
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a threat of
2 targeted violence against Hawaii schools. Between January 1,
3 2019, and November 19, 2019, forty-five school shootings
4 occurred over forty-six weeks across the United States. The
5 shootings occurred at elementary, middle, and high schools as
6 well as on college and university campuses. Although Hawaii
7 schools have not yet fallen victim to completed acts of mass
8 violence, the State's schools do regularly experience threats of
9 shootings and bombings. During the fall of 2019, public K-12
10 schools in Hawaii received more than twenty-five threats about
11 shootings or bombings. Most threats were made via social media;
12 the others were made by handwritten notes, graffiti, or
13 telephone. Although the threats were never carried out, they
14 caused fear and apprehension among students, parents, teachers,
15 and the community.

16 On November 7, 2019, the United States Secret Service
17 published "A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School



1 Violence". This report studied forty-one incidents of targeted
2 school violence that occurred at K-12 schools in the United
3 States between 2008 and 2017. Key findings of the study suggest
4 that school violence is preventable. School-based and
5 community-based threat assessment teams can use this knowledge
6 and become trained to determine whether threats are credible or
7 not. These teams may identify persons of concern before they
8 commit acts of violence. Furthermore, intervention strategies,
9 including counseling, mentorship, and thorough follow-up, can
10 mitigate the threat to help the person of concern and also
11 prevent serious acts of violence.

12 The legislature further finds that currently, gaps exist in
13 inter-agency coordination, communication, and standardized
14 responses to threats of targeted school violence in Hawaii.
15 There is no statewide database of school threats to help
16 identify copycats; analyze trends; and disseminate information
17 to schools, law enforcement, and other agencies that need to
18 protect students.

19 The purpose of this Act is to help prevent targeted school
20 violence in Hawaii by:



1 (1) Establishing a pilot program to establish a start-to-
 2 finish response to threats of targeted school
 3 violence; and

4 (2) Providing long-term resources to help prevent targeted
 5 school violence, regardless of how the State chooses
 6 to implement future school violence prevention
 7 strategies.

8 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the Hawaii
 9 state fusion center of the office of homeland security,
 10 established by section 128A-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a pilot
 11 program to:

12 (1) Establish:

13 (A) Interdisciplinary school-level threat assessment
 14 teams at the elementary, middle, and high school
 15 level as well as the college or university level;
 16 and

17 (B) A larger-scale interdisciplinary threat
 18 assessment team to which the school-level teams
 19 may refer cases;

20 (2) Provide:



- 1 (A) Training for the general public, including
2 students, school personnel, and the community,
3 regarding the prevention of targeted school
4 violence as well as the general concepts of
5 threat assessment and intervention; and
- 6 (B) More advanced training for members of threat
7 assessment teams;
- 8 (3) Operate threat assessment teams:
- 9 (A) To establish procedures for reporting, immediate
10 response, threat assessment, threat management
11 and monitoring, after-action reports, and
12 statewide recordkeeping;
- 13 (B) To establish protocols for sharing information
14 across agencies; and
- 15 (C) Pursuant to established procedures and protocols;
- 16 (4) Collect data on school violence, threats, responses to
17 threats, the operation of threat assessment teams, and
18 the resolution of cases; and
- 19 (5) Disseminate information on copycat threats, trends,
20 and analyses to the appropriate state and county
21 agencies.



- 1 (b) The pilot program:
- 2 (1) Shall include one elementary school, one middle
- 3 school, and one high school from the department of
- 4 education that are geographically and socially
- 5 related;
- 6 (2) May include one independent school or public charter
- 7 school; and
- 8 (3) May include one institution of higher education;
- 9 provided that the institution of higher education:
- 10 (A) Enrolls a sufficient number of students who
- 11 graduated from the high school identified in
- 12 paragraph (1); and
- 13 (B) Dual-enrolls within its classes many students who
- 14 are still attending the high school identified in
- 15 paragraph (1).
- 16 (c) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
- 17 the regular sessions of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, the Hawaii
- 18 state fusion center of the office of homeland security shall
- 19 submit to the legislature a report of its findings and
- 20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, concerning
- 21 the pilot program.



1 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent
2 the office of homeland security from using other available
3 resources to assist educational institutions other than those
4 identified in subsection (b).

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
8 the following purposes:

- 9 (1) A statewide anonymous reporting mechanism specifically
10 designed to collect reports of threats of targeted
11 school violence;
- 12 (2) A database to collect reports of threats to schools
13 and school violence that were:
 - 14 (A) Received by the anonymous reporting mechanism
15 identified in paragraph (1); or
 - 16 (B) Collected by law enforcement, educational, and
17 other agencies;
- 18 (3) Other technological tools to enable analysis of social
19 media and other data;



1 (4) Four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions, which
2 shall be exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised
3 Statutes, as follows:

4 (A) Three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) analysts to:

5 (i) Operate the statewide anonymous reporting
6 mechanism;

7 (ii) Analyze threats delivered via social media;

8 (iii) Analyze additional data relevant to school
9 violence; and

10 (iv) Disseminate information to appropriate
11 agencies in individual cases and
12 periodically inform agencies and the public
13 about copycat threats and trends in school
14 violence; and

15 (B) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program
16 manager to:

17 (i) Organize outreach and training to the
18 general public and to educational
19 institutions;

20 (ii) Organize training for school-level and
21 larger-scale threat assessment teams;



- 1 (iii) Facilitate larger-scale interdisciplinary
- 2 threat assessment teams by calling and
- 3 attending meetings, coordinating efforts
- 4 among agencies within the team, and keeping
- 5 records of cases;
- 6 (iv) Assist in establishing procedures and
- 7 protocols for creating and operating threat
- 8 assessment teams and reporting among various
- 9 agencies; and
- 10 (v) Coordinate efforts with other student-safety
- 11 programs.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 13 defense for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
 15 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
 16 2020; provided further that section 2 of this Act shall be
 17 repealed on June 30, 2024.

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H.B. NO. 2703

Report Title:

School Violence; Prevention; Pilot Program; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes a pilot program to prevent targeted school violence. Appropriates funds to the office of homeland security for resources to prevent targeted school violence. Repeals on 6/30/2024.

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