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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the abuse of illicit  
2 drugs in the State is an epidemic that has no place in Hawaii's  
3 families, communities, or schools. According to the Centers for  
4 Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose deaths in Hawaii  
5 increased by eighty-three per cent between 2006 and 2014, a  
6 growth rate more than double the national average of thirty-  
7 seven per cent.

8           The alcohol and drug abuse division of the department of  
9 health provided startling data in its December 2015 legislative  
10 report. According to the report, accidental drug overdose is a  
11 serious public health problem in Hawaii, with an almost two-fold  
12 increase in deaths from drug poisonings between 1999 and 2013.  
13 The report also determined that eighty-eight per cent of the  
14 fatal poisonings between 2009 and 2013 were drug-related, with  
15 prescription drugs being implicated in nearly half of the  
16 unintentional poisonings and thirty-six per cent of deaths  
17 involving opioid pain relievers. Death certificate information



1 further indicates that fifty-two per cent of these deaths  
2 involved illicit substances, most commonly methamphetamine and  
3 cocaine.

4 The legislature further finds that there are other  
5 innovative options available that would efficiently and  
6 effectively aid in the abatement of this public crisis. At  
7 present, the department of public safety deploys the services of  
8 the special operations K9 unit to detect bombs, narcotics, and  
9 currency. This unit is currently based in Honolulu and is  
10 composed of five canine handlers and five deputy canines, with  
11 two specializing in bomb detection, two specializing in  
12 narcotics detection, and one specializing in currency detection.  
13 The successful use of detection canines at airports, harbors,  
14 and borders is commonplace across the nation and world.

15 The legislature finds that substantially increasing  
16 financial support to the special operations K9 unit will have a  
17 great impact on Hawaii's drug epidemic. Accordingly, the  
18 purpose of this Act is to establish a special fund and make an  
19 appropriation to increase sheriff canine handlers and deputy  
20 canine resources to assist with the detection of explosives and  
21 the fight against narcotics and narcotics trafficking.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§329- Special operations K9 unit special fund. (a)

5 There is established in the state treasury the special  
6 operations K9 unit special fund, into which shall be deposited:

7 (1) Moneys appropriated to the fund by the legislature;  
8 and

9 (2) Moneys directed, allocated, or disbursed to the K9  
10 unit from government agencies or private individuals  
11 or organizations, including grants, gifts, awards,  
12 donations, and assessments of landowners for costs to  
13 administer and operate the K9 unit.

14 (b) Moneys in the fund shall be expended by the department  
15 for federal, state, and county law enforcements efforts,  
16 including the hiring of personnel, to:

17 (1) Prevent narcotic use and trafficking;

18 (2) Detect explosives; and

19 (3) Detect currency."

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$7,000,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
3 2018-2019 to be deposited into the special operations K9 unit  
4 special fund.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the special  
6 operations K9 unit special fund the sum of \$7,000,000 or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
9 2018-2019 to support explosive, narcotics, and currency  
10 detection efforts by federal, state, and county law enforcement  
11 by funding:

- 12 (1) Thirty full-time equivalent (30.0 FTE) permanent  
13 canine handler positions and thirty deputy canines  
14 within the department of public safety on Oahu;
- 15 (2) Ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) permanent canine  
16 handler positions and ten deputy canines within the  
17 department of public safety on Hawaii island;
- 18 (3) Six full-time equivalent (6.0 FTE) permanent canine  
19 handler positions and six deputy canines within the  
20 department of public safety on Maui; and



1 (4) Four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) permanent canine  
 2 handler positions and four deputy canines within the  
 3 department of public safety on Kauai.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
 5 of public safety for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 25 2017



# H.B. NO. 1468

**Report Title:**

Special Operations K9 Unit Special Fund; Positions;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the special operations K9 unit special fund.  
Appropriates money to the fund for deputy canines and full-time  
equivalent (FTE) permanent canine handler positions within the  
department of public safety.

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