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

9           The legislature also finds that state and county law  
10 enforcement agencies are uniquely positioned to provide  
11 community outreach and community-based gun violence intervention  
12 initiatives. Training on gun violence protective orders is  
13 necessary to assist county police departments in taking  
14 preventative action by assessing whether a gun violence  
15 protective order or a referral to mental health resources is  
16 appropriate for a person exhibiting warning signs or threatening  
17 behavior who is at risk of committing gun violence.

18           The legislature recognizes that the judiciary, which  
19 reviews and processes petitions and schedules court hearings for  
20 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 appropriate  
13 funds to:

- 14 (1) The judiciary to effectuate efficient processing of  
15 temporary restraining orders and gun violence  
16 protective orders, including the creation of a new  
17 court officer unit, reviewing and processing of  
18 petitions, and facilitating court hearings; and
- 19 (2) The department of law enforcement to conduct public  
20 awareness campaigns to educate Hawaii residents on gun  
21 violence, safety, intervention, and prevention through



1 gun violence protective order laws and recognizing the  
2 rights of individuals to take action to protect  
3 themselves and others from situations that may  
4 escalate or result in gun violence.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
8 staffing and administrative costs, including the hiring of  
9 personnel in each circuit, to effectuate efficient processing of  
10 temporary restraining orders and gun violence protective orders  
11 in accordance with part IV of chapter 134, Hawaii Revised  
12 Statutes.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for  
14 the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
18 conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives,  
19 including public awareness campaigns on gun violence protective  
20 orders.



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

3           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2055.



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Judiciary for the efficient processing of temporary restraining orders and gun violence protective orders. Appropriates funds to the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct public awareness campaigns on gun violence protective orders. Effective 7/1/2055. (SD1)

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