

A Bill for an Act Relating to Covered Offender Registration.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sex offenders present an extreme threat to public safety due to high rates of sexual recidivism. To mitigate this threat, Hawaii established covered offender registration laws to require the public release of relevant information concerning the presence of convicted sex offenders in the community.

The legislature further finds that there are certain gaps under the current registration laws for sexual offenses, including offenses committed against minors. For example, the public disclosure of registration information is not required for an offender who, while acting in a professional capacity, commits the offense of sexual assault in the fourth degree against a minor who is at least sixteen years of age. This omission would allow these sex offenders, who abused their position of trust, power, authority, or supervision to engage in sexual contact with a minor, to evade public detection and continue to prey upon children in the community.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the covered offender registration laws to:

- (1) Include offenders who commit the offense of:
 - (A) Sexual assault in the fourth degree by exposing the offender's genitals to another person under circumstances in which the offender's conduct is likely to alarm the other person or put the other person in fear of bodily injury;
 - (B) Sexual assault in the fourth degree against a minor who is at least sixteen years old while the offender is acting in a professional capacity;
 - (C) Incest;
 - (D) Sexual assault of an animal; or
 - (E) Use a computer in the commission of a separate crime, where-in the separate crime is a covered offense subject to covered offender registration laws;
- (2) Require public disclosure for covered offenses that are committed against minors, regardless of whether the conviction was for a first-time misdemeanor offense;
- (3) Clarify that a person who is required to report their location of residence in person every year under the covered offender registration requirements shall report during the thirty-day period following the offender's birthday, rather than the offender's actual date of birth; and
- (4) Specify how certain covered offenses are to be tiered for purposes of seeking termination of registration requirements.

SECTION 2. Section 846E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending the definition of "sexual offense" to read as follows:

"Sexual offense" means an offense that is:

- (1) Set forth in section 707-730(1), 707-731(1), 707-732(1), 707-733(1)(a), (b), or (d), 707-733.6, 707-741, 711-1109.8, 712-1200.5(4), 712-1202(1), or 712-1203(1), but excludes conduct that is criminal ~~[only because of the age of the victim, as provided in]~~ pursuant to section 707-

- 730(1)(b), ~~or section~~ 707-732(1)(b), or 707-741, if the perpetrator is under the age of eighteen[;], and also excludes conduct that is criminal pursuant to section 707-733(1)(b) or (d) if the perpetrator is under the age of twenty-five at the time of the offense;
- (2) An act defined in section 707-720 if the charging document for the offense for which there has been a conviction alleged intent to subject the victim to a sexual offense;
 - (3) An act that consists of:
 - (A) Criminal sexual conduct toward a minor, including but not limited to an offense set forth in section 707-759;
 - (B) Solicitation of a minor who is less than fourteen years old to engage in sexual conduct;
 - (C) Use of a minor in a sexual performance;
 - (D) Production, distribution, or possession of child pornography chargeable as a felony under section 707-750, 707-751, or 707-752;
 - (E) Electronic enticement of a child chargeable under section 707-756 or 707-757 if the offense was committed with the intent to promote or facilitate the commission of another covered offense as defined in this section; or
 - (F) Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor in violation of section 712-1209.1;
 - (4) A violation of privacy under section 711-1110.9;
 - (5) An act that consists of use of a computer in the commission of a separate crime under section 708-893, wherein the separate crime is a covered offense, as defined in this section;
 - ~~[(5)]~~ (6) An act, as described in chapter 705, that is an attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy to commit one of the offenses designated in paragraphs (1) through ~~[(4);]~~ (5);
 - ~~[(6)]~~ (7) A criminal offense that is comparable to or that exceeds a sexual offense as defined in paragraphs (1) through ~~[(5);]~~ (6); or
 - ~~[(7)]~~ (8) Any federal, military, out-of-state, tribal, or foreign conviction for any offense that under the laws of this State would be a sexual offense as defined in paragraphs (1) through ~~[(6);]~~ (7).”

SECTION 3. Section 846E-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (h) to read as follows:

“(h) If a covered offender has been convicted of only one covered offense and that covered offense is a misdemeanor[;], and was not committed against a minor, the covered offender shall not be subject to the public access requirements set forth in this section.”

SECTION 4. Section 846E-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) A person commits the offense of failure to comply with covered offender registration requirements if the person is required to register under this chapter and the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly:

- (1) Fails to register with the attorney general by providing to the attorney general or the Hawaii criminal justice data center the person’s registration information;
- (2) Fails to report in person every five years until June 30, 2009, and beginning on July 1, 2009, once every year, during the thirty-day period following the offender’s ~~[date of birth;]~~ birthday to the chief of

- police where the covered offender's residence is located, or to such other department or agency designated by the attorney general;
- (3) While reporting to the chief of police or such other department or agency designated by the attorney general, fails to correct information in the registry within the offender's knowledge that has changed or is inaccurate regarding information required by section 846E-2(d)(1) through (12);
 - (4) While reporting to the chief of police or such other department or agency designated by the attorney general, fails to provide new information that may be required by section 846E-2(d)(1) through (12);
 - (5) While reporting to the chief of police or such other department or agency designated by the attorney general, does not allow the police or other designated department or agency to take a current photograph of the person;
 - (6) Fails to register in person with the chief of police having jurisdiction of the area where the covered offender resides or is present within three working days whenever the provisions of section 846E-2(g) require the person to do so;
 - (7) Fails to notify the attorney general or the Hawaii criminal justice data center of a change of any of the covered offender's registration information in writing within three working days of the change;
 - (8) Provides false registration information to the attorney general, the Hawaii criminal justice data center, or a chief of police;
 - (9) Signs a statement verifying that all of the registration information is accurate and current when any of the registration information is not substantially accurate and current;
 - (10) Having failed to establish a new residence within the ten days while absent from the person's registered residence for ten or more days, fails to notify the attorney general in writing within three working days of the covered offender's current residence information;
 - (11) Fails to mail or deliver the periodic verification of registration information form to the attorney general within ten days of receipt, as required by section 846E-5; provided that it shall be an affirmative defense that the periodic verification form mailed to the covered offender was delivered when the covered offender was absent from the registered address and the covered offender had previously notified the Hawaii criminal justice data center that the covered offender would be absent during the period that the periodic verification form was delivered; or
 - (12) Fails to report to the chief of police where the covered offender resides, or to such other department or agency that may be designated by the attorney general in rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91, during the first week of the months of January, April, July, and October of every year, and verify and update the covered offender's registration information as required by section 846E-5(b)."

SECTION 5. Section 846E-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§846E-10 Termination of registration requirements. (a) Tier 3 offenses. A covered offender whose covered offense is any of the following offenses shall register for life and, except as provided in subsection [(e), may] (f), shall not petition the court, in a civil proceeding, for termination of registration requirements:

- (1) Any offense set forth in section 707-730(1)(a), (b), (d), or (e); 707-731(1)(a) or (b); 707-732(1)(a), (b), or (g); or 707-733.6;
- (2) An offense set forth in section 707-720; provided that the offense involves kidnapping of a minor by someone other than a parent;
- (3) An offense that is an attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy to commit any of the offenses in paragraph (1) or (2);
- (4) Any criminal offense that is comparable to one of the offenses in paragraph (1), (2), or (3); or
- (5) Any federal, military, out-of-state, tribal, or foreign offense that is comparable to one of the offenses in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(b) A repeat covered offender shall register for life and, except as provided in subsection ~~[(e), may]~~ (f), shall not petition the court, in a civil proceeding, for termination of registration requirements.

(c) Tier 2 offenses. A covered offender who has maintained a clean record for the previous twenty-five years, excluding any time the offender was in custody or civilly committed, and who has substantially complied with the registration requirements of this chapter for the previous twenty-five years, or for the portion of that twenty-five years that this chapter has been applicable, and who is not a repeat covered offender may petition the court, in a civil proceeding, for termination of registration requirements; provided that the covered offender's most serious covered offense is one of the following:

- (1) Any offense set forth in section 707-730(1)(c), 707-731(1)(c)[~~;~~] or (d), 707-732(1)(c), 707-750, 707-751, 712-1202, or 712-1203(1)(b), as section 712-1203(1)(b) read before its amendment pursuant to section 9 of Act 147, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008;
- (2) An offense set forth in section 707-720; provided that the charging document for the offense for which there has been a conviction alleged intent to subject the victim to a sexual offense;
- (3) An offense set forth in section 707-756 that includes an intent to promote or facilitate the commission of another felony covered offense as defined in section 846E-1;
- (4) An offense that is an attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy to commit any of the offenses in paragraph (1), (2), or (3);
- (5) Any criminal offense that is comparable to one of the offenses in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4); or
- (6) Any federal, military, out-of-state, tribal, or foreign offense that is comparable to one of the offenses in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4).

(d) Tier 1 offenses. A covered offender who has maintained a clean record for the previous ten years, excluding any time the offender was in custody or civilly committed, and who has substantially complied with the registration requirements of this chapter for the previous ten years, or for the portion of that ten years that this chapter has been applicable, and who is not a repeat covered offender may petition the court, in a civil proceeding, for termination of registration requirements; provided that the covered offender's most serious covered offense is one of the following:

- (1) Any offense set forth in section 707-732(1)(d), (e), or (f); 707-733(1)(a) [~~;~~] (b), or (d); 707-741; 707-752; 707-759; 711-1109.8; 711-1110.9; 712-1203(1); or 712-1209.1;
- (2) An offense set forth in section 707-721 or 707-722; provided that the offense involves unlawful imprisonment of a minor by someone other than a parent;

- (3) An offense set forth in section 707-757 that includes an intent to promote or facilitate the commission of another covered offense as defined in section 846E-1;
- (4) An offense that is an attempt, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy to commit any of the offenses in paragraph (1), (2), or (3);
- (5) Any criminal offense that is comparable to one of the offenses in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4);
- (6) Any federal, military, out-of-state, tribal, or foreign offense that is comparable to one of the offenses in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4); or
- (7) Any other covered offense that is not specified in subsection (a) or (c) or paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6).

(e) If the covered offender's most serious covered offense is set forth in section 708-893, then the designated tier of the separate crime as provided in section 708-893, shall set forth the covered offender's appropriate termination of registration requirements.

~~(e)~~ (f) Notwithstanding any other provisions in this section, any covered offender, forty years after the covered offender's date of release or sentencing, whichever is later, for the covered offender's most recent covered offense, may petition the court, in a civil proceeding, for termination of registration requirements.

~~(f)~~ (g) In the civil proceeding for termination of registration requirements, the State shall be represented by the attorney general; provided that the attorney general, with the prosecuting agency's consent, may designate the prosecuting agency that prosecuted the covered offender for the most recent covered offense within the State to represent the State. For covered offenders who have never been convicted of a covered offense within the State, the attorney general shall represent the State; provided that the attorney general, with the prosecuting agency's consent, may designate the prosecuting agency for the county in which the covered offender resides to represent the State. The court may order this termination upon substantial evidence and more than proof by a preponderance of the evidence that:

- (1) The covered offender has met the statutory requirements of eligibility to petition for termination;
- (2) The covered offender has substantially complied with registration requirements;
- (3) The covered offender is very unlikely to commit a covered offense ever again; and
- (4) Registration by the covered offender will not assist in protecting the safety of the public or any member thereof.

~~(g)~~ (h) A person who does not meet the criteria for registration as a covered offender under the laws of this State, but is subject to registration pursuant to section 846E-2(b), may petition the court, in a civil proceeding, for termination of registration requirements; provided that the person has maintained a clean record for the previous ten years, excluding any time the person was in custody or civilly committed; has substantially complied with the registration requirements of this chapter for the previous ten years; and was not designated a repeat covered offender in any state or jurisdiction. The attorney general shall represent the State; provided that the attorney general, with the prosecuting agency's consent, may designate the prosecuting agency for the county in which

the person resides to represent the State. The court may order this termination upon substantial evidence and more than proof by a preponderance of the evidence that:

- (1) The person has met the statutory requirements of eligibility to petition for termination;
- (2) The person has substantially complied with registration requirements;
- (3) The person is very unlikely to commit a covered offense; and
- (4) Registration by the person will not assist in protecting the safety of the public or any member thereof.

~~[(h)]~~ (i) A denial by the court for relief pursuant to a petition under this section shall preclude the filing of another petition for five years from the date of the most recent denial.”

SECTION 6. This Act shall not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties and forfeitures that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 3, 2025.)