

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The mission of the sheriff division of the
2 department of public safety is to preserve the peace by
3 protecting all persons and property within premises under the
4 control of the judiciary and all State facilities; provide
5 process services and execution of court documents; handle
6 detained persons; and provide secure transportation for persons
7 in custody. The State entrusts deputy sheriffs with tremendous
8 authority. Although several factors influence the potential
9 success or failure of deputy sheriffs, the State is concerned
10 about the emotional and psychological adequacy of recruits.

11 Deputy sheriffs perform work of varying degrees of
12 difficulty and responsibility as law enforcement officers in
13 carrying out duties prescribed by the laws of Hawaii, including
14 arrests, booking, and transportation of inmates. Deputy
15 sheriffs are authorized to detain individuals with the aid of
16 physical force when necessary to achieve submission to a lawful
17 arrest. The work experience can be highly stressful, physically



1 and mentally, but deputy sheriffs must be able to make
2 appropriate decisions under difficult circumstances.

3 In addition to the authority to deprive individuals of
4 their freedom, deputy sheriffs have access to confidential
5 information. In fulfilling their duties, deputy sheriffs often
6 use classified information, which may originate from protected
7 sources such as police contacts with informants, criminal
8 investigations, files, and the government's computer databases.

9 Undergoing a psychological examination will help to ensure
10 that recruits will be able to perform essential functions of the
11 position of deputy sheriff. Psychological screening helps to
12 avoid potential harm to the public and fellow officers. A
13 psychological examination permits the department to screen out
14 any unstable, immature, or overly aggressive candidates, which
15 will help to avoid poor publicity and court litigation from
16 reckless or irresponsible officer behavior.

17 The purpose of this Act is to provide for pre-employment
18 psychological screening of deputy sheriff candidates in order to
19 hire appropriate individuals to be entrusted with the
20 responsibilities of law enforcement officers. A sophisticated
21 pre-employment psychological evaluation which utilizes multi-
22 faceted test batteries, in-depth interview information, and



1 thorough background information will assist the department of
2 public safety in selecting the best deputy sheriffs and
3 screening out inappropriate individuals.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
7 the psychological testing of deputy sheriff recruits.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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S.B. NO. 2313

Report Title:

Department of Public Safety; Deputy Sheriffs; Recruits;
Psychological Examination; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the department of public safety to perform psychological examinations for deputy sheriff recruits.

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