

JAN 19 2018

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

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

SECTION 1. Section 52D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[+]§52D-6[+] Police force; employees[-]; background checks; mandatory disqualification. (a) The chief of police may appoint officers and other employees under [such] rules and at [such] salaries as are authorized by law. Probationary appointment, suspension, and dismissal of officers and employees of the police department shall be as authorized by law.

(b) The chief of police shall develop standards to ensure the reputable and responsible characters of officers.

(c) Prior to the employment of a prospective officer, the chief of police shall require the prospective officer to provide fingerprints and the chief of police shall obtain criminal history record information on the prospective officer through the Hawaii criminal justice data center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



1 (d) The chief of police shall perform a background check
2 prior to the employment of a prospective officer. The
3 background check shall include, at minimum, a review of
4 personnel files from each former employer at which the
5 prospective officer previously served as a law enforcement
6 officer.

7 (e) The chief of police shall deny employment to a
8 prospective officer whose previous position as a law enforcement
9 officer was terminated while the prospective officer was in poor
10 employment standing.

11 (f) For purposes of this section:

12 "Law enforcement officer" means a:

13 (1) Police officer employed by any federal, state, or

14 local law enforcement agency in the United States; or

15 (2) Person granted police powers by any federal, state, or

16 local agency in the United States.

17 "Poor employment standing" includes:

18 (1) Termination due to misconduct;

19 (2) Resignation while under investigation, suspension, or

20 during forced administrative desk duty pending

21 investigation; or



1 (3) Resignation as an alternative to termination due to
2 misconduct."

3 SECTION 2. Section 353C-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "§353C-4 Appointment of employees with police powers and
6 other employees[-]; mandatory disqualification. (a) The
7 director may appoint employees to be public safety officers who
8 shall have all of the powers of police officers; provided that
9 the director [may]:

10 (1) May establish and assign the employees to positions or
11 categories of positions that may have differing
12 titles, specific duties, and limitations upon the
13 exercise of police powers[-];

14 (2) Shall perform prior employment background checks of
15 each prospective public safety officer. Each
16 background check shall include, at minimum, a review
17 of personnel files from each former employer at which
18 the prospective public safety officer previously
19 served as a law enforcement officer; and

20 (3) Shall deny employment to a prospective public safety
21 officer whose previous position as a law enforcement



1 officer was terminated while the prospective public
2 safety officer was in poor employment standing.

3 (b) The director may appoint other personnel necessary to
4 carry out the functions of the department.

5 (c) The state law enforcement officers transferred from
6 the department of the attorney general by Act 211, Session Laws
7 of Hawaii 1989, shall be responsible for public safety in state
8 buildings as well as the personal protection of government
9 officials and employees while in the conduct of their duties.
10 The duties of state law enforcement officers shall also include
11 the service of process, including subpoenas, warrants, and other
12 legal documents, and other duties as the director may assign,
13 including the performance of duties of other public safety
14 officers within the department. State law enforcement officers
15 shall have all of the powers of police officers, including the
16 power of arrest.

17 (d) For purposes of this section:

18 "Law enforcement officer" means a:

19 (1) Police officer employed by any federal, state, or
20 local law enforcement agency in the United States; or



(2) Person granted police powers by any federal, state, or
local agency in the United States.

"Poor employment standing" includes:

(1) Termination due to misconduct;

(2) Resignation while under investigation, suspension, or
during forced administrative desk duty pending
investigation; or

(3) Resignation as an alternative to termination due to
misconduct."

SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
begun before its effective date.

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2428

Report Title:

Law Enforcement; Background Checks; Prior Employment

Description:

Prohibits the hiring of a state or county law enforcement officer if the candidate's previous position as a law enforcement officer was terminated while the officer was in poor employment standing. Requires background checks for prospective police officers.

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