



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 664, RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325 & Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Melina D. Sanchez, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comments.

This bill establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) within the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct community outreach on gun violence, develop and administer a grant program for gun violence prevention, and develop and administer a gun violence resource bank. The bill also makes an appropriation to establish the new office.

The bill requires the OGVP to award grants to organizations to conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives. However, the bill does not appear to contain legally sufficient standards for awarding gun violence prevention grants of public money as required by article VII, section 4, of the Hawai'i Constitution-- "[n]o grant of public money . . . shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." Therefore, we recommend amending this bill to insert appropriate standards. Examples of existing statutes that provide standards for agencies to award grants are part II of chapter 9 and sections 10-17, 210D-11, and 383-128, HRS.

We have attached draft standards to this testimony as examples for the Committee's consideration. These or other appropriate standards could be inserted into the bill on page 4, line 11, as a new subsection -3(c).

Additionally, there appear to be overlapping responsibilities with the proposed OGVP and the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVVCC), codified under chapter 134C, HRS.

GVVCC is tasked with identifying criminal data that could be used to reduce gun violence and violent crimes and to maximize the sharing of that data between criminal justice agencies. GVVCC's membership includes individuals with expertise in research from different public sectors including the Judiciary. Examples of overlapping responsibilities are:

(1) Data Identification and Collection:

GVVCC: Identify relevant data that may be used to reduce gun violence and violent crimes.

OGVP: Collect relevant data to support efforts in reducing gun violence.

(2) Identification of Data Gaps:

GVVCC: Identify areas where relevant data is unavailable.

OGVP: Identify gaps in available data.

(3) Data Sharing:

GVVCC: Maximize data sharing among represented agencies and stakeholders.

OGVP: Facilitate data sharing among law enforcement, researchers, and the public.

(4) Research:

GVVCC: Conduct research on gun violence and violent crimes.

OGVP: Support researchers in analyzing data and improving data collection methods.

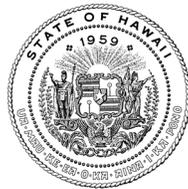
To avoid overlapping responsibilities that may cause confusion and duplication of efforts, we recommend the Committee consider amending this bill to first consolidate GVVCC's responsibilities into the new office, and then repeal chapter 134C, HRS. Consolidating GVVCC's responsibilities into the new office will better accomplish the objectives of this bill by: (1) centralizing data collection to support efforts in reducing gun violence; (2) improving collection and facilitating data sharing among law enforcement, researchers, and the public; and (3) making government more efficient by reducing duplicative meetings that public servants attend.

We are available to work with the Committee on any potential amendments to the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DRAFT GRANT STANDARDS

(c) Applications for grants shall be made to the office of gun violence prevention and contain the information required by rules. At a minimum, the applicant shall:

- (1) Agree to use state funds exclusively for the purposes of this program;
- (2) Indicate capability to properly use the grant for the purpose of the gun violence prevention program;
- (3) Comply with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law;
- (4) Agree not to use state funds for entertainment or perquisites;
- (5) Comply with all applicable federal, state, and county statutes, rules, and ordinances;
- (6) Agree to indemnify and save harmless the State of Hawaii and its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims arising out of or resulting from activities carried out or projects undertaken with grant funds and procure sufficient insurance to provide this indemnification if requested by the office;
- (7) Agree to make available to the office all records the applicant may have relating to the grant, to allow state agencies to monitor the applicant's compliance with this section; and
- (8) Comply with other requirements the office may prescribe.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 664

February 12, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 664:

- Establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) within the Department of Law Enforcement, for administrative purposes only.
- Requires the OGVP to: 1) conduct public awareness campaigns in a culturally appropriate manner to educate Hawai'i residents about State and federal laws and existing resources relating to gun violence prevention (GVP); and 2) develop a plan to address gun violence in Hawai'i and coordinate, improve, and expand upon existing plans for GVP.
- Establishes a GVP grant program to be developed and administered by the OGVP to conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives.
- Establishes a GVP Special Fund (GVPSF) to be administered by the OGVP which will be funded by grants, donations, and appropriations made by the Legislature.

- Requires the OGVP to create and maintain a resource bank of regularly updated and accurate materials and resources as a repository for data, research, and statistical information regarding gun violence in the State.
- Requires the OGVP to submit a report to the Legislature containing a summary of its activities during the preceding year.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 26 and FY 27 to be deposited into the GVPSF.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds in FY 26 and FY 27 from the GVPSF for grants to organizations to conduct community-based gun violence initiatives.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 26 and FY 27 for the establishment of a gun violence resource bank, including the hiring of personnel.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund, which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 664, it is difficult to determine if the GVPSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 664
RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
Before the House Committee on
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports House Bill 664, which establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the DLE. This bill creates a dedicated office to develop and implement comprehensive strategies for reducing gun violence in Hawaii through evidence-based approaches, community outreach, and grant administration. The establishment of this office will significantly enhance the DLE's capacity to address gun violence through preventive measures and community-based solutions.

The Office of Gun Violence Prevention will serve as a central hub for coordinating prevention efforts, administering grants to community organizations, and maintaining a resource bank of evidence-based practices. This comprehensive approach aligns with modern law enforcement strategies that emphasize prevention and community partnership alongside traditional enforcement methods.

The creation of the Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund will provide sustained funding for these critical initiatives through various sources, including grants, donations, and legislative appropriations. This dedicated funding stream is essential for the long-term success of gun violence prevention efforts in Hawaii.

The DLE particularly supports the bill's emphasis on culturally appropriate awareness programs and evidence-informed intervention strategies. These elements are crucial for effective engagement with Hawaii's diverse communities and ensuring that prevention efforts are both culturally sensitive and scientifically sound.

DLE would like to recommend the following amendments:

1. **On page 1, amending lines 11-13 to read:**

(a) There is established within the department of law enforcement, ~~for administrative purposes only,~~ an office of gun violence prevention.

Instead of being administratively attached to DLE, this program would best be positioned under the Office of Homeland Security, who already does work in the grant and targeted violence fields.

Regarding the appropriation, DLE would like to recommend 8.0 FTEs and **\$1,044,926** in FY26 and FY27 to staff and operate the Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Brady
840 First St. NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002



Testimony of Ramya Swami, State Policy Manager, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
Support for HB 664 Before the House Committee Judiciary and Hawai'iian Affairs,
February 12th, 2025

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe and Distinguished Members of the House Committee Judiciary and Hawai'iian Affairs,

Founded in 1974, Brady works across Congress, courts, and communities, uniting gun owners and non-gun owners alike, to take action, not sides, and end America's gun violence epidemic. Brady today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans from coast to coast, red and blue, young and old, liberal and conservative, to combat the epidemic of gun violence. **In furtherance of our goal to reduce firearm violence across Hawai'i, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is proud to support the passage of SB HB 664.**

Hawai'i leaders have persisted in prioritizing the safety and well-being of the people of Hawai'i by enacting and implementing proactive, research-informed policy solutions that prevent gun violence, save lives, and spare entire communities from loss, trauma and cycles of violence. However, the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that 56 people in Hawai'i are killed by gun violence each year, over 50% of whom die by firearm suicide.¹ This number does not include those who are shot and survive with life-altering physical and mental injuries, nor does it account for survivors and families left with grief, expensive lifelong care, trauma, or many other consequences of gun violence.

One firearm death is too many, and these numbers demonstrate that there remains more work to be done to ensure the safety of Hawai'iian residents and visitors.

It is imperative that we start treating gun violence as a public health epidemic, because it is. By prioritizing research and programs that are tailored towards addressing the root causes of gun violence, this legislature has the chance to disrupt cycles of violence and create safer, healthier communities for all citizens of Hawai'i.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *WISQARS Injury Data*,
<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

The proposed Office of Gun Violence Prevention would serve as a vital first step towards expanding access to funding for the state to address various forms of gun violence, including suicides, mass shootings, and surges in other forms of gun violence. The Office's focus on data collection will empower future State Legislatures to continue to lead in this space, by introducing and implementing violence reduction policies that are backed by data. HB 664 would enable the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to conduct public awareness campaigns on important subjects including, but not limited to, safe and responsible ownership, lost and stolen reporting requirements, and the safe storage of firearms. In addition, the office would administer a grant program for community-based gun violence intervention initiatives to interrupt the cycle of gun violence without additions to mass incarceration. Lastly, more resources would be provided to create a resource database on gun violence in Hawai'i and the formulation of a plan to address gun violence throughout the state. The resource bank would partner with organizations to identify gaps in available data, enhance gun violence prevention tools, and improve understanding of the barriers to safety.

Conclusion

This Office would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs.

For these reasons, Brady urges the House Committee Judiciary and Hawai'ian Affairs to vote YES on HB 664.

Sincerely,

Ramya Swami
State Policy Manager
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

To: Members of the Hawaii House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
From: Agustin Cabrera, Giffords State Legislative Manager
Subject: Support for HB 664
Date: February 12, 2025

Submitted via email

My name is Agustin Cabrera and I am a State Legislative Manager with Giffords, the gun violence prevention organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. I write to you today in support of HB 664, a bill that would establish an office of gun violence prevention to conduct community outreach, develop a grant program for gun violence prevention efforts, and develop a resource bank on gun violence in the state.

Sixteen states have state offices of gun violence prevention. These offices are structured specifically to address gun violence and community violence and allow for a more direct approach to learning more about and addressing sources of gun violence in the state.

Creating an office of gun violence prevention allows for a fuller and more long term gun violence prevention strategy

HB644 not only creates an office of gun violence prevention, but tasks the new office with a series of responsibilities that would help the state craft community centered, data-driven responses to gun violence prevention in Hawaii. Community violence is increasingly understood as a multi-dimensional crisis that touches on many issue areas, including housing policy, education, employment, mental health, and healthcare. States that are having the most success in addressing this violence are building the infrastructure to direct the efforts of these diverse systems, both across government agencies and through public-private partnerships.

In supporting HB644, Hawaii would be acting in line with what other states have done in creating offices of gun violence prevention. In Colorado, for example, the OGVP is housed under the department of public health and is tasked with creating public information campaigns to educate on safe gun owning and storage practices as well as updates on new laws and requirements; maintains a database of gun violence prevention resources; and submits an annual report to the Colorado Department of Public Health on the status of their work and on gun violence in the state. In partnership with the University of Colorado, they recently published a study highlighting the importance of their ability to collaborate which has allowed them to enhance their gun violence data infrastructure and public-facing access to the data; translate research evidence to practical approaches to solutions; and evaluate state gun violence prevention strategies to inform on potential improvements.¹ Should Hawaii follow and create an

¹ Wright-Kelly E, Buck-Atkinson J, Brooks-Russell A, et al. Research–Practice Partnerships to Advance a State-Level Public Health Approach to Firearm Injury Prevention in the United States: A Colorado Case Study. *Public Health Reports*®. 2025;0(0). doi:10.1177/00333549241303278

office of violence prevention, the state would only be strengthening its ability to respond and craft solutions for gun violence prevention.

Creating Offices of Gun Violence Prevention is a growing trend among states

Creating Offices of Gun Violence Prevention is a growing trend in the fight against gun violence across the country. In 2024, for example, Governor Wes Moore signed a bill creating the Maryland Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention within the Department of Health as a way to improve the state's coordinated response to gun violence. In 2023, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper used an executive order to create the Office of Violence Prevention within the Department of Public Safety, with a mission to "promote local success in violence prevention by enhancing coordination across state agencies, improving data collection and sharing, offering technical assistance to local officials, promoting collaboration and sharing of best practices between localities, and managing grant programs to pursue and direct available federal funding to law enforcement and community-based organizations focused on reducing gun violence." At the beginning of 2025, Wisconsin created the Office of Violence Prevention through an executive action by Governor Tony Evers.

We urge the committee to support HB 684. The office of gun violence prevention that the bill would create will allow the state a greater range of gun violence prevention solutions and create a tool to help research, understand, and educate on the issue of gun violence in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Agustin Cabrera

Agustin Cabrera

State Legislative Manager | He/Him

c: (806) 335-5819

giffords.org | [@GIFFORDS_org](https://twitter.com/GIFFORDS_org)

GIFFORDS

ABOUT GIFFORDS

Giffords is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Giffords shifts culture, changes policies, and challenges injustice, inspiring Americans across the country to fight gun violence.



Testimony of Deb Nehmad, Chapter Lead, Brady Hawaii
Before the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
SUPPORT FOR HB 664

February 12, 2025

Dear Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and members,

In furtherance of Brady's goal to reduce firearm violence across Hawaii, the Hawaii Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is proud to offer its strong endorsement of HB 664.

For decades, Hawaii leaders have prioritized the safety and well-being of the people of Hawaii by enacting and implementing proactive, research-informed policy solutions that prevent gun violence, save lives, and spare entire communities from loss, trauma and cycles of violence. However, the data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of 2024 is disturbing:

- Every year, 34 people in Hawaii die by firearm suicide.
- Every year, 15 people in Hawaii are victims of firearm homicide.
- On average, 55 people in Hawaii are killed by gun violence each year and an average of 30 of those deaths occur in Honolulu County.
- Every 7 days, someone in Hawaii is shot and killed.

Since the US Supreme Court has eased the way for more firearms to be carried in our public places, there has been an increase of gun-related violence in Hawaii. A state office to conduct community outreach on gun violence prevention, develop and administer a grant program for gun violence prevention, and develop and administer a gun violence resource bank is simply one common sense approach to help ease the impact of the Court's decision.

Brady Hawaii strongly supports HB 664 and urges the committee to pass this important bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Nehmad
Chapter Lead, Brady Hawaii
dnehmada@bradyunited.org

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:36:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Haleyalpiy	COFACAN	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB664

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb. 12, 2025

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Austin Haleyalpiy, and I am writing in full support of HB664. According to the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the leading cause of death among young people is firearms related. In the past year we have seen a significant rise in gun violence especially in the areas of our state's most vulnerable. There are campaigns with other communal health issues, what is so different about this? Our communities need to be made aware about gun violence and how it is effecting them. It is slowly making our communities less safe, especially for our youth. I have worked with at-risk youth for the past 5 years and it is just mind boggling to have found out how easy it was for them to obtain firearms. With the appropriate staffing and cirriculum this could be what our islands need. I am hoping some sort of cultural aspect would be added to make it relevant to the Native Hawaiian host culture.

Please consider the safety of our children. As a father, I would like my children to grow up in an environment where safety is the priority of the community. It takes a village.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Austin Haleyalpiy, COFACAN

President/Re-Founder



Submitted via web portal

RE: HB 664 (Kila): Relating to Gun Violence Prevention - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Everytown for Gun Safety, and the Hawai'i Chapters of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America are writing in support of HB 664.

Everytown for Gun Safety is the nation's largest gun violence prevention organization, with nearly 11 million supporters including moms, mayors, students, gun owners, faith leaders, educators, and more. We fight to advance gun safety policies at every level of government, including state legislatures. Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America are grassroots movements working towards common-sense public safety measures. With an established chapter in every state of the country, we campaign for effective solutions to lax gun laws and loopholes that jeopardize our communities.

Creating a state Office of Gun Violence Prevention would bring Hawai'i in line with its peer gun safety states which have such offices, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois.

After the uptick in gun violence in Hawai'i over the past few years, it's critical to approach this crisis from every angle. A state Office of Gun Violence Prevention can serve as a centralized hub working towards the clear mission of ensuring Hawai'i's gun laws are reaching their maximum potential. A statewide office will support the state's gun violence prevention goals at multiple stages – from collecting and tracking data to inform policy, to increasing public awareness campaigns of secure firearm storage and ERPO, to administering funding to lifesaving community violence intervention programs that prevent shootings.

Community violence intervention programs, through their use of evidence and community-informed, comprehensive support to individuals at greatest risk of gunshot victimization, are demonstrated to reduce gunshot injury and death in areas most impacted by gun violence. State investments in these programs, which are often led by

community-based organizations, are critical to their ongoing stability.

For these reasons listed above, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action strongly support HB 664.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sumadi
Director, State Government Affairs, West
Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action & Students Demand Action
450 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY 10163
ssumadi@everytown.org



Feb. 12, 2025

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

My name is Erica Yamauchi, and I live in the Kaimukī area. As a gun violence survivor, business owner, mother of two children in our public schools, and adjunct faculty member at the University of Hawai'i, **I'm writing today in strong support of House Bill 664.**

These bills would create a state Office of Gun Violence Prevention, bringing Hawai'i in line with its peer gun safety states that already have such offices, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York and Illinois.

With the increase in gun violence we have witnessed in our state over the last decade, we need to ensure that we're approaching this crisis from every possible angle.

A statewide office will be able to direct, coordinate and support the state's gun violence prevention efforts at multiple stages – from collecting and tracking data to inform policy, to increasing public awareness of secure storage and extreme risk protective orders (ERPOs), to administering funding to lifesaving community violence intervention programs that prevent shootings.

Our lower incidence of gun violence historically here in the islands hasn't been by accident, but due to sound public policy and commonsense gun safety laws. On behalf of our three local groups on Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i and O'ahu, and our 2,000+ supporters across the islands, I urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Yamauchi".

Erica Yamauchi, Volunteer State Co-Lead

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:40:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

While I agree with the intent of the bill to help reduce gun violence in the state, I must stand in **OPPOSITION** to this bill as I have great concerns given the State’s anti-gun bias that this office will be weaponized with the goal to tweak information to support anti-gun laws.

Recently there have been cases where anti-gun groups have submitted manipulated data to similar offices with the goal of promoting further infringements on the Second Amendment. One includes the often repeated false statement that guns are now the leading cause of death for children. Among other offenses, **the data was manipulated to include people up to the age of 25 as ‘children’**, included instances of gang on gang violence where the only victims were rival gang members, and included instances of justified police shootings. The mentioned study has been fact checked by several sources and found to be false despite it being touted by the former Presidential Administration. **Simply altering the study to only include persons under the age of 18 debunked the claim that firearms are the leading cause of death in children.**

Another instance resulted in the ending of a popular and successful program that was having positive effects on reducing gun violence. **Giffords Law Center**, who has the stated goal of wanting to reduce gun violence, did a study on a program known as ‘**Oakland Ceasefire**’. **In their findings it was discovered that the program reduced gun violence in Oakland by 50%, and in 9 other cities that had similar programs reduced crime from 30% to 60%.** The Oakland Ceasefire program relied upon Community Outreach and Mentorship programs for at-risk youth, as well as enforcement and prosecution of current laws.

Giffords is being accused of trying to hide the study from the public, and of using their influence to end the highly successful program because it undermined the message that the only way to reduce gun violence is to get rid of guns. Even if these accusations are false, the reality is inconsistent with their stated goal as there is little to no fanfare regarding such a successful program.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:12:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT of HB 664.

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

Please vote YES on this measure.

Nancy Moser in Waikoloa on Hawai'i Island

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:21:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenny Wusstig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very fool hardly to bring this bill foward. This bill is a complete subversion of how to actually decrease violent crime plaguing the state, especially in Honolulu. It starts with the community addressing the issue at hand. And what the community along with proper teamwork through communication with law enforcement agencies that can help eliminate the upstick of curb of violent crimes. This bill is just another government grab infringement upon our 2nd Amendment rights as not only citizens of the state, but the United States.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:37:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Abbott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB664. This is a gross waste of taxpayer money. Instead let us use the money to help create economic opportunities that allow people to make a living wage and keep people out of the poverty that leads to violence.

I urge you to vote NO on HB664

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:37:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:50:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:18:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Jess Sobocinski and I am writing in strong support of this measure. I am currently a public school teacher on Hawai‘i Island and gun violence and its impacts are a fear man teachers working under the occupation of the United States govenment hold. While our HODOE does a good job in helping educate and prepare its teachers for an on-campus active shooter situation in a way that increases our chaces of survival and loss of life, there is little in place to address the root causes of gun violence and the accessiblity of firearms in our communitis. I strongly support any programs that aim to address these root causes and work to prevent these senseless and devastating tragedies.

Mahalo,

Jess

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:09:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Logan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill is an important step in the fight against gun violence and should have already passed in previous sessions. If a tragedy were to occur, what steps can you say you've taken to truly try to prevent gun violence in our community? Please pass this bill to make this important step.

Mahalo,

Rachel Logan

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:55:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. However, I would support a bill promoting gun safety.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:54:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert I Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident in the State of Hawaii and support HB 664.

This is a commonsense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces.

Please approve and implement this Bill.

Mahalo

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:10:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Common sense bill. Please vote to pass.

Thank you

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:28:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

An Office for Gun Violence Prevention will be an invaluable way to start to address the issues that face our society today with the proliferation of guns. I strongly support SB664.

Thank you for your attention to my strong support of SB664.

Nancy Taylor

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:51:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Hoaglund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 664 as a community-spirited provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces. I support any measure to prevent gun violence and save precious lives.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:08:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Legrande	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Education is the key! We must keep drilling home the advantages of common sense gun responsibility. Thank you, Linda Legrande

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:28:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces. But we are not without the power or means to take action at the state level to keep Hawaii safe. HB664 is a common sense provision. Please move this measure forward to keep the public safe. We are counting on you to act despite the apparent inability of federal elected officials to do what is needed. Mahalo for your leadership on this. Our families rely on your courage and determination.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:14:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Please support this bill. It's past time that we protect our people from this senseless gun violence. Get all weapons that can kill 20 people in 5 seconds off our streets. These are war weapons not sensible protection weapons. People don't need assault weapons, they need more target practice. A car is for getting from one place to another but it kills many people inadvertently. Make gun owners take a written test, a shooting test, get insurance and registration. Make it the same as a car. The only difference is guns sole purpose is to kill. Those owning one need to be capable and responsible. Mahalo. Irene

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:21:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I urge your support for HB664 which would help protect our citizens against further gun violence. I have lived in Hawai'i 48 years, and only in recent years have I worried about gun violence in Hawai'i. So many criminals are shooting police officers. AND so many police are shooting criminals. And of course our citizens have been harmed by accidents, suicide, being in the wrong place at the wrong time. We must get a handle on the now widespread access to guns in our communities.

Please do your best to pass this legislation.

Thank you,

Ramona Hussey

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:42:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I in Waimea on Hawaii Island support HB 664

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:20:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Comments	In Person

Comments:

I provide comments for HB664

The current gun violence commission had good intentions but ended up being a waste of time. Nothing productive came out of it and it resulted in lost time from the police chiefs and criminal justice leaders that could've been better spent elsewhere.

This bill attempts to fix things by throwing money at a program that doesn't work. Also Hawaii is a low gun crime, low gun suicide state and the investment could be better spent elsewhere. There are a lot of more important priorities such as helping the homeless, mental health treatment, building a new prison/jail, and community projects for the youth.

If you do decide to pass this bill, please provide a fair and balanced picture by including the promotion of firearms to protect the community from crime and increase the use of concealed carry weapons licenses.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake

toddykutake@gmail.com

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:34:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Babcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 664 is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms Into our public spaces.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:43:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 664 is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms Into our public spaces.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:36:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy E Conley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB664

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:44:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 664 because it recognizes the need for gun violence preventive measures in our State. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as egregious U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces.

Mahalo for considering my opinion. Please support HB 664

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:01:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the Committee,

I support this effort to ensure gun safety throughout the state. Hawaii can be a leader nationally on these issues, amidst a tragic uptick of gun violence in our communities. Thank you for your support of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely yours,

David Ball, Waialae-Kahala

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:04:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bickel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a teacher, I have had the unfortunate experience of having one of my students die by a gun. He died of suicide. I have a lot of students who on occasion get depressed and think of suicide. We need to keep guns away from these individuals. I hope this bill will be a step in that direction.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:19:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is needed to help keep all those in Hawaii nei safe because U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms Into our public spaces. Please move forward.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:32:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We live in a country where a leading cause of death in children has been gun deaths. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe, by working to control the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces by taking steps. Please support this bill to protect our people and communities.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:34:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Ferraro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB664

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:42:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Dame	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 664 is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms Into our public spaces.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:30:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mimi Beams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 664 is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms Into our public spaces.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:23:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Weissman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe here in Hawaii, given that US Supreme Court decisions have superceded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:38:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

See to many children die due to gun violance Hawaii had the safest lawsz in the USA, but no more WN has become a war zone with children obtaining guns. Do not need guns in Hawaii.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:39:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Gallagher Felix	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives Tarnis and Poepoe and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am testifying in support of HB 664 because I believe that while Hawaii has been spared the level of gun violence experienced on the continent, we need to be proactive in order to keep it that way. Challenges to our laws have been over ridden in the recent past and I would like to see our state have a means such as an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to try to keep our levels as low as possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members:

I am testifying in support of HB664.

I'm originally from Hilo and I am a physician with a background in public health and healthcare quality improvement. I spent many years in Missouri working to improve community health in collaboration with academic faculty, a regional hospital system, and community organizations.

From that experience, I can attest that having data to focus efforts, a 'backbone organization' to help convene the many stakeholders involved with an issue, and the community partnerships to effectively engage community members is critical.

Although Hawai'i has a strong record of gun safety, the rate of gun deaths in the state has increased markedly over the last decade, outpacing the rate of increase nationally.

Having an Office of Gun Violence Prevention would:

- allow resources to be spent in the areas where they are most needed,
- support coordination of efforts to avoid duplication of services, and
- engage and share information with community members, so that prevention efforts can be effective

I urge you to support HB664.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elna Nagasako
Makiki

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:21:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terriann Mohideen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 664 Support

Good afternoon. My name is Terriann Mohideen and I am a mother and a member of this community. I urge you to support HB 664 which would create an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Due to the increase in gun violence here, we need an overarching view to help us deal with this crisis from all angles, and to coordinate efforts to combat it. This office could help increase the public's awareness of secure storage of firearms as well as of the Extreme Risk Protection Order law we already have in place. It could administer funding to community violence intervention programs that help decrease shootings. We need a quarterback of sorts to help Hawai'i deal with the complicated problem that is increased gun violence, and an Office of Gun Violence Prevention here in our state could do that. Thank you.

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:31:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karolle t. bidgood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

Thank you for considering HB664. I believe that it is a very important bill and support its passage for the safety of our community.

Mahalo,

Karolle (Josie) Bidgood

Kahaluu, Hawaii

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:52:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Doi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning,

I am writing testimony in opposition of HB664 to create a Office of Gun Violence Prevention. This bill seems to be no more than a wasteful spending attempt at "researching" statistics that can easily be pulled from a simple Google search and creating policies that law-abiding gun owners already follow such as safe storage, and reporting lost or stolen firearms.

For context, Hawaii's Gun Violence statistics for 2023 was 4.9 out of 100,000 died from a gun related injury. This data encompasses everything from murder to self-inflicted gunshot wounds/suicide. Whereas, 6.5 out of 100,000 people died from motor vehicle accidents in the same year.

From a financial standpoint how is this committee able to adequately justify full time positions for this office for an issue that only affects 0.0049% of the population? These monies would be better allocated to prioritizing urget community needs such as mental health, homeless and drug addiction programs.

In closing, I ask this committee defer this bill as this office would serve little to no purpose in mitigating crime and would only be a misappropriation of funds that can be better served elsewhere in our community.

Thank you,

Robert Doi

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:55:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Marvin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the creation of a state office of gun violence prevention. Since the Bruen decision the proliferation of guns has lead to a drastic increase in gun violence. Take for example that Hawai'i went more than 20 years without a mass shooting, and we saw one in 2023 and again in 2024. The legislature is both on the cutting edge of gun violence pervention lawmaking and struggling with incredibly easy bills, like closing the assault rifle loophole. Our gun laws are increasingly dated, and the state is slipping down the rankings for both gun safety law strength and for gun violence. The office of gun violence prevention would allow for a comprehensive look at the issue of guns in the state and provide leaders and lawmakers with the data they need to make smart decisions to keep all of us safe.

with Aloha,

Capt. Chris Marvin
US Army, retired
Honolulu

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:31:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glennon T. Gingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respectfully submitting opposition to HB664

There are currently no less than 5 organization in Hawaii that promote safe use of firearms and recreational shooting and all have the same emphasis in training and education on firearm safety and accident prevention. Hawaii Rifle Association, On Target Inc. National Shooting Sports Foundation, National Rifle Association and their many programs including the Eddie Eagle Program for firearm safety for youth and children.

We do not need to expend additional tax payer dollars on an office that does not have clear purpose to exist especially since Hawaii has one of the lowest incidents of gun crime.

We can further this safety record by using these existing resources and allowing for acceptance of these currently offered programs regardless of political affiliations.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Glennon T. Gingo

Holualoa, Hawaii

HB-664

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 3:15:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/12/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislative Member,

I humbly submit my testimony in opposition of HB664. WE don't need another level of bureaucratic intervention. If you want to fund something, fund the police departments so that they have enough officers to patrol effectively every where. And fund things toward helping families be more unified in staying together and disciplining the children and young adults. Do more about having better enforcement of who have firearms both legally and illegally in the state. We don't need another regulatory agency. ITs not really the legal gun owners who commit 90% of the gun violence in the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa, SAS-V (Retired - Dept of Public Safety)