



Cornerstone for Justice: How Hawaii Uses Byrne JAG Funding to Protect Public Safety and Prevent Crime

The cornerstone of federal support for state and local justice systems, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program (Byrne JAG) is a federal-state-local partnership enabling communities to target resources to their most pressing local needs.

Byrne JAG is used broadly for law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning evaluation and technology, mental health services, and crime victim and witness programs. This breadth and flexibility means states and local communities can use Byrne JAG to balance resources and address problems across the entire criminal justice system, and to react quickly to urgent challenges and changing circumstances. Many innovative criminal justice practices demonstrated using Byrne JAG funds have been replicated nationwide, such as drug courts, opioid prevention and addiction response, methamphetamine lab reduction, anti-gang strategies, reentry programs and information sharing protocols.

Byrne JAG in Hawaii:

In 2016, the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division invested in numerous successful initiatives. Some examples include:

- The Honolulu Police Department active shooter training programs. Trainings are available to law enforcement and first responders throughout the state.
- A project to improve language access in the courts through the translation of key court documents into 14 different languages. The effort also helps to screen and test translators for proficiency and provides them with practice tools for improvement.
- The Honolulu Police Department's mentoring program for at-risk elementary, intermediate and high school students in the Pearl City and Waipahu districts.
- Byrne JAG funds support the Hawaii Narcotics multijurisdictional taskforce and the State Marijuana Eradication multijurisdictional taskforce.

Byrne JAG keeps citizens safe, prevents crime and victimization, and provides services to individuals in the justice system so when they return to their communities they are better equipped with the tools and skills they need to build productive lives and not return to the criminal justice system.

Hawaii's Investment By Purpose Area

Total Investment = \$860,135

52%



Law Enforcement

37%



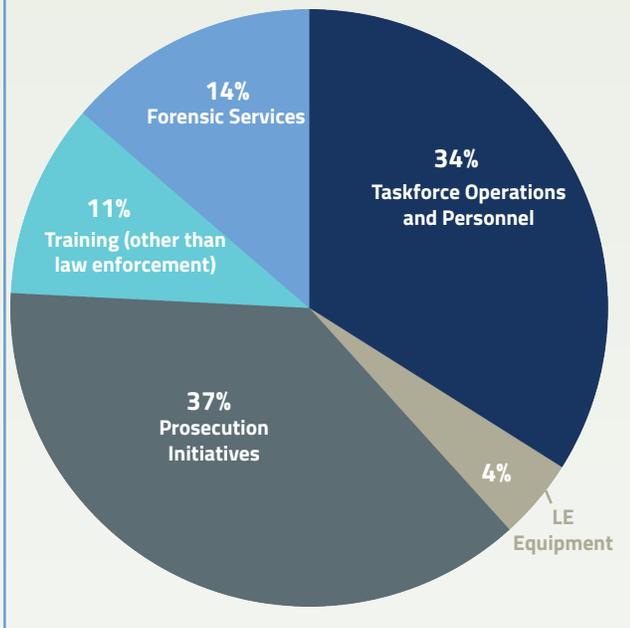
Prosecution & Courts

11%



Planning, Evaluation & Technology

How Hawaii Invests Byrne JAG Funds



Additional Examples:

- The purchase of DNA reagent kits and supplies to improve capacity at the police crime laboratory.
- Upgrades to the live scan fingerprint units that are used by law enforcement agencies statewide.
- Byrne JAG funds the Honolulu Police Department response to illegal gambling through interdiction efforts.
- Byrne JAG funds were used to purchase 73-body worn cameras for officers in the Maui Police Department.
- Byrne JAG funds support the Hawaii County Prosecutor's Office in developing a sexual assault prosecution unit.
- Byrne JAG funds are used to support cold case investigation of violent crimes in Kauai County through the Prosecutors Office.

How Byrne JAG Funding is Awarded:

Sixty percent of the overall Byrne JAG grant is awarded to the state criminal justice planning agency (known as the State Administering Agency or SAA), which, in turn, awards the funding, to local governments and non-profit service providers; the remaining 40 percent goes directly from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance to local communities based on population and crime data.

Funding is authorized at \$1.1 billion annually. At its peak in FY02, Congress appropriated \$830 million. In subsequent years, funding held steady at about \$500 million. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in FY09 provided a one-time boost of \$2 billion. Since FY10, funding has dropped by about one-third. In FY17 the program was funded at \$335 million.

Byrne JAG supports the federal government's crucial role in spurring innovation and testing and replicating evidence-based practices nationwide. States and local communities use Byrne JAG funds to address needs and fill gaps across the entire justice system.

This funding touches nearly every city and town in America through projects funded and investments made in the state and local justice systems.

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