
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RECORDINGS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 **"CHAPTER**

5 **RECORDING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

6 § -1 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

7 "Law enforcement activity" means any activity by a law
8 enforcement officer acting under the color of law.

9 "Law enforcement officer" means any public servant, whether
10 employed by the State or subdivisions thereof or by the United
11 States, vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or,
12 to make arrests for offenses or to enforce the criminal laws,
13 whether that duty extends to all offenses or is limited to a
14 specific class of offenses.

15 "Record" means to capture or attempt to capture any moving
16 or still image, sound, or impression through the use of any
17 recording device, camera, or any other device capable of



1 capturing audio, moving images, or still images, or by way of
2 written notes or observations.

3 **§ -2 Right to record law enforcement activities.** A
4 person neither under arrest nor in the custody of a law
5 enforcement officer shall have the right to record law
6 enforcement activity and to maintain custody and control of that
7 recording and of any property or instruments used by that person
8 to record law enforcement activities; provided that a person
9 under arrest or in custody of a law enforcement officer does
10 not, by that status alone, forfeit the right to have any
11 recordings taken before the arrest or before being taken into
12 custody or the right to have any property and equipment used for
13 the recording to be maintained and returned to that person.
14 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to permit a person to
15 engage in actions that physically interfere with law enforcement
16 activity or otherwise constitute a crime under chapter 710.

17 **§ -3 Private right of action.** (a) A claim of unlawful
18 interference with recording a law enforcement activity shall be
19 established under this section when a person demonstrates that
20 the person exercised or attempted to exercise the right to
21 record law enforcement activities pursuant to section -2 and



1 a law enforcement officer acted to interfere with that person's
2 recording of a law enforcement activity, including by:

3 (1) Intentionally preventing or attempting to prevent that
4 person from recording law enforcement activity;

5 (2) Threatening that person for recording law enforcement
6 activity;

7 (3) Commanding that the person cease recording law
8 enforcement activity when the person was otherwise
9 authorized by law to do so;

10 (4) Stopping, seizing, searching, ticketing, or arresting
11 that person because that person recorded law
12 enforcement activity;

13 (5) Unlawfully seizing property or instruments used by
14 that person to record law enforcement activity;

15 (6) Unlawfully destroying or seizing a recorded image or
16 recorded images of law enforcement activity; or

17 (7) Copying a recording of law enforcement activity
18 without the consent of the person who recorded it or
19 approval from a court of competent jurisdiction.

20 (b) It shall be an affirmative defense to a civil action
21 under this section that, at the time of the law enforcement



1 officer's conduct, the law enforcement officer had probable
2 cause to arrest the person recording the law enforcement
3 activity for a crime under chapter 710.

4 (c) A person subject to unlawful interference with
5 recording law enforcement activities under this section may
6 bring an action for any violation of this section in any court
7 of competent jurisdiction for damages, including:

- 8 (1) Punitive damages;
9 (2) Declaratory and injunctive relief; and
10 (3) Other remedies as the court may deem appropriate.

11 (d) In any action or proceeding brought pursuant to this
12 section, the court may award a prevailing plaintiff reasonable
13 attorneys' and expert witness fees.

14 (e) Any action or proceeding brought pursuant to this
15 section shall be commenced no later than three years after the
16 date on which the violation of this section was committed.

17 § -4 **Preservation of rights.** The rights under this
18 chapter shall be in addition to all other rights and remedies
19 available pursuant to law."

20 SECTION 2. If any provision of this Act, or the
21 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held



1 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
2 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
3 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
4 of this Act are severable.

5 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
6 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
7 begun before its effective date.

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

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 17 2025



H.B. NO. 595

Report Title:

Law Enforcement Activities; Recordings; Private Right of Action

Description:

Establishes the right of a person to record law enforcement activities. Establishes a private right of action for any violation of the right to record law enforcement activities.

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

