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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE CEILING ON THE AUTOMATED VICTIM  
INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the statewide  
2 automated victim information and notification system,  
3 established under section 353-132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and  
4 administered by the department of corrections and  
5 rehabilitation's victim notification services office, plays a  
6 vital role in ensuring crime victims are promptly informed of  
7 changes in an offender's custody status. The statewide  
8 automated victim information and notification system provides  
9 real-time notifications to victims and community members  
10 regarding custody changes, parole hearings, and other key  
11 events, and is essential for protecting victims' rights, safety,  
12 and peace of mind. Demand for these services continues to grow,  
13 with victim registrations increasing by 38.9 per cent between  
14 fiscal year 2022-2023 and fiscal year 2024-2025 (from 42,182 to  
15 58,606). The statewide automated victim information and  
16 notification system is funded through the automated victim



1 information and notification system special fund established  
2 under section 353-136, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 The legislature further finds that the existing \$600,000  
4 annual expenditure cap on the special fund has become outdated  
5 and limits the victim notification services office's ability to  
6 strengthen victim services, improve system infrastructure, and  
7 support operational needs. Payroll costs continue to rise due  
8 to collective bargaining increases, but the existing cap  
9 prevents the department of corrections and rehabilitation from  
10 adjusting allocations accordingly. As a result, payroll  
11 increases reduce available operating funds for operations.  
12 Operating expenses have also increased, including contract costs  
13 for the system itself, which rose 9.17 per cent in fiscal year  
14 2025-2026 (from \$90,636 to \$98,944) and are projected to grow by  
15 three per cent annually in subsequent years. Rent, lease,  
16 internet, and telephone costs have also risen.

17 Looking ahead, if all four authorized positions are filled,  
18 projected expenditures will exceed the existing statutory  
19 expenditure ceiling. The automated victim information and  
20 notification system special fund has a cash balance of more than  
21 \$1,500,000. Removing the expenditure cap will ensure the victim



1 notification services office can sustain operations demands,  
2 support staff salaries, and maintain uninterrupted services  
3 statewide.

4 The purpose of this Act is to repeal the statutory  
5 expenditure ceiling on the automated victim information and  
6 notification system special fund.

7 SECTION 2. Section 353-136, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "~~§353-136~~ Automated victim information and  
10 notification system special fund; authorization of payment. (a)

11 There is established a special fund to be known as the automated  
12 victim information and notification system special fund, to be  
13 administered by the department. Interest and investment  
14 earnings credited to the assets of the fund shall become part of  
15 the fund. Any remaining balance in the fund at the end of any  
16 fiscal year shall be carried over to the next fiscal year.

17 (b) Any item purchased by an in-state or out-of-state  
18 inmate from a correctional facility commissary shall be subject  
19 to a four per cent surcharge on the item's price. The proceeds  
20 from the surcharge shall be deposited into the automated victim  
21 information and notification system special fund.



1 (c) All proceeds or revenues that are derived from any  
2 commission that is realized pursuant to a telephone service  
3 agreement executed by the department for the provision of  
4 telephone services for inmates shall be deposited into the  
5 automated victim information and notification system special  
6 fund.

7 (d) Moneys received pursuant to subsections (b) and (c)  
8 shall be used for the development and operating expenses,  
9 including salaries and benefits of positions as authorized by  
10 the legislature, of the system.

11 ~~[(e) The sum total of all moneys expended for development  
12 and operating expenses, including salaries and benefits of  
13 positions as authorized by the legislature, shall not exceed the  
14 special fund ceiling related to the fund established by the  
15 legislature; provided that the total moneys expended for these  
16 purposes shall not exceed \$600,000 in any one fiscal year.~~

17 ~~(f)]~~ (e) Federal funds shall not be transferred to, or  
18 deposited into, the automated victim information and  
19 notification system special fund."

20 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



**1** SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Automated Victim Information and Notification System Special Fund; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Repeals the statutory expenditure ceiling on the Automated Victim Information and Notification System Special Fund to address rising program costs and growing victim service demands.  
(CD1)

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