
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 others were made by handwritten notes, graffiti, or telephone.
13 Although the threats were never carried out, they caused fear
14 and apprehension among students, parents, teachers, and the
15 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- and community-
5 based threat assessment teams can use this knowledge and become
6 trained to determine whether threats are credible. These teams
7 may identify persons of concern before they commit acts of
8 violence. Furthermore, intervention strategies, including
9 counseling, mentorship, and thorough follow-up, can mitigate the
10 threat by helping the person of concern and preventing serious
11 acts of violence.

12 The legislature further finds that gaps currently 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
2 start-to-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 state office of homeland security,
10 established by section 128A-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a pilot
11 program to:

12 (1) Establish:

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

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



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



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



1 shall submit to the legislature a report of its findings and
2 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, concerning
3 the pilot program.

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

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

12 (1) A statewide anonymous reporting mechanism specifically
13 designed to collect reports of threats of targeted
14 school violence;

15 (2) A database to collect reports of threats to schools
16 and school violence that were:

17 (A) Received by the anonymous reporting mechanism
18 identified in paragraph (1); or

19 (B) Collected by law enforcement, educational, and
20 other agencies;



- 1 (3) Other technological tools to enable analysis of social
2 media and other data;
- 3 (4) Four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions, which
4 shall be exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised
5 Statutes, as follows:
- 6 (A) Three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) analysts to:
- 7 (i) Operate the statewide anonymous reporting
8 mechanism;
- 9 (ii) Analyze threats delivered via social media;
- 10 (iii) Analyze additional data relevant to school
11 violence; and
- 12 (iv) Disseminate information to appropriate
13 agencies in individual cases and
14 periodically inform agencies and the public
15 about copycat threats and trends in school
16 violence; and
- 17 (B) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program
18 manager to:
- 19 (i) Organize outreach and training to the
20 general public and to educational
21 institutions;



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

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state
16 department of defense for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;
18 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
19 2020; provided further that this Act shall be repealed on
20 June 30, 2024.



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. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. Repeals on 6/30/2024. (HD2)

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