

ISLAND SECURITY POLICY INSTITUTE

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POLICY BRIEF

Campus Safety in Isolation

Why Hawaii and Pacific Island Universities Need Their Own Security Framework

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Why Hawaii and Pacific Island Universities Need Their Own

Security Framework

assessment, island university security, active shooter response Hawaii, campus safety policy Pacific, Title IX Hawaii, higher education security Pacific, campus emergency management island the State of Hawaii. This publication represents ISPI's independent research and policy analysis. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position of any funder, sponsor, or affiliated organization. ISPI maintains full editorial independence on all research outputs. Full institutional credential documentation is available to qualified government agencies, foundations, and institutional partners upon formal request. When an active threat incident occurred at a mid-size Hawaii university in 2021, the first law enforcement unit arrived seventeen minutes after the initial call. The campus security plan, written by a mainland consulting firm using standard framework language, had assumed a five-to-seven-minute law enforcement response time — the continental benchmark embedded in the ALICE training protocol the university had adopted. The gap between assumption and reality was twelve minutes. In an active threat scenario, twelve minutes is not an administrative variance. It is a survival interval. This case is illustrative of a broader pattern that ISPI's practitioner analysis of campus safety in Hawaii and Pacific Island institutions identifies: the application of campus safety frameworks calibrated for large mainland universities with immediate law enforcement backup to geographically isolated island campuses where the structural conditions those frameworks assume do not exist.

Key Findings

Standard active shooter response frameworks — including ALICE and comparable protocols — embed law enforcement response time assumptions of three to seven minutes that are incompatible with the actual response times available to most Hawaii and Pacific Island university campuses. Clery Act compliance in island campus environments involves jurisdictional complexities — territorial boundary issues, Native Hawaiian land adjacency, and non-contiguous territory legal frameworks — that mainland compliance guidance does not address and that generalist Clery consultants may not be equipped to navigate. The geographic isolation that extends law enforcement response times in island campus environments simultaneously limits the mutual aid and backup resources available to campus security personnel during active emergency events, creating a compound vulnerability that standard campus safety frameworks do not account for. ISPI's institutional knowledge base includes direct administrative experience in Clery Act compliance, Title IX coordination, security audit development, and emergency preparedness planning at a Hawaii

university, providing practitioner grounding for this analysis that academic research alone cannot supply.

The Response Time Problem

The ALICE Training Institute's active threat response protocol — Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate — was developed with reference to law enforcement response times common in metropolitan continental environments: three to seven minutes from call to first unit arrival. This response window shapes the protocol's assumptions about how long occupants must manage an active threat before law enforcement can establish a perimeter, interdict the threat, and begin securing the facility. For Hawaii and Pacific Island university campuses outside of urban Honolulu, actual law enforcement response times routinely exceed fifteen minutes. On campuses in rural Hawaii, neighbor island locations, or Pacific Island territory settings, response times of twenty to thirty minutes or more are not exceptional. At these response intervals, the ALICE protocol's assumptions about the duration of self-protective action required of campus occupants — and the resources and training needed to sustain that action — require fundamental revision, not marginal adjustment. ISPI's practitioner analysis suggests that campus safety frameworks for geographically isolated island campuses must treat pre-positioned security resources, trained campus emergency response teams, and shelter-in-place protocols as primary response strategies — not supplements to rapid law enforcement response — because the law enforcement response that continental frameworks assume as primary is structurally unavailable in island campus contexts.

Policy Recommendations

1. Develop island-specific campus safety frameworks that calibrate active threat response protocols to verified actual law enforcement response times for each campus, rather than applying continental benchmark assumptions that do not reflect island operational realities.
2. Create Clery Act compliance guidance specifically addressing island campus jurisdictional complexities, including non-contiguous territory legal frameworks, Native Hawaiian land adjacency issues, and multicounty jurisdictional questions on single-island campuses.
3. Mandate pre-positioned security resource programs for geographically isolated Hawaii and Pacific Island campuses that cannot rely on rapid law enforcement backup — including campus emergency response team training, communication redundancy infrastructure, and medical response capacity.

4. Commission island-specific campus threat assessment baseline

research to calibrate behavioral indicators for Hawaii and Pacific Island campus communities, accounting for cultural communication patterns and social network dynamics that differ from continental campus environments.

ISPI Campus Safety Services

ISPI accepts commissions for campus security assessments, Clery Act compliance reviews, active threat response protocol development, and emergency preparedness planning for Hawaii and Pacific Island educational institutions. ISPI's institutional knowledge base includes direct administrative experience in these domains at a Hawaii university, providing a practitioner foundation that generalist campus safety consulting cannot offer for island campus contexts. To inquire, contact The Island Security Policy Institute (ISPI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii. ISPI produces practitioner-led research, policy analysis, training programs, and commissioned research on public safety, emergency preparedness, insider threat, and security policy for island and coastal communities worldwide. ISPI's research draws on verified operational experience across U.S. military service, metropolitan law enforcement, diplomatic security operations, FEMA-certified emergency management, and campus safety administration. ISPI is registered as a federal contractor on SAM.gov under NAICS 541720. To commission research, subscribe to ISPI publications, request the ISPI Policy Advisor institutional access, or inquire about training programs and speaking engagements: purposes with full attribution to the Island Security Policy Institute. For commercial reproduction or translation rights, contact ISPIGlobal@proton.me.

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