

Hawaii earns a D- for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Low bar to forfeit: Prosecutors must prove by preponderance of the evidence that property is connected to a crime.
- Poor protections for the innocent: Third-party owners must prove their own innocence to recover seized property.
- Large profit incentive: 100% of forfeiture proceeds go to law enforcement (up to a maximum of \$3 million per year, 25% to police, 25% to prosecutors and 50% to the attorney general for law enforcement projects).

Recent Reforms

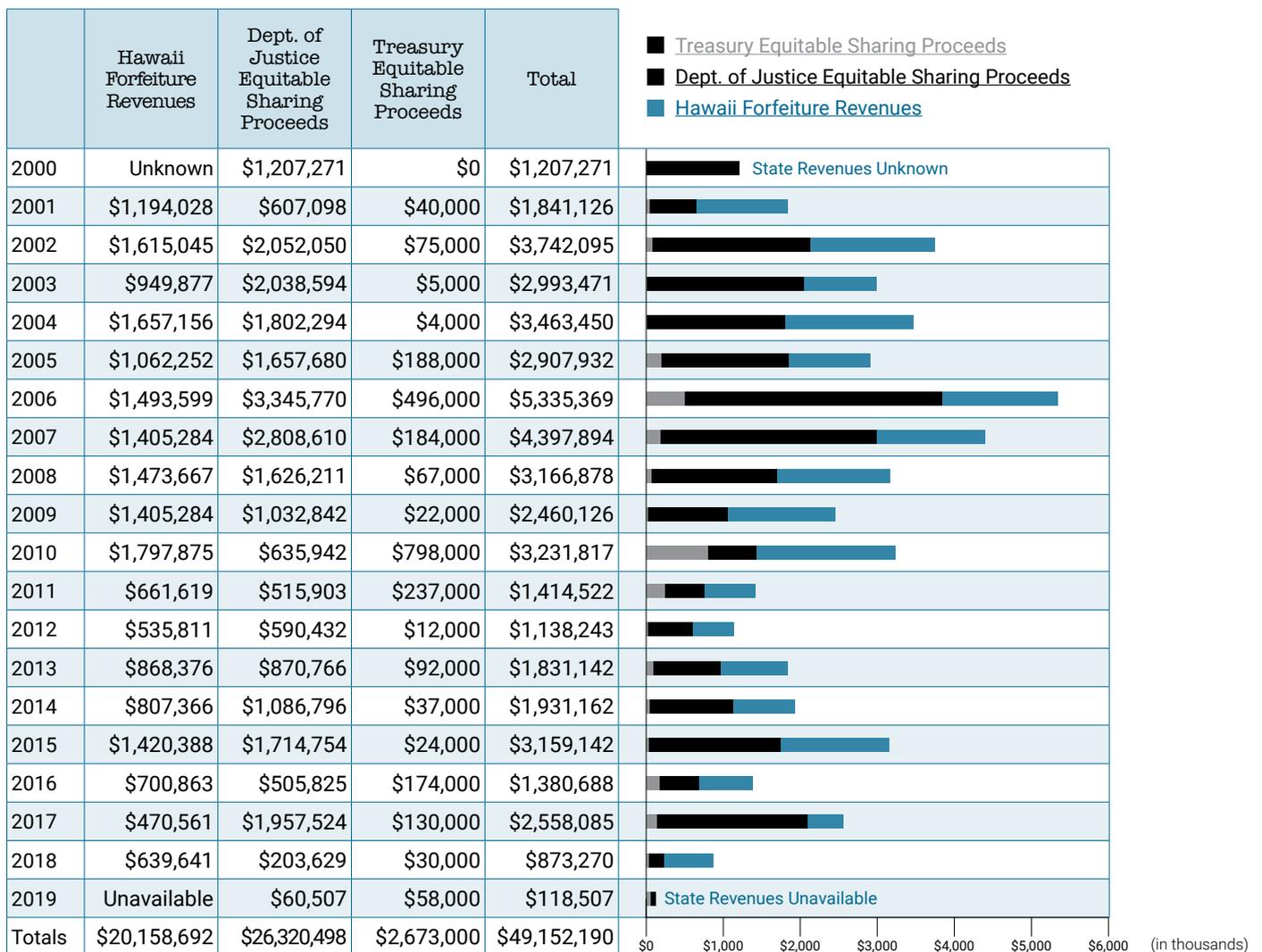
- None

State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

Between 2001 and 2018, Hawaii law enforcement agencies forfeited more than \$20 million under state law. Between 2000 and 2019, they generated an additional \$29 million from federal equitable sharing, for a total of at least \$49 million in forfeiture revenue. Hawaii ranks 26th for its participation in the Department of Justice's equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

**At least \$49 million
in state and federal
forfeiture revenue**

2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

Hawaii's Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

Tracking Seized Property	C	Accessibility of Forfeiture Records	B
Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending	F	Penalties for Failure to File a Report	F
Statewide Forfeiture Reports	B	Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts	F

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards.

Forfeitures Under Hawaii Law: Key Facts

Median Value



Hawaii does not report property-level data necessary to calculate median forfeiture value.

Property Types

UNKNOWN

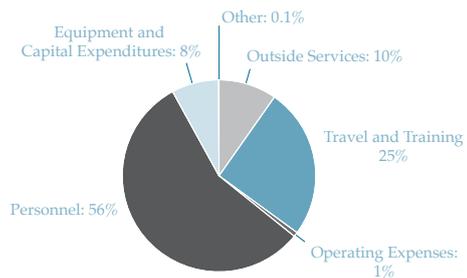
Hawaii property type data were not used for this report.

Civil vs. Criminal

UNKNOWN

Hawaii does not report whether forfeitures are processed under civil or criminal forfeiture law.

Expenditures



From 2001 to 2018, the Hawaii Attorney General spent \$6 million from forfeiture funds—56% on personnel, including salaries and overtime.

Data Notes

Figures are from annual reports obtained from the Hawaii AG's website and represent fiscal-year forfeiture proceeds. Expenditures represent only the AG's Criminal Forfeiture Fund, which receives half of all proceeds. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports. Due to differences in reporting and accounting practices, state figures may not match aggregate numbers produced by the state or cover the same 12-month period as the federal data.