" includes health
11 care professionals as defined in section 451D-2,
12 administrators, orderlies, security personnel,
13 volunteers, and any other person who is engaged in the
14 performance of a duty at a state-operated or -
15 contracted mental health facility;
- 16 (h) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a
17 person who:
18 (i) The defendant has been restrained from, by order
19 of any court, including an ex parte order,
20 contacting, threatening, or physically abusing
21 pursuant to chapter 586; or



- 1 (ii) Is being protected by a police officer ordering
2 the defendant to leave the premises of that
3 protected person pursuant to section 709-906(4),
4 during the effective period of that order;

5 (i) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to any
6 firefighter or water safety officer who is engaged in
7 the performance of duty. For the purposes of this
8 paragraph, "firefighter" has the same meaning as in
9 section 710-1012 and "water safety officer" means any
10 public servant employed by the United States, the
11 State, or any county as a lifeguard or person
12 authorized to conduct water rescue or ocean safety
13 functions;

14 (j) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a
15 person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a
16 health care facility as defined in section 323D-2.
17 For purposes of this paragraph, "a person who is
18 engaged in the performance of duty at a health care
19 facility" includes health care professionals as
20 defined in section 451D-2, physician assistants,
21 surgical assistants, advanced practice registered





1 ~~discharge of the sports official's duties" have the~~
2 ~~same meaning as in section 706-605.6]~~;

3 (o) Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a
4 national guard member who is engaged in the
5 performance of duty. For purposes of this paragraph,
6 "national guard member" means a member of the national
7 guard on any duty or service done under or in
8 pursuance of an order or call of the governor or the
9 President of the United States or any proper authority
10 as provided by law; or

11 [+] (p) [+] Intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury
12 to any protective services worker who is engaged in
13 the performance of the worker's duties. For purposes
14 of this paragraph, "protective services worker" means
15 any administrator, specialist, social worker, case
16 manager, or aide employed by the department of human
17 services to investigate or provide services in
18 response to reports of child abuse or neglect, or to
19 investigate or provide services in response to reports
20 of abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult."



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

4 SECTION 8. If any provision of this Act, or the
5 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
6 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
7 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
8 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
9 of this Act are severable.

10 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

13

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 16 2026



H.B. NO. 1592

Report Title:

Penal Code; Assault; Educational Workers; Sports Officials

Description:

Elevates criminal penalties for assaults committed against educational workers and sports officials, while preserving appropriate judicial discretion at sentencing.

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

