
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, according to the
2 Task Force on Twenty-First Century Policing, increasing the
3 diversity of law enforcement agencies throughout the nation is
4 critical to developing trust between law enforcement agencies
5 and the public. Additionally, the legislature notes that nearly
6 all modern national reports on law enforcement recommend the
7 increased employment of women and people from underrepresented
8 racial and ethnic groups in law enforcement. The legislature
9 recognizes that, when compared to male law enforcement officers,
10 female law enforcement officers generally use less force,
11 including excessive force; are named in fewer lawsuits and
12 complaints; are perceived by the public as being more honest and
13 compassionate; achieve better outcomes for crime victims,
14 especially victims of sexual assault; and make fewer
15 discretionary arrests.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



1 (1) Establish as a goal of the State the increased
2 representation of female law enforcement officers in
3 the State by 2030 and nonbinary law enforcement
4 officers in the State; and

5 (2) Require each law enforcement agency to recruit law
6 enforcement officers from diverse backgrounds.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 139, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "§139- Law enforcement officers; diversity. (a) The
11 State shall have a goal of each law enforcement agency
12 increasing the employment of:

13 (1) Female law enforcement officers to thirty per cent of
14 all law enforcement officers employed by that law
15 enforcement agency by 2030; provided that each law
16 enforcement agency shall use the percentage of female
17 law enforcement officers employed by that law
18 enforcement agency as of January 1, 2023, as the
19 benchmark for measuring the law enforcement agency's
20 progress toward achieving the goal set forth in this
21 section; and



1 (2) Law enforcement officers who do not adhere to the
2 gender binary.

3 (b) To effectuate the purposes of this section, each law
4 enforcement agency shall recruit law enforcement officers from
5 diverse backgrounds, including diverse educational backgrounds.

6 (c) As used in this section, "law enforcement agency"
7 shall have the same meaning as defined in section 78-52."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Police; Sheriff; Law Enforcement Officers; Law Enforcement Agencies; Female Law Enforcement Officers; Recruitment; Diversity; Goals

Description:

Establishes as a goal of the State the increased representation of female law enforcement officers in the State by 2030 and nonbinary law enforcement officers in the State. Requires each law enforcement agency to recruit law enforcement officers from diverse backgrounds. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

