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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there was a recent  
2 incident in which a Honolulu police officer was indicted on a  
3 third-degree sexual assault charge for knowingly subjecting a  
4 teenage girl in custody, as a result of a traffic stop, to  
5 sexual contact. However, the indictment against the officer was  
6 dismissed with prejudice due to the court's interpretation of  
7 "custody" in the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

8           The purpose of this Act is to define "person in custody" as  
9 used in the offense of sexual assault in the second degree and  
10 third degree to explicitly prohibit a law enforcement officer  
11 from knowingly subjecting to sexual contact a person who is  
12 stopped by or under the control of a law enforcement officer for  
13 official purposes, including a traffic stop.

14           SECTION 2. Section 707-731, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending subsection (1) to read as follows:

16           "(1) A person commits the offense of sexual assault in the  
17 second degree if:



- 1 (a) The person knowingly subjects another person to an act
- 2 of sexual penetration by compulsion;
- 3 (b) The person knowingly subjects to sexual penetration
- 4 another person who is mentally incapacitated or
- 5 physically helpless; or
- 6 (c) The person, while employed:
  - 7 (i) In a state correctional facility;
  - 8 (ii) By a private company providing services at a
  - 9 correctional facility;
  - 10 (iii) By a private company providing community-based
  - 11 residential services to persons committed to the
  - 12 director of public safety and having received
  - 13 notice of this statute;
  - 14 (iv) By a private correctional facility operating in
  - 15 the State of Hawaii; or
  - 16 (v) As a law enforcement officer as defined in
  - 17 section [‡]710-1000[‡],
  - 18 knowingly subjects to sexual penetration an imprisoned
  - 19 person, a person confined to a detention facility, a
  - 20 person committed to the director of public safety, a
  - 21 person residing in a private correctional facility



1 operating in the State of Hawaii, or a person in  
2 custody; provided that paragraph (b) and this  
3 paragraph shall not be construed to prohibit  
4 practitioners licensed under chapter 453 or 455 from  
5 performing any act within their respective practices;  
6 and further provided that this paragraph shall not be  
7 construed to prohibit a law enforcement officer from  
8 performing a lawful search pursuant to a warrant or  
9 exception to the warrant clause.

10 For purposes of this subsection, "person in  
11 custody" means a person who is stopped by or under the  
12 control of a law enforcement officer for official  
13 purposes. "Person in custody" includes but is not  
14 limited to a person who is stopped by a law  
15 enforcement officer for a traffic stop or is in the  
16 process of providing any identification, license, or  
17 registration pursuant to a traffic stop."

18 SECTION 3. Section 707-732, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by amending subsection (1) to read as follows:

20 "(1) A person commits the offense of sexual assault in the  
21 third degree if:



- 1 (a) The person recklessly subjects another person to an  
2 act of sexual penetration by compulsion;
- 3 (b) The person knowingly subjects to sexual contact  
4 another person who is less than fourteen years old or  
5 causes such a person to have sexual contact with the  
6 person;
- 7 (c) The person knowingly engages in sexual contact with a  
8 person who is at least fourteen years old but less  
9 than sixteen years old or causes the minor to have  
10 sexual contact with the person; provided that:
  - 11 (i) The person is not less than five years older than  
12 the minor; and
  - 13 (ii) The person is not legally married to the minor;
- 14 (d) The person knowingly subjects to sexual contact  
15 another person who is mentally defective, mentally  
16 incapacitated, or physically helpless, or causes such  
17 a person to have sexual contact with the actor;
- 18 (e) The person, while employed:
  - 19 (i) In a state correctional facility;
  - 20 (ii) By a private company providing services at a  
21 correctional facility;



1 (iii) By a private company providing community-based  
2 residential services to persons committed to the  
3 director of public safety and having received  
4 notice of this statute;

5 (iv) By a private correctional facility operating in  
6 the State of Hawaii; or

7 (v) As a law enforcement officer as defined in  
8 section [‡]710-1000[‡],

9 knowingly subjects to sexual contact an imprisoned  
10 person, a person confined to a detention facility, a  
11 person committed to the director of public safety, a  
12 person residing in a private correctional facility  
13 operating in the State of Hawaii, or a person in  
14 custody, or causes the person to have sexual contact  
15 with the actor; or

16 (f) The person knowingly, by strong compulsion, has sexual  
17 contact with another person or causes another person  
18 to have sexual contact with the actor.

19 For the purposes of this subsection, "person in custody"  
20 means a person who is stopped by or under the control of a law  
21 enforcement officer for official purposes. "Person in custody"



1 includes but is not limited to a person who is stopped by a law  
2 enforcement officer for a traffic stop or is in the process of  
3 providing any identification, license, or registration pursuant  
4 to a traffic stop.

5 Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (e) shall not be construed to  
6 prohibit practitioners licensed under chapter 453 or 455 from  
7 performing any act within their respective practices; provided  
8 further that paragraph (e)(v) shall not be construed to prohibit  
9 a law enforcement officer from performing a lawful search  
10 pursuant to a warrant or an exception to the warrant clause."

11 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.



**Report Title:**

Public Safety; Law Enforcement Officers; Custody; Sexual Assault  
in the Second Degree and Third Degree

**Description:**

Defines "person in custody" as used in the offense of sexual  
assault in the second degree and third degree to mean a person  
who is stopped by or under the control of a law enforcement  
officer for official purposes. Effective 01/07/2059. (SD2)

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

