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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  
18 further indicates that fifty-two per cent of these deaths



1 involved illicit substances, most commonly methamphetamine and  
2 cocaine.

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

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



1        (c) The auditor shall conduct an annual audit of the uses  
2 of the fund and submit a report detailing the findings of the  
3 audit to the legislature annually."

4            SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$7,000,000 or so much  
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
8 2018-2019 to be deposited into the special operations K9 unit  
9 special fund.

10           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the special  
11 operations K9 unit special fund the sum of \$7,000,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2018-2019 to support explosive, narcotics, and currency  
15 detection efforts by federal, state, and county law enforcement  
16 by funding:

- 17            (1) Thirty full-time equivalent (30.0 FTE) permanent
- 18                        canine handler positions and thirty deputy canines
- 19                        within the department of public safety on Oahu;



1           (2) Ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) permanent canine  
2 handler positions and ten deputy canines within the  
3 department of public safety on Hawaii island;

4           (3) Six full-time equivalent (6.0 FTE) permanent canine  
5 handler positions and six deputy canines within the  
6 department of public safety on Maui; and

7           (4) Four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) permanent canine  
8 handler positions and four deputy canines within the  
9 department of public safety on Kauai;

10 provided that the appropriated funds shall be expended at a rate  
11 of one-third of the total amount appropriated over the course of  
12 three years; provided further that canine handler positions and  
13 deputy canines be acquired for the island of Oahu before funds  
14 are expended on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai.

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

17           SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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**Report Title:**

Special Operations K9 Unit Special Fund; Audit; Positions;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the special operations K9 unit special fund.  
Requires the auditor to conduct an annual audit of the special  
fund and submit an annual report to the legislature.  
Appropriates money to the fund for deputy canines and full-time  
equivalent (FTE) permanent canine handler positions within the  
department of public safety. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

