
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 public safety
2 officers, including state deputy sheriffs, provide invaluable
3 societal contributions by risking their lives each day in
4 service to Hawaii's residents. The legislature also finds that
5 public safety officers are in a position of public trust as the
6 guardians and protectors of the State's communities. This role
7 requires extending respect and compassion to the people of the
8 State while also holding individuals accountable for criminal
9 conduct.

10 The legislature further finds that public safety officers
11 are frequently in harm's way and must quickly make difficult
12 decisions while under stress. The legislature finds that
13 because of the gravity of these decisions, the people of the
14 State and public safety officers themselves rely on and expect
15 thorough training and accountability.

16 The purpose of this Act is to support the role of public
17 safety officers by requiring the department of public safety to



1 require training for its deputy sheriffs in less than lethal use
2 of force and to appropriate funds for training, equipment, and
3 related records management.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 353C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
6 and to read as follows:

7 **"§353C- Less than lethal use of force training and**
8 **equipment.** (a) The department shall develop policies and

9 procedures to govern the use of force, including policies
10 related to training and equipment. The director shall require
11 all deputy sheriffs appointed pursuant to this chapter to
12 complete an initial less than lethal use of force training
13 course and comply with subsequent annual training requirements.

14 (b) The department shall include the following as the core
15 of any less than lethal use of force training curricula
16 developed pursuant to this section:

- 17 (1) De-escalation in patrol tactics and interpersonal
18 communication training, including tactical methods
19 that use time, distance, cover, and concealment to
20 avoid escalating situations that lead to violence;



- 1 (2) Alternatives to jail booking, arrest, or citation in
2 situations where appropriate;
- 3 (3) Information regarding implicit and explicit bias,
4 cultural competency, and the historical intersection
5 of race and policing;
- 6 (4) Skills, including de-escalation techniques, to
7 effectively, safely, and respectfully interact with
8 people with disabilities or behavioral health issues;
- 9 (5) "Shoot/don't shoot" scenario training;
- 10 (6) Alternatives to the use of physical or deadly force so
11 that de-escalation tactics and less than lethal
12 alternatives are part of the decision-making process
13 leading up to the consideration of the use of deadly
14 force;
- 15 (7) Information regarding mental health and policing,
16 including bias;
- 17 (8) Community involvement in the delivery of training to
18 give a better understanding of community perspectives;
- 19 (9) Use of public service, including rendering first aid,
20 to provide a positive point of contact between law
21 enforcement officers and community members; and



1 (10) Use of specialized equipment for the deployment of
2 less than lethal force.

3 (c) The department is encouraged to:

4 (1) Provide training pursuant to this section alone or in
5 partnership with other law enforcement agencies or
6 contracted private parties, or authorize other law
7 enforcement agencies or contracted private parties to
8 provide the training; and

9 (2) Maintain records to monitor and track all training
10 activity pursuant to this section."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2020-2021 for the development and implementation of less than
16 lethal use of force training and related records management for
17 the deputy sheriffs of the department of public safety.

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

20 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
3 2020-2021 for the purchase and maintenance of less than lethal
4 equipment, including weapons, for use by the department of
5 public safety deputy sheriffs certified in the less than lethal
6 use of force.

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

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Public Safety; Deputy Sheriffs; Less Than Lethal Weapons;
Training; Acquisition; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Director of Public Safety to develop policies and procedures to govern the use of force, including training and equipment, by deputy sheriffs. Requires the PSD Director to require less than lethal use of force training. Encourages PSD to maintain training activity records. Appropriates funds.
(HB456 HD1)

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