

JAN 22 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that law enforcement
2 agencies are increasingly using body-mounted video cameras and
3 law enforcement vehicle cameras to protect civilians and law
4 enforcement officers. A body-mounted video camera worn by a law
5 enforcement officer acts as a third-party, independent witness
6 in disputes by clarifying testimony obtained in the field and
7 eliminating many of the problems that occur between law
8 enforcement officers and civilians. Law enforcement vehicle
9 cameras are video cameras that are typically mounted on the
10 vehicle's dashboard.

11 The legislature further finds that people who are aware of
12 being videotaped are more inclined to alter their behavior as
13 they know that they will likely be held accountable for their
14 actions. Law enforcement officers and civilians who are aware
15 that they are being videotaped are more likely to behave in a
16 calm and rational manner. With the recent incidents involving
17 law enforcement officers and unnecessary force, the use of body-



1 mounted video cameras and law enforcement vehicle cameras
2 provide law enforcement officers and civilians with added
3 security in their actions. In controversial situations, where
4 force may need to be used, a law enforcement officer or
5 civilian's story may be corroborated by the video obtained
6 through the body-mounted video camera or law enforcement vehicle
7 camera.

8 The legislature additionally finds that a financial loss
9 occurs when a civilian files a complaint against a law
10 enforcement officer. Law enforcement agencies spend
11 approximately \$2,000,000,000 annually investigating complaints
12 against law enforcement officers. However, the use of body-
13 mounted video cameras and law enforcement vehicle cameras can
14 reduce complaints against law enforcement officers and
15 complaints may be resolved in a timelier manner, freeing up
16 valuable resources and reducing financial losses.

17 The legislature also finds that the use of body-mounted
18 video cameras and law enforcement vehicle cameras can assist law
19 enforcement with training, assessment, and disciplinary
20 decisions. The video obtained from a body-mounted video camera
21 or law enforcement vehicle camera can provide a detailed record



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1 of an incident and offer audio and video clarity. Anyone not on
2 the scene during an incident involving a law enforcement officer
3 and a civilian may view and hear how the events unfolded. Body-
4 worn video cameras and law enforcement vehicle cameras help
5 ensure the safety of the public and increase law enforcement
6 effectiveness.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to promote
8 transparency, accountability, and protection for law enforcement
9 officers and civilians by appropriating funds to each county for
10 the purchase of body-worn video cameras and law enforcement
11 vehicle cameras to be used by each county police department.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for a
15 grant-in-aid to each county for the purchase of body-worn video
16 cameras and law enforcement vehicle cameras to be used by each
17 county police department, to be allocated as follows:

- 18 \$ to the city and county of Honolulu;
- 19 \$ to the county of Maui;
- 20 \$ to the county of Hawaii; and
- 21 \$ to the county of Kauai;



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1 provided that no funds appropriated to a county under this Act
 2 shall be expended unless matched dollar-for-dollar by the
 3 county.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by each county for
 5 the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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Report Title:

Law Enforcement; County Police Departments; Body-Worn Video Cameras; Law Enforcement Vehicle Cameras; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds as a grant-in-aid to each county for the purchase of body-worn video cameras and law enforcement vehicle cameras to be used by each county police department; provided that no funds appropriated to a county shall be expended unless matched dollar-for-dollar by the county.

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