
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that volunteer
2 neighborhood security watch and neighborhood citizen patrol
3 groups provide localized support to safety efforts but often
4 lack access to affordable space for meetings, training, and
5 administrative coordination. Limited, short-term assistance for
6 the rental of existing government-owned facilities like schools
7 can enhance the organizational capacity of these groups in
8 efforts to build community, promote safe space, and deter
9 criminal activity.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish and appropriate
11 funds for a grant program to help fund certain activities and
12 rental payments of established neighborhood security watch
13 groups and neighborhood citizen patrol groups that rent
14 government-owned facilities for a fee.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 371K, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
17 and to read as follows:



1 "§371K- Neighborhood security watch grant program. (a)

2 There shall be established within the office of community
3 services the neighborhood security watch grant program to help
4 fund certain activities and rental payments of neighborhood
5 security watch groups and neighborhood citizen patrol groups
6 that rent government-owned facilities for a fee.

7 (b) Grants provided pursuant to this section may be used
8 to pay for costs to conduct meetings, training, administrative
9 coordination activities, or community events and for rental
10 payments to use federal, state, or county facilities that offer
11 public accommodation for a fee; provided that grants shall not
12 be used for:

13 (1) Long-term or exclusive lease agreements for real
14 property;

15 (2) Equipment rentals; and

16 (3) Insurance requirements imposed as a condition of a
17 facility use agreement or policy.

18 (c) Applicants to whom a grant has been awarded shall
19 agree to comply with the following conditions before receiving
20 the grant:



- 1 (1) Be, employ, or have under contract persons who are
2 qualified to engage in the program or activity to be
3 funded by the State; provided that for nonprofit
4 organizations, no two or more members of a family or
5 kin of the first or second degree shall be employed or
6 under contract by the organization unless specifically
7 permitted in writing by the office of community
8 services;
- 9 (2) Comply with applicable federal and state laws
10 prohibiting discrimination against any person on the
11 basis of race, color, national origin, religion,
12 creed, sex, age, or physical handicap;
- 13 (3) Agree not to use public funds for purposes of
14 entertainment or perquisites;
- 15 (4) Comply with other requirements as the office of
16 community services may prescribe to ensure adherence
17 to federal, state, and county laws by the grant
18 recipient; and
- 19 (5) Allow the office of community services, the
20 legislative bodies, and the legislative auditor full
21 access to records, reports, files, and other related



1 documents so that the program, management, and fiscal
2 practices of the grant recipient may be monitored and
3 evaluated to assure the proper and effective
4 expenditure of public funds.

5 (d) The office of community services shall adopt rules
6 pursuant to chapter 91 to administer the grant program.

7 (e) For purposes of this section:

8 "Neighborhood citizen patrol" means a community-based,
9 volunteer group patrol coordinated by a county police department
10 that meets and has fulfilled all of the requirements of the
11 police department.

12 "Neighborhood security watch" means a community-based,
13 volunteer group organized for the purpose of promoting
14 neighborhood safety that participates in, or is formally
15 recognized by, a neighborhood security watch program
16 administered by a county police department."

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to
20 administer the neighborhood security watch grant program
21 established under this Act.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Office of Community Services; Neighborhood Security Watch Grant Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for the Neighborhood Security Watch Grant Program to help fund certain activities and rental payments of established neighborhood security watch groups and neighborhood citizen patrol groups that rent government-owned facilities for a fee to carry out their duties. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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