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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO POLICE REPORTS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the death of a  
2 family member where the incident led to law enforcement  
3 initiating an investigation may raise many questions for the  
4 surviving family members even years later. Law enforcement's  
5 investigation and the ensuing report may provide some answers  
6 and perhaps even closure for a family. The legislature further  
7 finds that obtaining this information can be difficult. For one  
8 Hawai'i family whose son was murdered, it took seventeen years  
9 and repeated assistance from a state legislator's office to  
10 receive the closing report. For another family whose son was  
11 killed during an incident involving law enforcement, the family  
12 still has not received a copy of the report more than five years  
13 after the incident despite state legislator involvement.

14           The purpose of this Act is to allow surviving immediate  
15 family members of deceased persons for whom law enforcement  
16 initiated an investigation to receive a copy of the closing



1 report prepared by the investigating police department after a  
2 specified period of time.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 52D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§52D- Request for copy of police report by a surviving  
7 immediate family member. (a) Each surviving immediate family  
8 member of a deceased person for whom law enforcement initiated  
9 an investigation shall, upon request, be provided a copy of the  
10 closing report prepared by the investigating police department,  
11 upon the conclusion of any criminal proceedings related to the  
12 incident, the passage of five years after the report has been  
13 completed, or the passage of seven years after the underlying  
14 incident, whichever occurs first; provided that if the  
15 investigation has been reopened in the six months before the  
16 request, the investigating police department shall not be  
17 required to provide a copy of the report to the surviving  
18 immediate family member while the investigation is ongoing;  
19 provided further that upon the conclusion of the reopened  
20 investigation there shall be no further delay in providing a



1 copy of the report to the requesting surviving immediate family  
2 member.

3 (b) The closing report shall be provided via electronic  
4 means or in physical paper form, at the requester's preference.

5 (c) This section shall not diminish any right of a  
6 surviving immediate family member or any other person to receive  
7 a copy of any portion of a police report or any other government  
8 record at any other time.

9 (d) As used in this section:

10 "Closing report" means the final report or similar summary  
11 of the investigation that is prepared by the assigned police  
12 detective in the normal course of investigating the incident.

13 "Surviving immediate family member" means a person who is a  
14 surviving grandparent, parent, sibling, spouse or reciprocal  
15 beneficiary, child, or legal guardian of the deceased person."

16 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
18 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2025.



**Report Title:**

Police Reports; Access; Investigation; Police Department

**Description:**

Allows surviving immediate family members of deceased persons for whom law enforcement initiated an investigation to receive a copy of the closing report prepared by the investigating police department after a specified period of time. Sunsets 6/30/2025.  
(HD1)

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