
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 minorities in law enforcement.
8 The legislature recognizes that, when compared to male law
9 enforcement officers, female law enforcement officers generally
10 use less force, including excessive force; are named in fewer
11 lawsuits and complaints; are perceived by the public as being
12 more honest and compassionate; achieve better outcomes for crime
13 victims, especially victims of sexual assault; and make fewer
14 discretionary arrests.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish as a
16 goal of the State the increased representation of female law
17 enforcement officers in the State by 2030 and require each law



1 enforcement agency to recruit law enforcement officers from
2 diverse backgrounds.

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- Law enforcement officers; diversity. (a) The
7 State shall have a goal of each law enforcement agency
8 increasing the employment of female law enforcement officers to
9 thirty per cent of all law enforcement officers employed by that
10 law enforcement agency by 2030; provided that each law
11 enforcement agency shall use the percentage of female law
12 enforcement officers employed by that law enforcement agency as
13 of January 1, 2023, as the benchmark for measuring the law
14 enforcement agency's progress toward achieving the goal set
15 forth herein.

16 (b) To effectuate the purposes of this section, each law
17 enforcement agency shall recruit law enforcement officers from
18 diverse backgrounds, including schools of social work.

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

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

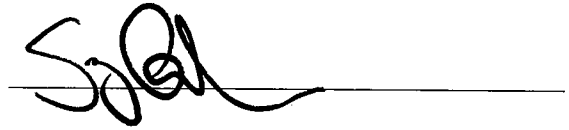


H.B. NO. 2231

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

2

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 22 2024



H.B. NO. 2231

Report Title:

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

Description:

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

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