

**ACT 145**

H.B. NO. 1188

A Bill for an Act Relating to a Symposium on Crime in Hawaii.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a critical need for representatives from federal, state, and county agencies to address the issue of crime in Hawaii.

Each of the government agencies involved have established their own unique administrative infrastructures, developed independent objectives and courses of action, and implemented their own specifically tailored, independently funded programs.

It is the intent of the legislature to assemble those agencies with the authority to make decisions to share information and increase coordination between the various agencies. The symposium is designed to be a one-day event, bringing together government agencies, using existing resources, such as government auditoriums and equipment. The federal and county agencies would be expected to bear their own costs for transportation and expenses. The county police departments and prosecuting attorneys have access to forfeiture funds and other resources to support their own participation.

The symposium is designed to inform and educate the participants, as well as the general public to the extent feasible, of existing crime programs and resources. Furthermore, the underlying intent is to provide a forum, without any additional costs to the taxpayer, in which to foster networking and collaboration among the participants for the purpose of:

- (1) Identifying and prioritizing areas of concern under the rubric of “crime in Hawaii;”
- (2) Recognizing and eliminating inefficient redundancies;
- (3) Pooling and streamlining ideas and assets (such as personnel, funding, and other important resources);
- (4) Establishing points of contact and interactive work groups or committees to provide ongoing subject matter feedback to all participants, the legislature, and the general public;
- (5) Attempt to establish a united coalition to effectively combat crime in Hawaii; and
- (6) Identify a responsible state agency or body as a focal point for future reference and coordination.

SECTION 2. The department of the attorney general shall coordinate a one-day, “Crime in Hawaii” symposium. The purpose of the symposium shall be to:

- (1) Open lines of communication between federal, state, and county agencies, and public and private agencies involved in various aspects of crime in Hawaii;
- (2) Identify the key agencies and organizations involved in fighting crime and develop a comprehensive statewide coordination matrix through the creation of a voluntary consortium comprised of these symposium members.

SECTION 3. The crime consortium shall be called upon to conduct the following activities:

- (1) Identify and prioritize areas under the rubric of crime in Hawaii;
- (2) Identify statewide redundancies and inefficiencies concerning programs and obligated assets (staffing, funding, and other resources);
- (3) Formulate a proposed statewide strategy to combat identified areas of crime in Hawaii;
- (4) Provide executable proposals and recommendations as well as alternative courses of actions for each area identified within the rubric of crime in Hawaii;
- (5) Develop a plan to implement the various measures to include oversight activities and required feedback;
- (6) Prepare a report designed to educate the legislature, the participants and the public on crime in Hawaii and the efforts being made to combat it; and
- (7) Make specific recommendations on legislative and policy proposals on how to better address crime in Hawaii to the legislature, and federal and county governments.

The department of the attorney general shall coordinate and implement the convening of the symposium. Furthermore, it may call upon the relevant federal, state, and county agencies for assistance in coordinating the symposium. The department of the attorney general shall invite the relevant federal, state, and county officials, including but not limited to, officials from crime prevention and law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, prosecuting attorneys, the criminal justice system, the corrections system, and other related supporting social agencies and services. The symposium may also be open to representatives from various community groups and private nonprofit organizations involved in crime prevention, crime reduction, or public safety, including but not limited to, members of community policing groups and neighborhood boards and elected community representatives.

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SECTION 4. The department of the attorney general shall report the finding and recommendations of the symposium and the crime consortium to the legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1998, on the specific items enumerated in section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1997.

(Approved June 16, 1997.)