



Rodney A. Maile
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Daylin-Rose Heather
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

November 27, 2024

Via electronic submission

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi and Speaker Nakamura:

Pursuant to Act 241, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2024, the Judiciary is transmitting a copy of the *Initial Report of the Clean Slate Expungement Task Force*.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, we are also transmitting a copy of this report to the Legislative Reference Bureau Library.

The public may view an electronic copy of this report on the Judiciary's website at the following link: https://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/reports/reports.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Karen Takahashi of the Judiciary's Legislative Affairs and Special Projects Division at 808-539-4896, or via e-mail at Karen.T.Takahashi@courts.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney A. Maile".

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

Attachment

c: Legislative Reference Bureau Library

Initial Report of the

Clean Slate Expungement Task Force

**Submitted to the
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2025**

Pursuant to Act 241 (2024)

**Prepared by:
The Clean Slate Expungement Task Force**

November 2024

The Clean Slate Expungement Task Force (“Task Force”) was established by the Hawai‘i State Legislature in April of 2024 and signed into law by Governor Josh Green, M.D. as Act 241 on July 9, 2024. The main purpose of the Task Force is to develop a state-initiated record clearing program by providing recommendations on proposed legislation that:

- Expands access to employment, education, and other necessities required for successful reintegration as a successful member of society;
- Promotes equity and fairness by removing barriers within the criminal legal system that disproportionately impact marginalized communities;
- Enhances public safety by adopting best practices for clearing records that have been linked to a reduction in recidivism; and
- Streamlines the procedures involved in the record-clearance process to reduce the time and resources required by the various state entities for implementation of record clearance.

Act 241 directed that the Task Force be composed of representatives from the following entities:

- The Judiciary;
- The Department of the Attorney General;
- The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- The Office of the Public Defender;
- The Offices of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawai‘i, County of Maui, City and County of Honolulu, and County of Kaua‘i;
- The Hawai‘i Innocence Project at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law;
- The Hawai‘i Workers Center;
- The ACLU of Hawai‘i;
- The Hawai‘i Friends of Restorative Justice; and
- The Last Prisoner Project.

In addition, Act 241 directed the Task Force to invite two directly impacted individuals with lived experience in the criminal legal system to participate as members of the Task Force. Act 241 also directed the Task Force to seek technical assistance from the Clean Slate Initiative, Code for America, and SEARCH – System for the Electronic Analysis and Retrieval of Criminal Histories.

Members of the Task Force have been designated as follows:

- The Judiciary – Shellie Park-Hoapili, Chair;
- The Department of the Attorney General – Philip Higdon;
- The Office of Hawaiian Affairs – Kalai Castro;
- The Office of the Public Defender – Voltaire Gansit;
- The Offices of the Prosecuting Attorney:

- * County of Hawai'i – Andrew Son,
- * County of Maui – Shelly Miyashiro,
- * City and County of Honolulu – Mark Yuen, and
- * County of Kaua'i – Michael Miranda;
- The Hawai'i Innocence Project at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law – Jennifer Brown;
- The Hawai'i Workers Center – Sergio Alcubilla;
- The ACLU of Hawai'i – Carrie Ann Shirota;
- The Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice – Loren Walker; and
- The Last Prisoner Project – Adrian Rocha.

The Chair has received nominations for the two directly impacted individuals with lived experience in the criminal legal system, which are currently being reviewed and considered by the Task Force members.

The Task Force held its first meeting on October 4, 2024. Sean Aronson, the Legislative Attorney from the Office of Representative David Tarnas, attended the meeting and shared remarks with members of the Task Force. Discussions focused on the underlying goals, potential areas of focus, and next steps. By the end of the year, it is anticipated that that Task Force will establish subcommittees, which will focus initially on fact finding and information gathering around the key areas that were identified. Once the subcommittees have compiled the relevant information, the Task Force plans to solicit input from the Clean Slate Initiative, Code for America, and SEARCH – System for the Electronic Analysis and Retrieval of Criminal Histories, and other stakeholders in order to develop a strategy and recommendations. A copy of this report has been shared with all members of the Task Force.