
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 368, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§368- Civil rights violations helpline; established.

5 (a) The civil rights commission shall establish and maintain a
6 twenty-four-hour, toll-free telephone helpline to assist
7 individuals who experience or witness civil rights violations in
8 the State.

9 (b) The civil rights commission may contract for the
10 operation of the helpline to carry out the purposes of this
11 section without regard to chapter 103D.

12 (c) The helpline shall:

13 (1) Assist individuals in finding resources, including all
14 county and state government assistance programs for
15 which they are eligible, information on social and
16 legal assistance, and school emergency response,
17 crisis intervention, and other programs for students;



1 (2) Receive anonymized calls relating to allegations or
2 complaints of civil rights violations in the State;
3 and

4 (3) Have voicemail capabilities, have an internet website,
5 and provide translation and disability access
6 services.

7 (d) The civil rights commission shall only investigate
8 reports to the helpline alleging violations of state civil
9 rights law within the commission's jurisdiction.

10 (e) The civil rights commission shall advertise the
11 helpline and make materials available to the public to encourage
12 reports to the helpline for those who experience or witness
13 civil rights violations.

14 (f) All reports and other communications to the helpline,
15 including those received or maintained by a contractor operating
16 the helpline on behalf of the civil rights commission, shall be
17 confidential and shall be treated as records of the commission
18 subject to section 368-4.

19 (g) The civil rights commission shall maintain a secure
20 database of all reports received by the helpline.



1 (h) The civil rights commission shall compile and submit
2 an annual report to the legislature that includes aggregated
3 data from the helpline and information on civil rights
4 violations in the State. The report shall not include
5 personally identifiable information. The report shall include
6 the following:

7 (1) Number and type of reports received by the helpline;

8 (2) Law enforcement agencies involved;

9 (3) Patterns or trends regarding misconduct, excessive use
10 of force, racial profiling, and other federal and
11 state civil rights violations; and

12 (4) Recommendations for policy and training improvements
13 over which the civil rights commission has
14 jurisdiction.

15 (i) The civil rights commission shall convene at least one
16 public hearing every calendar year to present findings from the
17 annual public report described in subsection (h). The civil
18 rights commission shall provide public notice of the hearing.

19 (j) The civil rights commission shall compile and submit
20 to the legislature, and post on its website, a monthly
21 preliminary report that includes aggregated data from the



1 helpline and information on civil rights violations in the
2 State. The report shall not include personally identifiable
3 information. The report shall include the following:

4 (1) Number and type of reports received by the helpline;

5 (2) Law enforcement agencies involved;

6 (3) Patterns or trends regarding misconduct, excessive use
7 of force, racial profiling, and other federal and
8 state civil rights violations; and

9 (4) Recommendations for policy and training improvements
10 over which the civil rights commission has
11 jurisdiction.

12 (k) The civil rights commission shall include in each
13 monthly preliminary report described in subsection (j) a
14 disclaimer indicating that, due to time constraints, the
15 information included in the report may not be fully verified and
16 may be subject to change."

17 SECTION 2. 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 for
20 the establishment of the following positions within the Hawaii
21 civil rights commission:



1 (1) full-time equivalent (FTE) civil rights
2 investigator positions to follow up on reports and
3 conduct interviews;

4 (2) full-time equivalent (FTE) data analyst
5 positions to maintain the secure database and prepare
6 the monthly and annual reports; and

7 (3) full-time equivalent (FTE) program manager
8 positions to oversee the helpline contract with Aloha
9 United Way and ensure compliance.

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

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
15 the Hawaii civil rights commission to contract with Aloha United
16 Way to implement a twenty-four-hour intake civil rights
17 violation helpline in the existing 211 system operated by Aloha
18 United Way.

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



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
4 website and database development costs.

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

7 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Civil Rights Commission; Civil Rights Violations; Helpline;
Annual Report; Monthly Report; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Civil Rights Commission to establish a twenty-four-hour intake helpline to assist individuals who experience or witness civil rights violations in the State. Requires the Civil Rights Commission to compile an annual report and hold an annual public hearing on data obtained through the helpline. Requires the Civil Rights Commission to compile and submit to the Legislature, and post on its website, a monthly preliminary report on data obtained through the helpline. Appropriates funds to establish an unspecified number of Civil Rights Investigator, Data Analyst, and Program Manager positions within the Civil Rights Commission. Appropriates funds for the Civil Rights Commission to contract with Aloha United Way to implement the twenty-four-hour intake helpline and for website and data development costs. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

