

PROPOSED

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SHERIFF DIVISION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The sheriff division of the department of
2 public safety is vested by law with critical responsibilities to
3 protect the public. Section 353C-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
4 defines the responsibilities of the director of public safety.
5 Section 353C-2 states in relevant part:

6 "[T]he director may:

7 (1) Preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect and
8 arrest offenders against the law, protect the rights
9 of persons and property, and enforce and prevent
10 violation of all laws and administrative rules of the
11 State as the director deems to be necessary or
12 desirable or upon request, to assist other state
13 officers or agencies that have primary administrative
14 responsibility over specific subject matters or
15 programs;

16 (2) Train, equip, maintain, and supervise the force of
17 public safety officers, including law enforcement and



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1 (1) Five clerk-dispatcher I positions for the
 2 communications unit. The current staffing consists of
 3 two clerk dispatchers. The dispatchers are
 4 responsible for prioritizing calls and for dispatching
 5 deputy sheriffs. They provide a critical information
 6 link to deputies in the field. The Honolulu Police
 7 Department refers these calls to the sheriff division
 8 for response. The unexpected change in circumstances
 9 requires the sheriff division to maintain clerk-
 10 dispatcher staffing on a 24/7 basis;

11 (2) Six deputy sheriff II positions for capitol patrol.
 12 The capitol patrol section is primarily responsible
 13 for law enforcement and protecting life and property
 14 at the state capitol and governor's residence,
 15 including responding to calls for service, conducting
 16 criminal investigations, handling citizen complaints,
 17 and being on call for possible disturbances on the
 18 property; and

19 (3) Five deputy sheriff II positions for the district
 20 patrol section. The district patrol section includes
 21 the judiciary buildings and other state facilities
 22 assigned to the department of public safety's



1 jurisdiction, including the functions of providing
2 escort and security to state officials, visiting
3 dignitaries, and prisoners.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
7 additional permanent positions for the sheriff division for the
8 Island of Oahu, as specified in section 2 of this Act.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the sheriff
10 division of the department of public safety for purposes of this
11 Act.

12 PART II

13 ADDITIONAL VEHICLES

14 SECTION 4. The average age of the vehicles in the sheriff
15 division fleet is seven to ten years, and many have in excess of
16 100,000 miles. Due to age, wear, and tear, major mechanical
17 break downs occur frequently. Over the past year, about \$9,000
18 was spent on repairs. While this figure does not appear
19 excessive, it is a sign of increased maintenance demands. Of
20 particular concern is the breakdown on the highway of a vehicle
21 while en route transporting a felon. More importantly,
22 deferring small maintenance repairs inevitably leads to major

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1 mechanical failures. The sheriff division has requested the
2 following additional vehicles:

- 3 (1) Twenty-six replacement vehicles, as follows:
 - 4 (A) Six police package sedans for the district court
 - 5 section;
 - 6 (B) Two police package, twelve passenger vans for the
 - 7 district court section;
 - 8 (C) Two police package sedans for the circuit court
 - 9 section;
 - 10 (D) Seven police package sedans for the warrants
 - 11 section;
 - 12 (E) Six police package sport utility vehicles for the
 - 13 canine section; and
 - 14 (F) Three police package sedans for the capitol
 - 15 patrol section.

16 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____, or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
19 additional vehicles for the sheriff division, as specified in
20 section 4 of this Act.

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1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the sheriff
2 division of the department of public safety for the purposes of
3 this Act.

4 SECTION III

5 EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

6 SECTION 6. (a) Current radios assigned to the capitol
7 patrol section are a VHF system, which is only operable for a
8 short distance within the downtown area. Without the Honolulu
9 Police Department's assistance, the span of communication of the
10 sheriff division needs to be island-wide to ensure timely
11 response, particularly for criminal matters. Efficient radio
12 communications provide constant updated information on the
13 location of the officer, the situation at the scene of the
14 service call or crime scene, and the ability to call for back-up
15 in dangerous or life-threatening situations. The sheriff
16 division has requested fourteen Motorola UHF portable radios.

17 (b) Without assistance from the Honolulu Police
18 Department, the sheriff division is forced to become crime scene
19 investigators. Evidence recovery kits are critical to detect,
20 gather, and preserve evidence, including photos, fingerprints,
21 DNA, weapons, and other evidence. The sheriff division has
22 requested three evidence recovery kits.

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1 PART IV
2 SECTION 8. The sums appropriated by this Act shall not be
3 allocated to any division of the department of public safety
4 other than the sheriff division.
5 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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Report Title:

Public Safety; Sheriff Division

Description:

Makes appropriation to department of public safety for expenditures by the sheriff division for personnel, vehicles, and equipment. (SD1)

