

ACT 204

H.B. NO. 1691-86

A Bill for an Act Relating to Victim-Witness Assistance Program.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a statewide program to assist victims and witnesses of crime is a necessary part of law enforcement and recognizes the importance of the present program being implemented by the counties. In enacting this Act, the legislature declares its intent to ensure the permanence of the program by establishing it in the department of the attorney general but having the program continue to be the responsibility of the counties to implement and to provide supplementary budget funds.

SECTION 2. Chapter 28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§28- Victim-witness assistance program. (a) There is established a victim-witness assistance program in the department of the attorney general, whose purpose shall be to provide information, assistance, and support services to the victims of and witnesses to crimes committed in the State.

(b) The attorney general shall allocate and award appropriated funds to counties whose victim-witness assistance units are in substantial compliance with the policies and criteria established. The attorney general and the county prosecutors shall work together to establish victim-witness assistance program policies and criteria which shall not be subject to chapter 91. The county prosecutors shall implement the program in their respective counties.

(c) Any sums appropriated by the State for the victim-witness units in each of the respective counties shall be contingent upon the respective counties providing a minimum of twenty-five (25%) of the sum appropriated to each county.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

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

(Approved May 27, 1986.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.