A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, although the most recent performance audit of the department of public safety was in 2017, its scope was limited to use of special funds, revolving funds, trust funds, and trust accounts. The legislature further finds that no comprehensive audit of the department of public safety's offices, policies, and programs has been performed in recent history. The purpose of this Act is to require a comprehensive performance audit of the department of public safety.

SECTION 2. (a) The auditor shall conduct a performance audit of the following offices and programs within the department of public safety:

(1) The office of the director;
(2) The civil rights compliance office;
(3) The personnel management office;
(4) The fiscal office; and
(5) The health care services division's mental health services.

(b) The audit shall include but not be limited to a review of the following:

(1) Hiring, staffing, and supervisory policies and practices, including:

(A) Whether applicants and employees are adequately screened and qualified;

(B) Actual and perceived conflicts of interest and favoritism among and between employees and supervisors, including conflicts due to familial and personal relationships; and

(C) Employee morale;

(2) Handling and disposition of internal complaints made and lawsuits filed by current or former employees;

(3) Contracting and procurement policies and practices, including:

(A) Whether contractors and vendors are adequately screened and qualified;

(B) Compliance with state and federal laws; and
(C) Whether contracts were steered toward contractors and vendors due to familial and personal relationships; and

(4) The ability of the department to provide necessary mental health services to inmates and pre-trial detainees, including whether the department is taking adequate steps to fill staffing vacancies related to the provision of mental health services.

SECTION 3. The auditor shall submit a report on the performance audit, including the auditor’s findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, if necessary, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the auditor to conduct a performance audit of the department of public safety pursuant to this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the auditor for the purposes of this Act.
SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

INTRODUCED BY: __________________________

JAN 23 2019
Report Title:
Auditor; Performance Audit; DPS; Appropriation

Description:
Requires the auditor to conduct a performance audit of certain offices and programs within the department of public safety. Appropriates funds.

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