

JAN 20 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAZING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that hazing is a ritual
2 conducted by school groups, sports teams, organizations,
3 associations, and places of employment as a means to initiate
4 new members into the "sacred circle" of the organization. In
5 some cases, these rituals can be life threatening as members of
6 the organization conduct physically and emotionally dangerous
7 acts onto others who they wish to initiate or control. Many
8 states have passed anti-hazing laws and many schools and
9 universities have added no-tolerance policies against such
10 practices. Knowing what hazing is, how to prevent hazing, and
11 the consequences surrounding these acts is just the beginning to
12 stopping these practices from occurring.

13 The legislature further finds that although many are
14 banding together to prevent hazing activities from occurring at
15 all levels of academia, including high school and college,
16 hazing can occur in organizations and work places beyond
17 educational institutions. According to StopHazing.org, forty-



1 four states have anti-hazing laws in place. Hawaii is one of
2 six states without an anti-hazing law. Hazing can cause
3 emotional, academic, professional, and physical damage to the
4 person targeted and propagate a culture of bullying and control
5 over others. Hawaii should therefore take steps to protect
6 students, athletes, and workers from hazing.

7 The purpose of this Act is to establish a state anti-hazing
8 law.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 711, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
11 and to read as follows:

12 "§711- Hazing in the first degree. (a) A person
13 commits the offense of hazing in the first degree if the person,
14 in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation
15 with any organization or place of employment, intentionally or
16 knowingly engages in conduct that creates a substantial risk of
17 and results in physical injury to the other person or a third
18 person.

19 (b) Hazing in the first degree is a misdemeanor."

20 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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S.B. NO. 596

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 596

Report Title:

Hazing in the First Degree; Misdemeanor

Description:

Establishes hazing in the first degree as a misdemeanor.

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