



HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

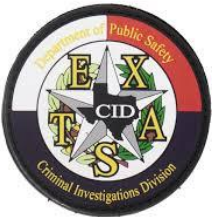
ACTIVE THREAT RESPONSE

Public Charter Schools
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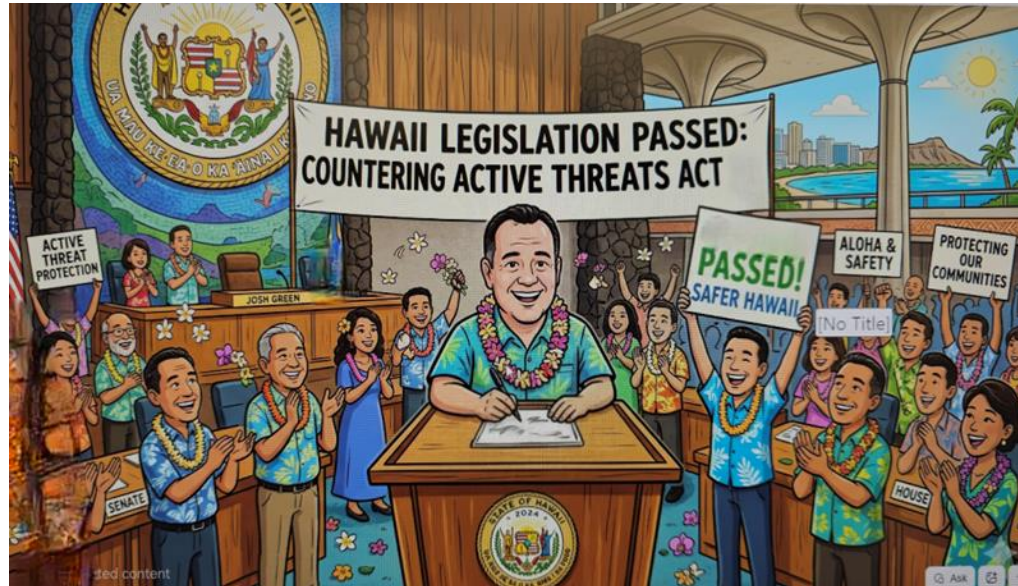


Texas Department of Public Safety





Act- 53: On June 2, 2023, the Governor signed Act 53 (HB1329) focused on active shooter training in Hawaii's public and charter schools. Effective immediately, Active Threat Response Training is now mandatory. (HIDOE Memo 10/11/2024.)





Active Threat: Any incident that, by its deliberate nature, creates an immediate threat or presents an imminent danger to a school campus. An active shooter is one example of an active threat.

- **Active threat incidents unfold rapidly and unpredictably**
- **Immediate staff response can save lives**
- **Preparedness and situational awareness are critical**
- **Training helps staff act confidently in emergencies**



Behavioral indicators and risk factors for targeted violence: Most of these individuals are in a state of personal crisis in the days and weeks leading up to the event.

Recognizing the warning signs:

- **Planning and preparation:** They may research past attacks, identify targets, map the school, or acquire weapons/ammunition. *(They often intentionally or unintentionally communicate their plans)*
- **Social isolation and withdrawal:** They may withdraw from friends and family.
- **Obsession with violence:** Interest in mass shootings, violent media, extremist content, weapons, or military tactics.
- **History of aggression:** Threats made online or in person.
- **Bullying:** A high percentage of school shooters report being victims of severe bullying or rejection by their classmates.



Psychological and emotional factors:

- **Depression and suicidality:** Many have suicidal ideations.
- **Grievances and revenge fantasies:** They often have a strong grievance, either real or perceived, against classmates and/or school staff.
- **Mental health struggles:** Can include a history of mental health symptoms; however, these symptoms are often undiagnosed or untreated.
- **Childhood trauma:** Many shooters have a history of childhood trauma (neglect/abuse).







Evacuation Procedures: People are generally safer if they can remove themselves from a threat location. In certain instances, such as being outside on an outlying field it's better to leave the campus.

- **Priority One: Get Out.** If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate immediately.
- **Leave Everything:** Do not stop to gather purses, laptops, or phones. Speed is life.
- **Visual Safety:** Keep your hands visible and empty at all times for law enforcement.
- **Outlying Areas:** If outside, do not return to buildings. Move as far from the campus as possible.
- **Accountability:** Go directly to a designated reunification point and check in. Do not leave the area until instructed.



Lockdown Procedures: Most common option used in a K-12 setting.

- Secure the Room: Lock and barricade all doors.
- Double-Lock: Use double-locking to prevent entry with stolen keys.
- Go Dark: Turn off lights and silence all devices.
- Stay Hidden: Move students to "Safe Spots"—out of sight from windows and doors.
- Cocoon: Huddle together in a compact group to minimize visibility.
- Await Orders: Remain quiet until official instructions are provided.



Engage/Defend (Last Resort): An absolute last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger do you attempt to disrupt or incapacitate the threat.

- Last Resort: Intervene only when no other options for survival remain.
- Total Commitment: Execute defensive maneuvers with maximum focus and resolve.
- Utilize Resources: Transform everyday objects into tools for protection.
- Team Tactics: Organize a joint response with those around you.





Internal Communication Protocols: Effective communication during an active threat relies on plain language.

- Public Address (PA): Use clear, plain language: "Lockdown! Lockdown! Lockdown! Secure! Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors."
- Two-Way Systems: Modern intercoms or specialized mobile apps allow teachers to discreetly "check in" (e.g., "Room 202 secure, 24 students accounted for") without alerting an intruder.
- SMS/text (School Messenger).
- Stand alone radios.
- Trunked Radio Systems (Computer controlled): As cellular networks often become overwhelmed and unusable during active shooter events, schools should use 800MHz radios for interoperability (secure messaging) with local police and fire departments.



External Communication Protocols: Effective communication with first responders and families.

Communication Protocols: 911:

- School name and address.
- Nature of the emergency (“active shooter on campus”).
- Number/location of suspected shooter(s), if known. Number of injured, if known.

(The Principal or a designee coordinates with law enforcement and provides access to building maps, keys, and camera feeds if available).

- Proactive communication with families reduces campus chaos and prevents parents from rushing to the scene. The aim to notify parents within 1–3 minutes of the initial event and provide updates every 15–30 minutes to prevent panic fueled by silence.
- Directives for Parents: Explicitly instruct parents not to come to the school until a safe reunification site is announced.



HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY DURING AN EMERGENCY?



CRISIS RESPONSE COACH





Law Enforcement Response: Do not stop officers to ask questions. Their focus will be on neutralizing the threat.

Medical/Triage Response:

- When safe, designated staff trained in first aid/Stop the Bleed may provide immediate lifesaving care.
- After the scene is secured, the school's crisis response team supports triage, parent reunification, and communication.

Recovery and Reunification:

- Students and staff will be evacuated to a designated reunification site.
- Family notification should be done through the school's communication system.
- Mental health/crisis counselors should be engaged.
- Conduct an after-action review with staff and first responders.







Summary:

- **Situational Awareness:** See Something, Say Something.
- Train your eyes to recognize "out-of-place" behavior and escalate concerns immediately—seconds save lives.
- **Training:** Practice to Prevail.
- Conduct regular drills with Law Enforcement to build the "muscle memory" needed to replace panic with practiced response.
- **Response:** Connect and Coordinate.
- Follow a streamlined communication plan for every stage, from the initial alert to final reunification.



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Founded with a deep respect for Hawaii's unique cultural heritage and a commitment to enhancing community safety, Blue Line Solutions Hawaii has grown into a trusted provider of tactical, security, and safety training services within the region. Our mission is to empower individuals and organizations with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively respond to emergencies and safeguard lives.





Questions???