
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 law enforcement
2 officers in the State would benefit from having a standardized
3 physical training program and destigmatized mental health
4 support. Policing may regularly expose officers to violence,
5 suffering, death, and disturbing situations, causing high levels
6 of job-related stress. Consequently, law enforcement
7 professions, including policing, are associated with high rates
8 of divorce, alcoholism, suicide, post-traumatic stress disorder,
9 heart attacks, and other mental and physical health problems.
10 The potential stigma associated with seeking mental health
11 assistance may prevent law enforcement officers from receiving
12 help.

13 The legislature further finds that when law enforcement
14 officers experience high levels of occupational stress, the
15 stress also affects law enforcement agencies. The agencies may
16 suffer from impaired officer performance, frequent absenteeism,
17 low morale, early retirements, and high turnover rates. The



1 legislature believes that there is a direct correlation between
2 law enforcement officers' mental and physical health and public
3 safety. Therefore, supporting law enforcement officers' health
4 is strongly in the public interest.

5 The legislature recognizes that occupational health studies
6 have recommended ways to mitigate job-related stress among law
7 enforcement officers. These recommendations include the
8 implementation of structured health intervention programs.
9 Physical fitness programs have been shown to reduce the risk of
10 both physical and mental health problems. Studies have also
11 emphasized the importance of offering readily available,
12 stigma-free, trauma-informed therapy and group support.

13 The legislature believes that the cost of a structured
14 health intervention program is an investment that will
15 ultimately save the State money by reducing absenteeism, early
16 retirements, and high turnover rates among law enforcement
17 officers.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the law
19 enforcement standards board to develop, and each department
20 employing law enforcement officers to implement, a structured



1 health intervention program to support law enforcement officers'
2 mental and physical health.

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

6 "§139- Health intervention program. (a) No later
7 than _____ days after the effective date of this Act, the board
8 shall develop, and each department employing law enforcement
9 officers shall implement, a structured health intervention
10 program that supports law enforcement officers' physical and
11 mental health.

12 (b) The program shall include:

13 (1) Physical training designed to help equip law
14 enforcement officers to apprehend and arrest suspects
15 and to perform other physical aspects of their duties;

16 (2) Fitness classes, martial arts classes, and other
17 activities, to be made available to law enforcement
18 officers during regular business hours;

19 (3) Training on best practices for safely restraining a
20 suspect, including training on effectively monitoring
21 the suspect's vital signs; and



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1 (4) Mental health support, including confidential,
2 stigma-free, and trauma-informed therapy; mentoring
3 programs; and peer-to-peer support groups.

4 (c) The board may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to
5 effectuate the purposes of this section."

6 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

8

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 22 2024



H.B. NO. 2230

Report Title:

LESB; Law Enforcement Officers; Physical Health; Mental Health; Intervention Program

Description:

Requires the Law Enforcement Standards Board to develop, and each department employing law enforcement officers to implement, a structured health intervention program to support law enforcement officers' physical and mental health.

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