



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 2353, RELATING TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA SHARING GROUPS.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024      **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Philip D. Higdon, Administrator, Hawaii Criminal Justice Data  
Center

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Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill and offers the following comments.

The purpose of the bill is to consolidate the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Criminal Justice Data Sharing Working Group by repealing chapter 134C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and amending Act 157, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, to expand the scope of the Criminal Justice Data Sharing Working Group to include the mandates of and some non-overlapping members from the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVVCC).

GVVCC was established by chapter 134C, HRS, and is tasked with identifying criminal data that could be used to reduce gun violence and violent crimes and maximizing the sharing of that relevant criminal data between criminal justice agencies. The Criminal Justice Data Sharing Working Group, established by Act 157, addresses data sharing between criminal justice agencies. In addition to the closely related mandates, the two groups share a common membership base of County Prosecutors, County Police Chiefs, and the Attorney General. Consolidating the two groups will streamline the efforts to (1) identify criminal data relevant to reducing gun violence and violent crimes, (2) improve collection and sharing of the relevant criminal data among

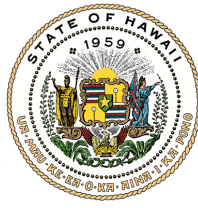
criminal justice agencies in the State, and (3) help make government more efficient by reducing the number or duplicative meetings that public servants attend.

Sharing criminal data among the various state and county law enforcement agencies and the judiciary has been difficult for many reasons, chief among them being the difficulty determining what data to share, which agencies should have access to some or all of the data, and what data will provide the agencies with the most critical information. GVVCC's membership includes individuals with expertise in research from different public sectors including the Judiciary. By including these members of the GVVCC in the Criminal Justice Data Sharing Working Group, the law enforcement community will have access to researchers who can assist the agencies in identifying necessary data, identifiers, and resources, among other things.

Because of the current lack of a streamlined method to store and share criminal data, one of the main issues GVVCC has run into is identifying what relevant data is available and where that data resides. In the absence of this basic information, research into understanding and reducing violent crime and gun violence is virtually impossible. By participating in a data sharing group that will develop a standardized method of saving and sharing data, researchers will have access to uniform information that will enable them to analyze relevant data regarding violent crime and gun violence and determine possibilities for reducing both. Therefore, we believe that consolidating these two groups will accomplish the objectives of the groups more effectively and efficiently.

The Department respectfully requests the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT  
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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2353  
RELATING TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA SHARING GROUPS  
Before the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024; 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference  
Testifiers: Michael Vincent, or Jared Redulla

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **supports** House Bill 2353.

This bill amends the Criminal Justice Data Sharing Working Group to combine its members and functions with certain members and functions of the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission to increase efficiency and effectiveness and eliminate redundancy.

The DLE participates in several of the working groups that are the subject of this bill. At one point, these various working groups were holding separate meetings which required members to schedule multiple meetings when a single meeting would be sufficient. This bill will clarify in the statutory requirements of these working groups and enable them to consolidate their work and increase efficiency by eliminating multiple meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.