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KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
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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, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 401, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FIREARMS
Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY
Thursday, February 27, 2025, 10:01 AM
State Capitol Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports Senate Bill 401, Senate Draft 1. This bill amends Section 134-8 of Hawaii Revised Statutes to include firearms and rifles capable of firing ammunition of fifty caliber or higher in the list of prohibited weapons, while maintaining appropriate exemptions for antique pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloaders. This measure represents a significant step forward in enhancing public safety and reducing the potential for catastrophic harm in our communities. The bill recognizes the legitimate interests of collectors and historical preservation advocates by exempting antique firearms and muzzleloaders and focuses on modern high-powered weapons that present the greatest public safety concerns.

Fifty caliber firearms are exceptionally powerful weapons that pose extraordinary risks to public safety, law enforcement personnel, and critical infrastructure. These weapons are capable of penetrating light armor, vehicles, and buildings from significant distances, making them particularly dangerous in both urban and rural environments. Their prohibition aligns with existing restrictions on other weapons that present similar

levels of risk to public safety.

Implementation of this prohibition will enhance our ability to protect Hawaii's communities while maintaining reasonable accommodations for legitimate historical and collecting interests.

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

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:26:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J. Cole	Testifying for NRA Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I oppose SB401 as it is flawed in its approach. As it is currently written, even popular 12-gauge shotguns would be affected. There is no need to ban 50 caliber firearms. Such a ban serves not purpose.

To: Members of the Hawaii Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Agustin Cabrera, Giffords State Legislative Manager
Subject: Support for SB401
Date: February 27, 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 SB401 which would ban firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols and revolvers, and muzzleloaders.

Fifty caliber rifles are among the most destructive weapons that may be manufactured and made legally available to civilians in the United States.

Fifty caliber rifles are military firearms, used by armed forces across the globe, that combine long range, accuracy, and massive firepower. A 50 caliber rifle can hit a target accurately from distances of 1,000 to 2,000 yards, depending on the skill of the shooter, and can reach targets at an even longer range, sacrificing accuracy.¹ Designed for use in urban combat situations, 50 caliber rifles can penetrate structures and destroy or disable light armored vehicles, radar dishes, helicopters, stationary, and taxiing airplanes, and other “high-value” military targets.²

The destructive power of the 50 caliber rifle can be magnified by the use of certain types of ammunition that are legal under federal law (although banned in some states). In addition to the standard “ball” round of 50 caliber ammunition, armor-piercing, incendiary, and combination armor-piercing and incendiary ammunition for 50 caliber rifles can significantly enhance their destructive capacity.

50 caliber rifles can be particularly dangerous when made available on the open market

Despite these firearms’ capability for destruction, 50 caliber rifles are generally regulated no differently from other rifles or shotguns and are subject to less regulation than handguns in most states and under federal law.³ In fact, under federal law and the laws of nearly all states, any 18-year-old who passes a background check can buy a 50 caliber rifle.⁸ In addition, because federal law and the laws of most states do not require private sellers to conduct background checks, criminals can easily obtain 50 caliber rifles at gun shows and elsewhere.

Other states have taken steps to increase security regarding the use of 50 caliber weapons

California, Illinois, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia generally ban .50 caliber rifles, while Connecticut bans a single model of .50 caliber rifle. Maryland imposes various regulations on transfers of

¹ Tom Diaz, “Voting From the Rooftops: How the Gun Industry Armed Osama bin Laden, Other Foreign and Domestic Terrorists, and Common Criminals with 50 Caliber Sniper Rifles,” Violence Policy Center (Oct. 2001): 7-12, <http://www.vpc.org/graphics/rooftop.pdf>

² Tom Diaz, “Clear and Present Danger: National Security Experts Warn About the Danger of Unrestricted Sales of 50 Caliber Anti-Armor Sniper Rifles to Civilians,” Violence Policy Center (July 2005), <http://www.vpc.org/studies/50danger.pdf>

³ Office of the Inspector General, “The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, Evaluation and Inspections Report I-2007-006,” U.S. Department of Justice (June 2007), <http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/reports/ATF/e0706/back.htm>

50 caliber rifles. Despite the risks inherent in the use of 50 caliber handguns, no state bans 50 caliber handguns as of yet. However, Hawaii can take the opportunity to strengthen their gun violence prevention framework by ensuring they can protect their communities from these strong and dangerous weapons. With the risks so great, we urge the committee to support SB401.

Respectfully Submitted,

Agustin Cabrera

Agustin Cabrera

State Legislative Manager | He/Him

c: (806) 335-5819

[giffords.org](https://www.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.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:20:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Testifying for Aloha Freedom Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I appose SB401!

One reason is the only reason needed to appose the bill...

The 2nd amendment protects the right to bear arms!!

STOP TAKING AWAY the RIGHTS of "We The People!"

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:26:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Yuen	Testifying for Pu'uloa Rifle and Pistol Club	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. There are many .50 caliber firearms already in use and legally owned by Hawaii residents. This bill will not make any impact on crime and will do nothing to make Hawaii a safer place. .50 caliber firearms are not the choice of criminals or terrorists. This bill is an infringement on the 2nd Amendment.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:27:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glennon T. Gingo	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha To Senate Judiciary Committee

The Hawaii Rifle Association, the oldest firearm association in the Hawaiian Islands and with members on all Islands, opposes this Bill.

The caliber of a firearm does not have any correlation to crime or dangerous use. Many rifles and rifle platforms that use larger caliber cartridges and bullets are used for hunting, marksmanship competitions and long range shooting sports.

This is an arbitrary assignment of concern over safety and crime prevention as it relates to these firearm types and bullet types.

There has not been any cases in Hawaii involving the use of these high caliber firearms in the commission of a crime. The very fact that these firearm types and platforms would be the worst choice for nefarious activities by criminals.

The taking of property from a legal, law abiding citizen is also an unconstitutional act on the part of the State.

Thank you for you consideration of our opposition to this poorly written bill that has no basis in community safety and crime prevention.

Glennon T. Gingo

Hawaii Rifle Association

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:13:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa Kaku	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Committee,

I write to you today as the President of the Hawaii Rifle Association and as a lifelong advocate for responsible firearm ownership. On behalf of our members across the state, I urge you to reject Senate Bill 401 (SB 401), a measure that unfairly targets law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to address the criminal misuse of firearms.

SB 401 seeks to implement an outright ban on larger caliber firearms, including widely used rifles and handguns such as .50 BMG rifles, .500 Smith & Wesson revolvers, and .50-caliber pistols like the Desert Eagle. These firearms are legally owned by sportsmen, competitive shooters, and collectors in Hawaii, and there is no data supporting the claim that they contribute to crime in our communities.

The broad language of SB 401 raises significant constitutional concerns and threatens to criminalize responsible gun owners who have lawfully acquired their firearms. Many of these individuals use their firearms in sanctioned competitions, recreational shooting, and hunting, all of which are deeply ingrained in Hawaii’s lawful firearm culture. By banning these firearms outright, the bill unfairly punishes those who have followed the law while failing to address the root causes of violent crime—illegal firearm possession and criminal activity.

Rather than imposing more restrictions on law-abiding citizens, I encourage the legislature to focus on policies that effectively combat crime. Strengthening penalties for firearm-related offenses, targeting illegal gun trafficking, and investing in mental health resources are far more effective solutions to public safety concerns than enacting arbitrary bans.

The Hawaii Rifle Association stands firmly against SB 401 and urges this committee to oppose it. Let’s work together to promote policies that protect our communities without infringing on the constitutional rights of responsible citizens.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kainoa Kaku
President, Hawaii Rifle Association



Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

February 27, 2025 10:01 am Room 016
SB401 SD1– RELATING TO FIREARMS

TESTIMONY

Beppie Shapiro, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members: **The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB401 SD1, Relating to firearms, which would include any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols and revolvers, and muzzleloaders, in the list of prohibited weapons.**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of firearms with large-capacity magazines in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The lack of prohibition on large capacity magazines for firearms and rifles is a troubling hole in measures to prevent mass shootings in Hawaii.

We echo the many excellent testimonies supporting SB 401 provided by organizations and individuals. Please pass SB401 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



Submitted via web portal

RE: SB 401 (Rhoads): Relating to Firearms - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 SB 401.

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.

SB 401 would prohibit a specific type of military-grade weapon – firearms capable of firing .50 caliber or greater ammunition. Such rifles were designed for military sniper use, and have the capability of piercing an armored vehicle from a distance of over a mile away. **To be clear – we believe Hawai'i should join the 9 other states who prohibit the sale of all assault weapons.** But we also support efforts to ensure the types of exceedingly dangerous weapons covered in SB 401 aren't available for civilian ownership.

For these reasons listed above, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action strongly support SB 401.

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

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:35:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mery Ann Luna	Testifying for SDM Training Group/Bows N Bullets	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Mery Ann Luna, I am the President and Founder for SDM Training Group and Bows N Bullets. I strongly oppose bill SB401.

Firearms that are 50 caliber or higher ammunition are very limited everywhere. You will only find a limited number of people with such calibers because they cost a pretty penny, which many islanders truly don't have. To ban this truly infringes hunters, collectors, and sport shooters rights, which are law abiding citizens. Within the firearms community, such firearms are rare, and for one to be in presence of one, it is an honor and privilege to hold and to shoot one, because of its cost.

I don't understand why this would be on the table given there are probably only a handful on the islands. It's already a firearm that many cannot obtain, so why is it being banned?

I am a female, petite built, and I had the opportunity to fire a 50-caliber rifle. It was an exciting experience I will never forget. I would like for my ladies to be able to experience it as well.

I oppose bill SB401 for the fact that it is rare to have due to the cost and by banning it, you, as our legislature, prevents law abiding citizens, hunters, collectors and sport shooters like me the experience of being near one.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:54:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Isaacson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

.50 cal. firearms are not used in criminal activity as they are too large, heavy and expensive. The individuals who do use them are dedicated hobbyists whose activities often result in information useful to DoD researchers. Quit trying to make objects into criminals and go after the real problem - criminals and criminal activity.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:41:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB401.

Owners use them primarily for hunting and sporting purposes. How many .50cal. rifle or larger firearms have been involved in crimes? I sure hope you/introducers can answer that question before proceeding. Please stop going after law-abiding citizens and go after the criminals.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:53:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in **OPPOSITION** to this bill. This ban on .50 Caliber firearms is attempting to solve a problem that does not exist. We do not have gangs shooting at each other from long distances with .50 caliber rifles. The state has failed to produce any evidence that there is a threat posed by such arms over the past five years since a similar measure had been introduced. It is irresponsible to maintain any attempt to ban a device whereby there is no proven threat vector.

There are many weapons that would fall under this ban, many of them are used for hunting. Including many handgun calibers. **This bill would also effectively ban nearly all shotguns** as all but the smallest (.410 bore) are larger than .50 caliber. 12 Gauge shotguns and flareguns can even chamber .50 caliber ammunition, despite the risk of doing such a thing.

The Supreme Court also said in **Caetano** and **Heller** that bans on arms that are in common use for lawful purposes are unconstitutional. Just like tasers cannot be banned, .50 caliber arms cannot be banned and there are FAR more .50 caliber arms legally out there than tasers.

This bill is founded on pure ignorance, for lack of a better word. The author mistakenly believes that all .50 caliber guns are machine guns and can penetrate the armor of a tank from impossible distances or make commercial airliners explode with a single shot and has stated so publicly, and they think the guns can do this simply because the caliber is .50.

This is all simply not true, not only are not all .50 caliber bullets the same, with some being fairly weak pistol rounds to ones coming close but still so far away from the Mythos surrounding the magical '50 cal'.

I would also like to point out that the ban on Teflon coated bullets is a farce. Teflon coating does not make a bullet armor piercing. When Teflon coated bullets were first designed, the designer simply hypothesized that the coating would improve the bullet's 'grip' on certain surfaces like glass or painted metal, and thus allow the bullet to penetrate rather than deflecting off an angled surface like a car windshield.

This hypothesis was later proven false with further testing and even found that the effectiveness of armor penetrating rounds was actually reduced slightly by Teflon coatings. Teflon coatings were still used because they found the coating significantly reduced wear and tear on firearm barrels during testing and was worth the minor performance reduction. This however has not stopped those who choose to believe the myth from passing and keeping laws like these.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:00:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Asam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB401, a bill that is so poorly written that it would inadvertently criminalize law-abiding citizens and make felons out of those who legally own common firearms, including shotguns. This bill lacks any grandfathering provisions, meaning that responsible gun owners would instantly be in violation of the law through no fault of their own.

SB401's broad prohibition on any firearm with the capacity to fire .50 caliber ammunition or higher is deeply flawed and misguided. Shotguns, which are widely used for home defense, hunting, and sporting purposes, often fire ammunition that exceeds .50 caliber. By failing to clearly exempt such firearms, this bill effectively bans shotguns—an outcome that is both impractical and unconstitutional.

Furthermore, this bill stands in direct violation of the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the right of individuals to own and possess firearms for self-defense and lawful purposes. Criminalizing law-abiding citizens simply for owning a firearm that was legally acquired and responsibly maintained is an overreach of government power and will not contribute to public safety.

The lack of any grandfather clause means that thousands of legally owned firearms would suddenly become illegal on the bill's effective date, turning responsible gun owners into felons overnight. This is not just unjust; it is a blatant attack on constitutional rights and will unfairly target lawful citizens instead of focusing on actual criminal activity.

I strongly urge you to oppose SB401 and prevent this dangerously vague and overreaching legislation from being enacted. Instead of targeting responsible gun owners, we should focus on enforcing existing laws that keep firearms out of the hands of criminals while respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask that you vote against SB401 and stand in defense of constitutional rights and responsible firearm ownership.

Sincerely,
Wayne Asam

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:08:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gavin Lohmeier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly oppose this bill. this will ban muzzle loaders used for hunting, antique guns and revolvers, and shotguns. this bill will have zero effect on gun crimes. all the firearms that this bill involves are not used in crimes

sincerely,

Gavin Lohmeier

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:35:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this may concern, I oppose this bill. It infringes on our 2nd amendment rights in our Constitution. Hawai'i is already one of the strictest gun law states in the country it also has one of the lowest gun crime rates in the country. This bill only affects law abiding citizens not criminals. I urge you all to oppose this bill and uphold our constitution like you all are supposed to do.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:51:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Cavitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today to express why I am opposed to SB401. I am writing to educate and encourage this committee to see how unnecessary this bill is for Hawai'i and the United States for that matter. Hawai'i has an extremely low number of crimes committed with firearms. This is thankfully due to the way of life and choices of the people here, far more so than the laws created to hinder certain firearm ownership. Facts should not be ignored when making laws to prevent violent crime. The facts in regards to this bill is that is wholesomely unnecessary and in fact unconstitutional. I will prove my claims later in this testimony and ask you to please do your duty and read this entire testimony and see that this is if fact unconstitutional and should not be passed.

First let's define the .50 caliber firearms being discussed in the bill, specifically those that would be banned. The .50 caliber BMG is used with a rifle platform. The 50 caliber handgun load is used with various modern handguns that are widely in circulation and are commonly owned. Both would be banned by this bill if it becomes law in addition to most all shotguns. Neither the .50 BMG nor any .50-caliber handguns are widely used in crimes and that is a fact. In fact, in an attempt to refute a 2004 statement from an NRA spokesperson that "The simple fact is that .50-calibers have not been used in crimes.", the Violence Policy Center lists a long list of criminals and crimes where a .50-caliber firearm or round was found, but there were only four cases in the United States, since the early 1990s, where a .50-caliber firearm was actually used to commit a crime. Most importantly, none of those crimes were in Hawai'i. I firmly believe anti-gun lawmakers within Hawai'i work to continue to chip away at rights regarding gun ownership each year. They prove that in any small, even meaningless bill that becomes law, they feel vindicated in their efforts at disarming honest Americans. This disheartens firearms owners and discourages us from speaking out as it is burdensome and time consuming and breaks us all down little by little.

Last year when this bill was being heard (it was not passed then) KHON2 reporters asked Karl Rhoads why the .50 caliber "should be banned if criminals do not often use them," a point not even lost on the reporter for the station. "Because it's a weapon of war," Rhoads told the channel. "All these gun bills are drawing lines. There's a kitchen knife on this side, and there's a nuclear weapon on this side. So, where is it that you allow civilians to keep having it?" Just so you're aware Mr. Roads, the second amendment was not written strictly for hunting. God forbid

our people would have to one day use firearms to protect us from an invading force but if we did, a disarmed society would be far easier to take control of and an armed population could be a defining factor in remaining a free nation. Recreational range/ sport shooting, plus defense against threats foreign and domestic are integral factors to keeping this nation safe, as clarified within the 2nd amendment. The United States Constitution is very clear and has been even further clarified for all within multiple Supreme Court cases favoring those who hold my beliefs that the second amendment is necessary for this nation. This right is not to be infringed. This is an inalienable right and is not a privilege. This right isn't granted by the government, it is recognized as something granted by God.

As per the Supreme Court Bruen decision, this bill must pass two standards, that I will prove that it fails in both in order to be seen as consistent with the United States Constitution. The first of the two standards is if a firearm is both unusual and dangerous, and the second requirement is if the law matches historical intentions and laws of the land based on the founding father's intentions. The first point of review is that all firearms have some form of danger but they must be scrutinized as whether or not they are unusual and not something seen in the hands of the civilian population. Nuclear bombs would be both dangerous and unusual and would in fact fail the Bruen standards and could be banned from civilian use. The .50 caliber firearm though is something used in this nation widely by citizens throughout the entirety of American history. They are not unusual and are commonly owned by Americans and many of those located in the state of Hawai'i. They are not unusual and dangerous so they fail the first test under the Supreme Court Bruen decision. They are in fact useful for hunting wild boar when a knife and dogs isn't enough for protecting a boar hunter in Hawai'i specifically. I have encountered fully grown wild boar first hand and I doubt many in this committee have themselves. This tool saves lives and is perfectly useful for that purpose. Anyone who says otherwise is either ignorant or lying. The second point of scrutiny under of this bill would be in regards to historical precedent. This bill does not pass muster there either. This was a common caliber for firearms, hence the addition within this bill to exclude antique .50 caliber firearms. This bill is unconstitutional and will fail when brought to the Supreme Court.

This bill will also fail when examined alongside the *Colombia v. Heller* and *Caetano v. Massachusetts* cases. In the *Heller* decision clears up the the 2nd amendment is an individual right, and allows us to protect ourselves not just within our homes but throughout the nation. The arms are protected and necessary for this right to be honored. The *Caetano* case allowed the carry of a stun gun as it was a arm that was commonly used throughout the nation with over 200,000 in circulation. These firearms being proposed to be banned far outnumber that number and these facts should not be ignored. The fact alone that this bill recognizes that antique firearms must be made an exception from this ban proves that these are common caliber firearms used for centuries in this nation and fully intended to be protected by the 2nd amendment. This body should not be working to tear down the 2nd amendment and should consider legal cases such as these when attempting to take away rights of law abiding Americans citizens.

The costs incurred in tax dollars spent defending an unconstitutional bill could be far better spent on actual firearm education, medical/ mental health care for Hawai'i citizens and even free firearm safety programs throughout all islands that people can attend for free at all ages. A new approach should be considered. Something that addresses the issues and not the tools used. Make

our islands safer while not demonizing law abiding citizens and ignoring the actual problems. Please work with us to create firearm training available for those who might have interest. Make it easy and free for citizens and encourage education and stop demonizing law abiding citizens. Talk to judges and prosecutors and get them to actually charge and hold criminals responsible and stop blaming those of us who do not create any issues.

I encourage you to consider facts and reasoning beyond feelings. This bill will not stop crimes that literally are not being committed. This bill will make criminals out of currently law abiding citizens. This unconstitutional bill shall not be passed and will not hold up. Please vote NO on SB401.

Mahalo,

Chase Cavitt

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:10:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Barber Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. It also states that a well-regulated militia is necessary for the security of a free state.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:13:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunn Sarsfield	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Sunn Sarsfield, strongly oppose this bill. I am a tax paying citizen who has never committed a crime. Yet, it is my constitutional rights that are being violated. Criminals and the revolving door of justice is what needs to be addressed. Repeat car thieves are charge with UCPV and let go. Which on our island has lead criminals to become more aggressive and violent with crime. Often times it is the repeat offender that is using firearms to commit crimes. Guns which are already banned from their possession. Focus on the justice system first.
Do not pass this bill

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:15:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tenessa Cavitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today to express why I am opposed to SB401. This bill is unnecessary for Hawai‘i and will not make anyone safer. Hawai‘i has an extremely low number of crimes committed with firearms and that is a great fact. Facts should not be ignored when making laws to prevent violent crime. The facts in regards to this bill is that is wholesomely unnecessary and in fact unconstitutional. I will prove my claims later in this testimony and ask you to please do your duty and read this entire testimony and see that this is if fact unconstitutional and should not be passed.

First let’s define the .50 caliber firearms being discussed in the bill, specifically those that would be banned. First off, it bans all shotguns by way of ignorance of firearms via the authors of the bill. A .50 caliber shotgun could be used to fire a .50 caliber round. This wouldn't be smart to do so and most of the powder wouldn't burn and it would be significantly less useful but it can be used with that round so this de facto would ban all 12 gauge shotguns by way of ignorance or possibly as intended by the authors. The .50 caliber BMG is used with a rifle platform and is the most common but not only .50 caliber rifle. A 50 baeowolf round is also common and would be made illegal to possess with this bill. The 50 caliber round designed for a handgun is used with various modern handguns that are widely in circulation and are commonly owned. All three types of firearms would be banned by this bill if it becomes law. Neither the .50 BMG nor any .50-caliber handguns are widely used in crimes and that is a fact. I would go out on a limb to say not one crime ever has been committed with a shotgun with .50 caliber ammunition yet it would be banned by this bull. In fact, in an attempt to refute a 2004 statement from an NRA spokesperson that “The simple fact is that .50-calibers have not been used in crimes.”, the Violence Policy Center lists a gives a list of criminals and crimes where a .50-caliber firearm or round was found, but there were only four cases in the United States, since the early 1990s, where a .50-caliber firearm was actually used to commit a crime. Most importantly, none of those crimes were in Hawai‘i. I firmly believe anti-gun lawmakers within Hawai‘i work to continue to chip away at rights regarding gun ownership each year. This is a death by a thousand cuts tactic designed to dissuade and diminish opposition and to make lawmakers used to the process of removing rights in an attempt to make it easier for them to choose to do again in the future. Regardless of how small, even meaningless a gun bill that becomes law, they feel vindicated in their efforts at disarming honest Americans.

Last year when this bill was presented and did not pass. Also the year before. The United States Constitution is very clear. This right is not to be infringed. This is an inalienable right and is not a privilege. This right isn't granted by the government, it is recognized as something granted by God.

As per the Supreme Court Bruen decision, this bill must pass two standards, and I will prove that it fails in both in order to be seen as consistent with the United States Constitution. The first of the two standards is if a firearm is both unusual and dangerous, and the second requirement is if the law matches historical intentions and laws of the land based on the founding father's intentions. The first point of review is that all firearms have some form of danger but they must be scrutinized as whether or not they are unusual and not something seen in the hands of the civilian population. Nuclear bombs would be both dangerous and unusual and would in fact fail the Bruen standards and could be banned from civilian use. The .50 caliber firearm though is something used in this nation widely by citizens throughout the entirety of American history. They are not unusual and are commonly owned by Americans and many of those located in the state of Hawai'i. They are not unusual and dangerous so they fail the first test under the Supreme Court Bruen decision. They are in fact useful for hunting wild boar when a knife and dogs isn't enough for protecting a boar hunter in Hawai'i specifically. I have encountered fully grown wild boar first hand and I doubt many in this committee have themselves. This tool saves lives and is perfectly useful for that purpose. Anyone who says otherwise is either ignorant or lying. The second point of scrutiny under of this bill would be in regards to historical precedent. This bill does not pass muster there either. This was a common caliber for firearms, hence the addition within this bill to exclude antique .50 caliber firearms. This bill is unconstitutional and will fail when brought to the Supreme Court.

The costs incurred in tax dollars spent defending an unconstitutional bill could be far better spent on actual firearm education, medical/ mental health care for Hawai'i citizens and even free firearm safety programs throughout all islands that people can attend for free at all ages. A new approach should be considered. Something that addresses the issues and not the tools used. Make our islands safer while not demonizing law abiding citizens and ignoring the actual problems.

I encourage you to consider facts and reasoning beyond feelings. This bill will not stop crimes that literally are not being committed. This bill will make criminals out of currently law abiding citizens. This unconstitutional bill should not be passed and will not hold up in court if it is passed and will waste Hawai'i tax dollars. Please vote NO on SB401.

Mahalo,

Tenessa Cavitt

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:18:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Djou	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this ban which conflicts with out second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:20:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh Stueber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB401

SB401 is an unjust and misguided attempt to restrict the rights of law-abiding gun owners. Banning .50 caliber firearms will have little to no impact on reducing gun violence, as these firearms are rarely used in criminal activity. There has actually never been a violent crime committed with a .50 caliber firearm in Hawaii. Enthusiasts and collectors value these firearms for their historical significance, precision shooting capabilities, and recreational use. This ban unfairly targets responsible gun owners who have passed background checks and adhere to strict regulations. Instead of focusing on arbitrary bans that infringe on the Second Amendment rights of citizens, policymakers should be implementing comprehensive and evidence-based solutions to address the root causes of gun violence. Banning .50 caliber firearms will do little to enhance public safety and only serves to further erode the rights of law-abiding citizens. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB401 and uphold your commitment to our state and country's constitution. Thank you for your time.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:22:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB401 violates the second amendment of the United States Constitution. A 50 caliber firearm has not once in the state of Hawaii ever been used in a crime, and those that commit crimes are not law, abiding citizen. The second amendment protects all firearms commonly owned. 50 caliber firearms have been owned by civilians for a very long time and should not be restricted anymore than they already are. I drastically oppose this bill. It is up to the citizen to decide what kind of firearm they need to protect themselves and their family.

Vincent Tibbles

Hawaii County, waikoloa village 96738

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:29:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle HIromoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose because it could ban 12 gauge shotguns. They are a very common size of shotguns used in sporting competitions and hunting.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:30:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is an absurd bill. There are no crimes being committed by 'large caliber' firearms. This measure is simply to harass gun owners

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:33:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Kenui-Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, though I do not own a .50 caliber weapon, I do not see why we (as a state) need to ban these calibers. Understandably, safety is of utmost importance, however, these calibers shouldnt be taken away due to "what-if's"

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:36:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcus Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE. This will fail the Bruen test.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:41:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill.

One day, I would like to buy a 50 cal rifle and this would prevent me from doing so.

Today you want to ban 50 caliber. Next it will be other calibers until nothign is left.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:47:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB401 does not make the people of Hawaii safer, it only strips away our rights! It clearly violates our Constitutional rights. Furthermore, it criminalizes responsible gun owners, expands government overreach into legal firearm ownership, fails to address violent crime, and makes criminals out of law-abiding citizens. Stop wasting time and energy on unconstitutional bills, and focus on better education and training of the people.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:56:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliot Gomes Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it infringes our second amendment rights. Banning this from law abiding citizens is unconstitutional.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:58:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GENER MACARAEG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401. This bill violates 2nd Amendment rights of citizens under the U.S. Constitution.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:58:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:59:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator,

My name is Bronson Teixeira, I'm 37 years old and I'm born and raised on the island of Maui, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion and stand strongly opposing sb308 and sb401. In my written testimony I shall cover my opinions on why I oppose this bill, common available facts, the consequences of this bill does if it goes into effect, and some solutions.

I believe the issue we face in America today is not the so called "gun violence", but rather it is a mental health issue and a gang/crime violence issue as well as the lack of punishment in the judicial system. I don't understand how one can blame a mechanical device or a tool and let's keep in mind that it requires someone to pull the trigger and because of these actions of some individuals us law abiding individuals are being punished by them wanting to take away an excellent sporting rifle. It's kind of like blaming the automobile instead of the drunk driver for killing an innocent family, it just doesn't make any sense.

As of 2022 firearm related deaths have been on a slow decline. At its 2021 peak, statistics show 48,830 firearm related deaths. 53% of that is suicide (26,328), 43% is homicide(20,958), and the remaining deaths were either accidental, self defense, or law enforcement involvement. ALL LONG GUNS that's including SEMIAUTOMATIC, BOLT ACTION, AND SHOTGUNS combined make up around ONLY 4% of that firearm homicides. I would also like to mention the fact that the Opioid and Fentanyl epidemic kills over double the amount of firearms, that's well over 100,000 people killed by these drugs. It is a fact that KNIVES, HAMMERS, and the HUMAN Hands kill more Americans per year than these types of firearms.

Now if we were to look and agree on the data and facts that are given above its safe to say we can clearly see that guns are not the issue, societal changes, economic landscape, suicide,

crime/gang violence with a soft slap on the wrist type of judicial system, and as well as Misinterpretation of terms and facts over the years by anti 2a groups have lead us to what we see today trying to be used in a more so common legislation gun control based on the thought of what is in the best interest of the people but neglecting the fact that criminals can and will still be able to obtain illegally firearms are some of the problems we face today. Banning firearms is not the answer, if just so happen firearms were to be banned you will see no difference in crimes because criminals don't follow the law. Please try to understand that firearms can be made at home, you can order replica kits and modify them to be fully operational but it is a fact that self made arms are protected by the constitution under the history and traditions, they can be brought in from stateside or imported from out of country and sold on the black market just like the so called illegal fireworks we see every year. As we have seen in multiple shootings in Hawaii nearly all case involved are criminals or convicted felons that get ahold of and decided to do the unimaginable.

Now if you were able to ban these so called "large capacity magazines" (which are in fact standard size magazines, they have always come with 25-30 round magazine) from us law abiding citizens so that we can no longer own them but the criminals are still able to get these magazines illegally you would be making the civilian population more vulnerable to attacks by these types of criminals, it's a fact that more gun control laws leave more people defenseless, it stops good people from protecting themselves and their families and the lives of others. Gun laws do not prevent shootings!

These bills in its current form will decimate our constitutional right and neglects our entire 2nd amendment. This bill is a full overreach. SB308 and sb401 is very poorly written and deceptive. Keep in mind a thousands of law abiding citizens already own a lot of these magazines and firearms.

Within the 50 caliber center fire rifle ban bill there are a lot of different types of modern firearms that are lever action or bolt action as well as shotguns with traditional hunting style butt stocks. There are also a lot of different 50 caliber cartridge sizes that are great hunting options as the projectile travels at a slower velocity but still provide great energy upon impact. 50 caliber rifles can and do get used for hunting and do offer a much more fun and great challenge to hike and hunt with being they require more precise marksmanship and physical stamina to carry due to the weight.

If this law were to go in effect you would instantly put thousands of law abiding citizens that would be labeled as a felon and could be arrested and put into jail, what you guys have to understand is these magazines are currently legal to own and completely legal to own under the

constitution. There are currently thousands if not tens of thousands of these magazines and quite a bit of people in Hawaii own .50 cal modern muzzle loaders or even similarly cartridge or similarly 12gauge or 10gauge shotguns in the homes of law abiding citizens.

I firmly believe there are other areas that need to be focused on instead of attacking our constitutional rights and our god given rights and if we could agree on that I believe we could get much more done. Fixing the mental health care system to start and start handing out stiffer criminal penalty judgements and getting the drugs off the streets will in fact have the biggest impact on the outcome. The attack on firearms seems to be a lazy man's approach to finding the solution, there are better ways to salve the issues we see today and banning our god given right isn't one of them.

I appreciate your time in reading this and if this bill were to pass the committees of the house and become law I as well as the rest of the law abiding citizens firearms owners will not comply, we do not deserve this, we are not the enemy, we are simply fighting for our right. I as well as many others notice that the Democratic policies seem to protect criminals more than the rights or lives of the civilian population and we are ready to make a change because we are tired of it. This continuation every year of trying to make a law out of nothing has to stop!

Mahalo for hearing me,

Bronson Teixeira

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:12:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it infringes my Second Amendment rights.

Mahalo nui,

Jon Tanouye

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:20:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikhael Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not violate my 2nd amendment right. Do not infringe on my right.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:21:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Duquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill doesn't make any sense. I strongly oppose, there haven't been any civilian deaths using these types of calibers, why should it be banned. If it used only for sport and recreational fun at the range, you taking away the freedoms of tax paying citizens.

strongly oppose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:21:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Inn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill goes against my 2nd amendment rights to bare arms

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:25:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Bergin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:25:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lory Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life. This really is a no-brainer if you care about keeping everyone safer.

Mahalo,

Lory Ono

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:26:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Walter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 as it infringes on our 2nd Amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:07:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Arnold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I can not oppose this any more vehemently. This is an egregious overstep of my constitutional rights. The 2nd amendment is quite clear and the Heller and Bruen decisions were crystal clear for those who lack the intelligence (like those who submitted this bill) to understand it.

Furthermore, STOP wasting MY tax payers dollars on legislation that your constituents oppose. WE WILL make note of these individuals and democracy will prevail as you will be relieved of your duties that you so quickly neglect. YOU swore an oath to serve the people, your constituents, and uphold the CONSTITUTION of the UNITED STATES. Continue to be direct in your duties and you will be dealt with accordingly. Historically, they had a specific punishment for traitors. You've been informed.

Aloha

Why don't you try stopping actual criminals from committing crimes? Not making innocent citizens into arbitrary criminals.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:31:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support **SB 401, SD1**

Thank you for your attention to my support of this measure.

Aloha.

Nancy Taylor

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:44:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 401 SD1, which seeks to expand firearm prohibitions to include any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher. While I support efforts to promote public safety, this bill represents an overreach that unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners without effectively addressing crime or violence.

1. Unjust Restriction on Law-Abiding Citizens

Lawful gun owners commonly use the firearms and calibers targeted in SB 401 SD1 for sporting, hunting, and long-range precision shooting. Many of these firearms are expensive, legally owned, and responsibly used. This bill unfairly penalizes citizens who have adhered to all existing regulations.

2. Minimal Impact on Crime Prevention

There is little evidence to suggest that banning .50 caliber firearms will reduce crime or enhance public safety. Criminal activity involving such firearms is exceedingly rare, as their size and cost make them impractical for illicit use. This bill places restrictions on legal gun owners while failing to address the root causes of gun violence.

3. Second Amendment Concerns

This legislation’s broad scope infringes upon Hawaii’s citizens' constitutional rights. The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, and overly restrictive laws like SB 401 SD1 could face significant legal challenges. Courts have consistently ruled against blanket prohibitions on firearms commonly used for lawful purposes.

4. Exemptions for Antique Firearms and Muzzleloaders Highlight Arbitrary Standards

While the bill excludes antique pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloaders, the distinction is arbitrary. Modern .50 caliber firearms serve purposes beyond military applications, including precision shooting and hunting. Restricting ownership based solely on caliber size rather than criminal behavior is an ineffective and unjustified approach.

5. Focus Should Be on Criminal Behavior, Not Legal Firearm Ownership

Instead of imposing broad firearm bans, the legislature should focus on measures that address illegal gun trafficking, mental health support, and crime prevention initiatives. Targeting law-abiding gun owners does not improve public safety but diverts attention from policies that would meaningfully reduce violence.

I respectfully urge you to vote **against** SB 401 SD1 for these reasons. Rather than enacting ineffective firearm bans, I encourage the legislature to pursue evidence-based policies that address crime at its root causes while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:45:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nelson shito	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against the gun bills you make every year. You always go after the good people. Who goes out and take gun classes just to buy a gun either for protection or hunting. They follow the LAW. BUT YET U STILL GO AFTER PEOPLES RIGHTS. 2 AMENDMENT. YOU WHERE VOTING IN TO HELP THE INNOCENT AND PROTECT THE HELPLESS. YET YOU HELP THE CRIMINALS AND FORGET ABOUT THE INNOCENT. YOU ARE WASTING EVERYBODYS TIME. GO AFTER THE CRIMINALS. THE TAX PEOPLES MONEY YOU SPEND IT LIKE CANDY. IF YOU ARE AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND FOLLOW THE CONSTITUTION THAT YOU WHERE SWORN IN AS YOU WILL DO THE RIGHT THING. THIS WILL END UP IN THE SUPREME COURT IN WASHINGTON DC. AND WASTE ALL THE TAX PEOPLES MONEY?????????.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:03:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richy Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask for Hawaii state representatives to OPPOSE SB401 as it is an infringement of the 2nd amendment given to citizens as outlined in the constitution and is not thought through. This bill will also affect common recreational and wildlife management practices as it will restrict firearms and ammunition such as 12-gauge shotguns and any other widely and commonly used firearms and calibers of the same size as or greater than .50 caliber.

There is no state in the United States that has such restrictions as it imposes great negative impacts.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:08:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Dodo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Whom It May Concern,

I oppose SB401 as it violates my constitutional rights for the 2nd Amendment: the right to keep and bear arms. As an Army Veteran, I swore to defend and protect the constitution of the United States and the American way of life. I rely on the 2nd Amendment to not only protect myself but my loved ones and property. Something that our forefathers have fought bravely and sacrificed themselves to protect these rights.

Mahalo for taking the time to hear my testimony.

Aloha,

Josh

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:12:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Fogarty	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:18:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Reddoor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:41:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani Geiger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it infringes our second amendment. Thank you

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:43:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:52:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Drye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha once again me and an overwhelming amount of this country oppose of this bill. Please we beg you as law abiding American citizens to stop infringing on our rights and taking away from our second amendment which is guaranteed to us as American people. Thank you for your time aloha

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:56:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 401 SD1 and any measure that limits firearm use in our community.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:58:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rey vento	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2nd amendment!!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:07:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Kron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:10:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Kron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:18:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose SB401, which seeks to prohibit the sale, possession, and transfer of firearms chambered in .50 caliber or higher. This bill targets firearms that are rarely used in crimes and unfairly penalizes lawful gun owners.

Concerns with SB401

1. .50 Caliber Firearms Are Rarely Used in Crime

There is no significant evidence that .50 caliber firearms pose a public safety threat in Hawaii. These firearms are typically used for long-range target shooting, hunting, and collection purposes, not criminal activity.

2. Unnecessary Government Overreach

Banning an entire class of firearms based purely on caliber is arbitrary and excessive.

If the concern is crime prevention, we should focus on enforcing existing laws, not penalizing responsible firearm owners.

3. Slippery Slope for Future Restrictions

If lawmakers succeed in banning .50 caliber firearms, what will be next? Bans on other calibers? Stricter limitations on common firearms? Restricting guns based on size, appearance, or potential misuse is a dangerous precedent that could lead to more unconstitutional bans in the future.

Conclusion

SB401 is an overreaching, unnecessary law that does not enhance public safety but instead punishes lawful gun owners. If legislators are serious about addressing crime, they should focus on targeting criminals, enhancing mental health support, and enforcing existing firearm laws. For these reasons, I urge the committee to reject SB401.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:34:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support all bills which will keep our community safe. Firearms are not toys. They kill. Firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of at least 50 caliber, with certain exceptions, should be added to the list of prohibited weapons. Please move this bill forward.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:37:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 and my rights shall not be infringed

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:38:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles jury	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:43:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Canham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 401, SD1 is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life. As a USAF veteran, I have carried and fired such weapons and they do not belong in civilian hands. Period.

I believe it was Voltaire who first noted that common sense is not so common--please do your part to demonstrate that common sense CAN prevail--thank you for supporting these important measures.

Respectfully,

Stephen Canham, PhD

Kaneohe, HI

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:52:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB401 SD1 and ask that you do so, too.

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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

Please vote to approve this bill to keep our communities safer.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:58:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:59:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chester Barayuga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again. This is ridiculous. I oppose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:04:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendon Heal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, I encourage you to oppose this as well.

I have noticed that this legislature has consistently ignored testimony from constituents.

I hope that this will stop.

oppose this unconstitutional infringement on our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:10:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Braun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because all it aims to do is further restrict people's 2nd amendment rights and does nothing to help prevent crime. This bill should not even have made it this far.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:15:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emiliano Corona Marquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Emiliano Corona Marquez Oppose on this bill sb401 For the fact that you guys are taking Always somewhat everyone's second amendment by taking away 50 cal and higher, As other countries don't have the amendments like the United States of America does it's Ludacris, That you guys are trying to take that away from the People of Hawaii, especially the people that has been doing everything the legal way, The long way, And the most irritating and difficult way we still doing it the right way. When there's other people getting illegal guns easily on the streets, you shouldn't be taking The people's right of America for protecting their family from The people that are doing this illegally and won't listen because they aren't listening anyways.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:28:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Mejia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401. Hawaii's firearms laws are already some of the most strict in the nation. Further bans and restrictions will only criminalize thousands of law abiding citizens, and will further fuel the black market here in Hawaii. And if you don't believe that the black market will thrive, just take a cold hard look at what it has done with fireworks.

For years and years, criminals have been able to import illegal fireworks. What politicians in their right mind think that criminals won't be able to import firearms and ammunition?

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:30:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Endrix	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose for this bill for the fact that you guys are taking away our second amendment right to have any gun higher than 50 caliber, when again people are getting illegal illegal guns won't stop at any causes, this will be taken away the right for the people that do it the right way and I think that is unfair.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:38:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Dixon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill because it violates the second amendment.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:40:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB 401, SD 1 - 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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

Herb Conley

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:40:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Britton cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it opposes on our second amendment rights

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:41:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Morgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill makes hundreds of thousands of law abiding citizens felons overnight. This is an impingement on 2Nd amendment rights and needs to be stopped completely.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:46:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberto Viernes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill because it effectively reduces the freedom of law abiding citizens to acquire high caliber firearms. This is against the US Constitution and the 2nd Amendment. There should be no infringement on our right to bear arms.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:47:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradford Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:49:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rob Mihada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB401!!!

The Second Amendment guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and limiting access to specific calibers or types of firearms could be viewed as an overreach that infringes on personal freedoms. Many law-abiding citizens use large-caliber firearms for sport, precision shooting, or in defense of property, and restricting these weapons undermines their ability to fully exercise their constitutional rights. Additionally, such regulations may be ineffective at addressing violent crime, as criminals would likely continue to find ways to obtain these firearms illegally, while law-abiding citizens are left with fewer options for self-defense.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:55:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew M Church	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it infringes on my second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:08:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
paul leopoldino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it infringes on my 2 ammendment

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:09:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Yuen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is absurd. Why pass a law that does nothing for public safety? What petty criminal walks around with a \$3000 to \$10000 rifle to rob someone or to commit mass casualty events?

This only denies gun enthusiasts the ability to enjoy long range competition shooting.

Please do not pass this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:24:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, there is no need for this bill, it affects people who own shotguns. .50 caliber is a common round that normal people use here.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:32:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:38:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Cachola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose SB401, reason being is it will make all of Hawaii law abiding gun owners felons.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:45:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael A. Cobb Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill infringes on the 2nd ammendment and will do nothing but take away shotguns and .50cal hunting rifles from the citizen. Please focus on criminals. Stop trying to ban tools. I strongly oppose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:01:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:08:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Buttler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 401

Chairperson, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bill 401, which seeks to ban any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher. This legislation is unnecessary, unconstitutional, and lacks clarity on its enforcement and impact on law-abiding citizens.

Constitutional Concerns

- In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that the Second Amendment protects firearms “in common use” for lawful purposes, including self-defense.
- Many firearms chambered in .50 caliber or higher, including 12-gauge shotguns, are widely used for hunting, sport shooting, and home defense.
- A caliber-based ban is an arbitrary restriction that does not align with constitutional protections.

Criminalizing Law-Abiding Citizens

- SB 401 lacks provisions on what existing firearm owners are supposed to do with firearms that would suddenly be deemed illegal.
- Without a clear grandfathering clause, law-abiding citizens who have legally purchased and registered these firearms would be turned into criminals overnight simply for possessing previously legal firearms.
- This bill disproportionately affects responsible gun owners who have followed every regulation and background check process required by Hawaii’s already strict laws.
- The government should not be in the business of turning law-abiding citizens into felons based on an arbitrary caliber classification rather than actual misuse of firearms.

Lack of Criminal Misuse

- FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data shows that .50 caliber rifles have been virtually absent from violent crime statistics. Between 2010 and 2020, there were **zero reported homicides** involving a .50 caliber rifle in the United States.
- The 12-gauge shotgun, which fires ammunition above the .50 caliber threshold, is among the most commonly owned firearms in the U.S., with **over 10 million in circulation**. Despite this, shotguns of all types were used in only **264 homicides in 2019**, compared to **6,368 with handguns** (FBI UCR 2019).
- A ban on firearms based on caliber rather than actual criminal usage is ineffective and punishes responsible gun owners rather than criminals.

Hawaii's Existing Strict Gun Laws

- Hawaii already has some of the most restrictive firearm regulations in the country, including mandatory permits, background checks, and registration requirements.
- Further bans on law-abiding gun owners do not address the root causes of violent crime.
- Instead of ineffective firearm bans, resources should be directed toward enforcing existing laws and addressing criminal behavior.

Conclusion

- SB 401 unfairly targets responsible gun owners while doing nothing to enhance public safety.
- The bill lacks clear provisions on what firearm owners are supposed to do with their now-prohibited firearms, effectively turning law-abiding citizens into criminals overnight.
- The bill contradicts *Heller* and is not supported by empirical crime data.
- I urge the committee to reject SB 401 and focus on solutions that genuinely improve public safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

William Buttler

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:19:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryston Tanigawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha please vote no on this bill. 50 cal firearms are NOT any more dangerous than other firearm calibers. NO they cannot shoot planes out of the sky. 50 cal is protected under the second amendment as it is NOT an "unusual AND dangerous weapon" per the Heller vs DC decision. Our country also does NOT have a history of banning any caliber of firearm and would not be consistent with our nation's history of firearm regulation. Mahalo.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:21:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write as a proud advocate for constitutional rights, limited government, and personal responsibility, urging you to **VOTE NO** on S.B. No. 401. This bill, effective January 1, 2026, adds firearms and rifles capable of firing .50 caliber or higher ammunition to Hawaii’s list of prohibited weapons (Section 1), targeting law-abiding citizens while ignoring real threats. As a MAGA Republican, I see this as an egregious attack on freedom, but I also call on Democrats—who value equity, public safety, and practical solutions—to reject this bill for its unfairness and ineffectiveness.

1. A Direct Assault on Second Amendment Freedoms

This bill bans firearms firing .50 caliber or higher ammunition, stripping law-abiding citizens of their constitutional right to bear arms suited for self-defense or lawful recreation (Section 1). Republicans cherish this liberty as fundamental to American identity. Democrats, you’ve fought for individual rights—why support a law that disarms honest people who use these firearms responsibly, like hunters or sport shooters, without evidence of widespread misuse?

2. Targeting Law-Abiding Citizens, Not Criminals

Criminals don’t obey gun laws, yet this bill punishes lawful owners of .50 caliber firearms—tools rarely linked to crime—while exempting antiques and muzzleloaders (Section 1). Republicans see this as government overreach; Democrats should see it as unjust, hitting rural folks or collectors hardest while criminals keep their illegal weapons. Where’s the fairness in that when the real problem—violent offenders—goes unaddressed?

3. No Proven Safety Benefit

Proponents label this “gun safety,” but there’s no data showing .50 caliber firearms drive Hawaii’s crime rates (Report Title). These are niche, expensive weapons—hardly the choice of street criminals. Republicans demand results over rhetoric; Democrats, you’ve pushed for evidence-based policy—why back a ban with no clear link to reducing violence, leaving families no safer but less equipped to defend themselves?

4. Economic Hardship for Working Hawaiians

Owning a .50 caliber firearm isn't cheap, and this bill forces owners to surrender or destroy them without compensation, costing hundreds or thousands per household (Section 1). In Hawaii's tough economy, this burdens working-class gun owners—hunters, enthusiasts, or rural residents—most. Democrats, you've stood for economic justice—why impose this financial penalty on law-abiding citizens instead of tackling root causes like poverty or illegal trafficking?

5. Weakening Self-Defense in Uncertain Times

A .50 caliber firearm isn't just a tool; it's a last line of defense for those facing extreme threats—think rural areas far from police. This ban limits that capability, tilting the advantage to armed criminals who ignore laws (Section 1). Republicans see this as disarming the good guys; Democrats should see it as abandoning vulnerable communities. Why make honest citizens less secure while criminals face no new hurdles?

Conclusion: Vote No for Freedom and Fairness

S.B. No. 401 isn't about safety—it's about control, punishing lawful gun owners with an unproven, unfair ban while letting criminals roam free. Republicans reject it as a Second Amendment violation; Democrats should reject it as a costly, ineffective overreach that fails our people. I urge you to **VOTE NO** and protect Hawaii's citizens—our rights, our wallets, and our safety—over bureaucratic posturing.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:21:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Kitaoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I FULLY OPPOSE THIS BILL

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:54:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill would accomplish nothing but turn law abiding citizens into criminals overnight. There is no data proving that this bill will abolish crime or even alleviate it as criminals will not abide by any current or new laws! 2nd ammendment shall not be infringed! Uphold the Constitution!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:00:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the honorable members of the Senate, My name is Michael Tanabe and I am writing in opposition of Senate Bill SB401. I have been a law abiding, citizen of Hawaii, and a firearm enthusiast for over 20 years. Senate Bill SB401 would not benefit in improving crime rates in Hawaii. Statistically speaking, Hawaii has some of the lowest crime rates in the country, mostly due to its demographics and unique "island culture". Passing SB401 only hurts law abiding citizens that enjoy, and take advantage of their second amendment rights, whether it be for sporting, hunting, collecting, or even self defense. Due to Hawaii's already stringent gun laws, the vast majority of firearm owners in Hawaii are responsible and practice firearm safety like a religion. Passing SB401 essentially turns all of Hawaii's firearm enthusiasts into criminals overnight. I would respectfully urge everyone to please vote in opposition of Senate Bill SB401. Thank you for your time and allowing me to express my concern for Senate Bill SB401. Sincerely, Michael Tanabe.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:13:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RICHARD HOLIBAUGH	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, and thank you for reading my testimony. I urge you to oppose SB401 SD1. This bill will do nothing to impact crime. Ammunition of fifty caliber or higher requires a firearm that is usually several thousand dollars in price. Ammunition for these types of calibers is expensive, and not readily available. This bill will do nothing except strip away rights of law abiding citizens, and will not impact violent crime. Thank you for reading my testimony.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:22:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our state has bigger issues than the size of a caliber and the criminals don't care about your laws.

We the taxpayers oppose this waste of time and expect that you will work on real issues such as homelessness and the economy.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:29:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lionel Delos Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislature , i storngly oppose this bill sb401 because it would not stop crime and crimminals wont follow the law.

thank you

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:40:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:25:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fel Sepada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB401

Oppose this bill as it is another unconstitutional bill that will only do more harm than good. This bill will hurt the law abiding citizens. Please oppose this bill and honor your oaths.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:26:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 401 . It is yet another blatant attack on our 2nd Amendment Rights.

Further restrictions upon our right to bear arms and their parts will result in nothing more than punishing the law abiding citizens thus restraining our ability to defend ourselves along with our ability to maintain a Free State all while the criminals will continue to obtain these "outlawed" items through illegal channels as they always have been. What will banning 50 caliber or higher cartridges do besides turn every gun owner in Hawaii into a felon overnight? 12 gauge shotguns are larger than 50 caliber cartridges and have been a key factor in hunting across the world for over a century. And aside from SB 401 reiterating key idiotic parts of HRS 134 like "Teflon" ammunition, its clear those that wrote this knew nothing then and still know nothing now about firearms as Teflon has zero armor penetration ability as it is merely a lubricating material. They are afraid of a kitchen pan coating and grease. So more so, what authority do these people have on this topic?

It's apparent that State Officials that have no understanding of the matter think that the legal and law abiding owners of firearms are a greater threat to Hawaii than the illegal ways of obtaining firearms and criminals that weld them. Hawaii is obviously more concerned with lining their pockets and protecting criminals more than they are concerned with protecting their people and upholding their oath to their State, Country, and the Constitution. They take little to no consequences while it's the taxpayer's lives and dollars they spend, pocket and toy with.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:53:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Aguinaldo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:03:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The argument that banning 12-gauge shotguns is unconstitutional is primarily based on interpretations of the ****Second Amendment**** to the U.S. Constitution, which protects the right to keep and bear arms. Here are the key points that opponents of such a ban might raise to argue that banning 12-gauge shotguns is unconstitutional:

1. **Second Amendment Protects Common Use of Firearms******

- The Supreme Court's decision in ***District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)*** established that the Second Amendment protects firearms "in common use" for lawful purposes, such as self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting.

- 12-gauge shotguns are among the most commonly owned and used firearms in the United States. They are widely used for home defense, hunting, and recreational shooting. Banning them would infringe on the right to bear arms that are in common use.

2. **Historical and Traditional Use******

- Shotguns, including 12-gauge models, have a long history of lawful use in the United States for self-defense, hunting, and militia purposes. The Second Amendment was intended to protect firearms that are traditionally used by law-abiding citizens.

- Banning 12-gauge shotguns would contradict this historical tradition and undermine the original intent of the Second Amendment.

3. ****Infringement on Self-Defense Rights****

- The Supreme Court in *Heller* recognized that the Second Amendment protects the right to use firearms for self-defense. Shotguns, particularly 12-gauge models, are widely regarded as effective tools for home defense due to their stopping power and reliability.

- Banning 12-gauge shotguns would infringe on an individual's ability to defend themselves and their property, violating their constitutional right to self-defense.

4. ****Overbreadth and Lack of Narrow Tailoring****

- A ban on 12-gauge shotguns would likely be seen as overly broad and not narrowly tailored to address a specific public safety concern. Such a ban would affect millions of law-abiding gun owners who use these firearms for lawful purposes.

- Overly broad restrictions on firearms have been struck down by courts as unconstitutional under the Second Amendment.

5. ****Arbitrary and Capricious Regulation****

- Opponents of a 12-gauge shotgun ban might argue that such a regulation is arbitrary and not based on evidence that these firearms pose a unique threat to public safety. Shotguns are rarely used in crimes compared to handguns, and banning them would disproportionately impact lawful gun owners.

- Arbitrary restrictions on firearms could be seen as violating the Second Amendment's protection of the right to bear arms.

6. ****Due Process and Fair Notice****

- A ban on 12-gauge shotguns could raise due process concerns under the ****Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments****. Law-abiding gun owners who legally purchased these firearms might face criminal penalties without fair notice or an opportunity to comply with the law.
- Such a ban could be challenged as violating the principles of fairness and due process.

7. ****Slippery Slope Argument****

- Critics of a 12-gauge shotgun ban might argue that it sets a dangerous precedent for further erosion of Second Amendment rights. If the government can ban one of the most common and widely used firearms, it could later move to ban other types of firearms, leading to a slippery slope of increasing restrictions.

Counterarguments and Legal Context

Proponents of banning 12-gauge shotguns might argue that such a ban is necessary for public safety, particularly in reducing gun violence or mass shootings. However, courts have generally been skeptical of broad bans on firearms that are commonly used for lawful purposes. In **Heller**, the Supreme Court made it clear that the Second Amendment protects firearms that are "typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes."

Conclusion

Banning 12-gauge shotguns would likely face strong constitutional challenges under the Second Amendment. Opponents of such a ban would argue that it infringes on the right to bear arms, undermines self-defense capabilities, and contradicts the historical tradition of firearm ownership in the United States. The constitutionality of such a ban would ultimately depend on how courts balance public safety concerns with the individual rights protected by the Second Amendment.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:19:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gian Vicuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This will make most gun owners felons. Shotguns fall under this bill and are commonly used for hunting and home defense.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:36:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makane Black	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill sb401 because it infringes on our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:39:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Roa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the people oppose this infringement

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:55:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose because this is unconstitutional!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:05:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc Saguiguit	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again do we have a lot of crimes committed on state of hawaii that involves this guns? If we have how many? Create a law that will punish people that are not law abiding citizens, do not attack the people that been to a class and wanna get this guns legally. Thank you

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:23:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Franzone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A .50 caliber bullet is nearly the same size and width as a jumbo Sharpie, but instead of writing on a sign, it can pierce vehicles, aircraft, and concrete walls from over a mile away. These bullets are military-grade weapons of war, no one needs the firepower of a bullet the size of a jumbo marker to hunt or for self-defense—these rounds are designed for destruction, not safety.

Please support this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:14:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Javellana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:15:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB401 SD1.

This bill seeks to make lawful firearms including 12 gauge shotguns illegal in the state of Hawaii (12 gauge is over 50 caliber or .5"). There are hundreds of thousands of shotguns alone in Hawaii, nevermind 50 caliber rifles used for hunting (breech loaders) and long distance shooting. These guns are used by hundreds of thousands of lawful citizens (who you represent) for hunting and recreational purposes.

These arms are protected under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

I urge you to VOTE NO on SB401 SD1.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:15:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You took an oath to uphold the constitution. You are in violation of this oath. If you want to live in a country without a 2nd amendment then leave, but stop trying to destroy what our forefathers gifted to us.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:27:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 which bans firearms and rifles firing .50 caliber or higher ammo starting January 2026. This is totally unconstitutional and against We the People's 2nd Amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:30:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is unconstitutional

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:31:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Toriki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL SB401

"the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED"

Why do are "elected" officials continue to chip away at law abiding citizens rights?

This bill will not stop criminals from having weapons or ammunition and who have no qualms regarding hurting innocent people. The only thing bills like this do is prevent law abiding citizens from defending themselves and their families from criminals with weapons and over reaching governments.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:43:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Uchiyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:47:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:49:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:51:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:52:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Brissette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 the banning of .50 or larger weapons. Please point out 1 crime that has been committed in Hawaii using a .50 or larger rifle....there has been zero. The cost of said weapon and ammunition is cost prohibitive coupled with the fact that common use, is common use and is covered by SCOTUS ruling of Columbia v Heller. The fact that Hawaii politicians again are wasting time on frivolous laws instead of addressing actual concerns is amazing. The states infrastructure is crumbling, the rail cost is out of control, homelessness, and cost of living are issue affecting every citizen of Hawaii but yet, Hawaii politicians ignore these issues and focus on passing laws that affect only law abiding citizens.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:52:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall Lockwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it infringes my 2nd Amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:03:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Barranco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This proposed ban is far too broad and would ban many commonly owned firearms that thousands of citizens already own. These said citizens would essentially be turned into criminals, and a confiscation of these firearms would be extremely difficult for the government to logistically conduct in an effective manner.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:06:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Oya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401

this bill does NOTHING to stop criminals. It only affects law abiding citizens

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:06:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:08:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Treloar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 as it infringes on Americans second amendment rights

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:10:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401. This bill infringes upon the Second Amendment rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, which clearly protects the right to bear arms. Any laws that restrict firearm ownership or storage are a direct threat to our fundamental freedoms.

Firearms that use 50 caliber or higher ammunition are already rare and costly. Banning them would directly impact hunters, collectors, and sport shooters—law-abiding citizens who should not be penalized. Given their high cost and rarity, simply having the opportunity to experience such firearms is something that should be valued and protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:19:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaioluhia Miguel-Hamakua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop this continued attack on the constitutional rights of law abiding citizens. Our abilities to defend ourselves have already been severely impacted.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:21:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second ammendment rights

Ian Silva

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:23:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Roberts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose at this is a direct infringement of the 2nd ammendment of the constitution of the United States of America.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:24:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop trying to take away our freedom and constitutional rights. There are much bigger issues like the corruption of our state government that needs to be focused on instead of this issue. Hawaii has the least amount of gun violence in the nation.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:25:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha since the Supreme Court gave free reign for all kinds of war weapons on our streets, Hawaii has seen an increase in violence/murders using war weapons. Greed/money/power is ruling with total disregard for human life/safety/health. It's up to the states to bring sanity and life back to the front. Please pass SB401. Mahalo. Irene

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:31:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill. stop with the over reach and unconstitutional bills.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:33:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Britni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it violates my rights to the second ammendment.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:37:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Arceo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401. Please concentrate on mental health and do not restrict my ability to defend my loved ones and friends. Honolulu Police resources are already limited, and they cannot protect you when you need it the most.

Thank you!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:41:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Byron Chong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:46:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Aguigui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose the passing of this bill. This bill is another attempt to slowly but surely strip citizens of their right guaranteed by the constitution. This intent behind this bill is all about control of the population and the creators and proponents of this bill know it. This is unconstitutional and only another attempt by Hawaii's democrat party to strip people away of their rights. Once again I strongly oppose this legislation.

Respectfully,

Brian Aguigui

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:49:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David P. Alvarado Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB401 for various reasons. First and foremost, this bill sets to make shotguns illegal and their owners criminals. Shotguns are commonly used for home defense, however are also used for hunting, which is for many, a vital cultural practice. Secondly, it is an infringement on basic constitutional freedoms guaranteed by our constitution.

I remind you that you serve at the pleasure of the people, and an overwhelming majority are against this infringement of our personal freedoms. Thank you for your time.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:52:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tryslynn Kauionalani Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it is unconstitutional.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:54:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sean	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:56:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose. This is another gun law that is controlling and taking away from individuals right to bear strong arms for their protection. The bad guys have strong arms of .50 caliber and higher, so how are we to protect ourselves by limiting our mode of defense?

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:58:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryson Hori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb401

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:04:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:10:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke malczon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:10:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Any restriction without historical precedent is unconditional.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:19:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. It will only restrict law-abiding citizens ability to defend themselves and empower violent criminals.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:22:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Bachiller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:29:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KAIKA SASAOKA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill! Once again here we are with a bill taking away our 2a rights by creating some imaginary "cap" on what calibers are allowed or not. Not to mention sneaking in a ban on shotguns, revolvers, etc. Again strong opposition and I truly believe these times that we are in now and the amount of overreach being attempted is the reason why 2A was originally written.

Aloha,

I am providing written testimony in **opposition** to SB401.

SB401 will ban commonly owned shotguns (larger than .50 caliber) and do nothing but instantly criminalize law-abiding firearms owners. There is no grandfather clause and thus, anyone who owns shotguns, incredibly common firearms, will be turned into felons overnight. Despite constantly educating lawmakers on this major flaw there seems to be an insistence on forcing a ban through.

Moreover, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), through the NYSRPA vs. Bruen decision (2022), recently established “text, history, and tradition” as the new standard for jurisprudence regarding the Second Amendment. SB401 provides no historical analogs to justify its consideration. Reaching further back, the SCOTUS decision in District of Columbia vs. Heller (2008) noted that arms in common use for lawful purposes cannot be banned. Shotguns are considered arms, by definition, and thus a ban on them is, by and large, an arms ban. SB401 demonstrates a blatant disregard of numerous SCOTUS decisions and should not be considered for approval.

Mahalo.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:33:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikolas Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it stands against my second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:35:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Konrad Kaipō	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL BECAUSE IT INFRINGES ON OUR SECOND AMENDMENT RIHGTS.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:43:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Berg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm sorry the state government thinks that its constituents are too stupid for civil liberties. No wonder Honolulu is covered in garbage and stinks like piss. When you treat your citizens like children they're going to act like children.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:50:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clayton Shimizu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it infringes on our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:53:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:54:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Ley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill SB 401. once again a ill written bill that would include 12 guage shotguns. how about writting bills to deal with criminals and a corrupt goverment instead of trying to turn law abiding citizens in to felons

Brian Ley county GMAC commishioner distric 4

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:01:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:02:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Shirai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:03:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401. 2nd amendment the right to bear arms. State of Hawaii has made it very clear that the people's safety is not their concern. Therefore the people have to protect themselves. It is not wise to bring a knife to a gun fight.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:03:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:03:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:05:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trevor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose. This bill is unconstitutional!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:12:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:12:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:15:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:19:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kai nalu kelly-poznansky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

The approval of this bill is a direct violation of our presidents executive action after it's effective date and to me constitutes clear and blatant disregard of the orders set forth which is treason! I will ensure that your actions as officials are reported to the federal government if this constitutional infringement is allowed to pass and you may face disciplinary actions or removal from office as this is not the will of the people you have sworn an oath to uphold and represent.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:28:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randell Remigio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:53:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Lyau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:59:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Buck Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401,

Paul Giles

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:08:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaliko Trusdell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB401

There is already a legal precedent 5X over in regards to the measures proposed in SB401. I strongly suggest Hawai'i legislators take the time to review the Bruen ruling from the Supreme Court. Mahalo

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:13:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quinn Shiroma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

This Bill violates my 2nd amendment rights and I strongly oppose.

Very Respectfully,

Quinn S.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:20:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Sabado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:22:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ray Baguio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb401. Banning firearms based on caliber! How many crimes were commuted with 50 cal weapons? These larger firearms are more difficult to conceal. 20ga and 12ga shotguns technically are larger then .50"! Are you going to ban all bird guns ?

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:23:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antonio Sanchez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Baning a weapon in common use is unconstitutional. See the latest SCOTUS judgement on the Bruin decision. All of this will do is waste state funds that can go to more pressing issues.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:25:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and support SB401

I hope you approve and implement SB401

Mahalo

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:36:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, SB 401. This bill infringement to the Legal Gun Owners the Rights to Bear Arms. .50 cal rifle is used in long distance hunting. Shooting events. Long distance rifle competition.

Government over step to deny Gun Owners to have any various types of weapons

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:40:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:42:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support and pass SB401, these rifles should be reserved for military and specialized forces use. They do not have a place for civilian use in our community.

Mahalo,

Rachel Logan

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:45:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen and mother of two, watching the numerous mass shootings take place over the past few years has been extremely challenging. These shootings take place in public spaces and many people have been killed. I do not want an increase in public danger for Hawaii, my home. Military-style weapons have no place in public spaces and must be carefully regulated. Our theaters, parks, churches, hospitals, libraries, sidewalks, stores, beaches, schools, and homes are not war zones or spaces where weapons are needed for self-defense but are instead spaces for living together in community. Please protect all of us by banning 50 caliber rifles in public spaces. I ask you to take action to protect life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:46:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Uemae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill. It will ban commonly owned 12 gauge shotguns because they're able to use slugs with a diameter that exceeds .50 cal.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:47:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is another egregious infringement on our 2nd Amendment rights.
Vote no.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:00:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Howell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please (oppose) SB401 it makes law abiding citizens suffer , shot guns and 50 cal rifles have been used for self defense and hunting for over a hundred years,

SB401 is an infringement on our (2A) right . To keep and bear arms.
please (oppose).

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:01:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:08:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah-Lyn Lokelani Jacobson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose to this bill as it is against our 2nd Amendment right

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:12:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean J deMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill because it is a violation of my second amendment right.

Thank you,

Sean J DeMello

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:37:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wes Hodge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it infringes on my 2nd Amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:37:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zac Nosugref	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:37:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB401

thisblaw will only make law abiding citizens criminals. And also this law is unconstitutional

I Jason T Wolford am writing to express my strong opposition to SB401, which seeks to prohibit the manufacture, possession, sale, or transfer of firearms capable of firing ammunition of .50 caliber or higher. While I understand the intent behind this legislation, it is both unconstitutional and harmful to law-abiding citizens who responsibly exercise their Second Amendment rights.

Legal Precedent: Firearms in Common Use Cannot Be Banned

The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that firearms in common use for lawful purposes cannot be outright banned. The landmark cases **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)** and **McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010)** explicitly recognize the individual right to keep and bear arms. Furthermore, in **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen (2022)**, the Court reinforced that gun restrictions must align with historical tradition and cannot impose broad prohibitions on commonly owned firearms.

Many rifles and firearms chambered in .50 caliber, including those used for sport shooting and hunting, are commonly owned by responsible gun owners across the country. As such, banning these firearms violates the standard set forth in **Heller**, which prohibits bans on "arms in common use at the time for lawful purposes."

SB401 Will Ban Many Shotguns Capable of Firing .50 Caliber Slugs

SB401's broad language would also inadvertently ban many commonly owned shotguns. Standard 12-gauge shotguns are widely used for hunting, sport shooting, and home defense, and they are capable of firing a **slug round** that exceeds .50 caliber in diameter.

Shotguns are designed to fire both shot (multiple projectiles) and slugs (a single, large projectile), with many slug loads measuring **.72 caliber or larger**—far exceeding the .50 caliber threshold set by this bill. If SB401 is passed, thousands of legally owned shotguns would be deemed illegal, making responsible gun owners criminals overnight simply for possessing their lawfully acquired firearms.

SB401 Criminalizes Law-Abiding Citizens

This bill would create instant criminals out of law-abiding citizens who currently possess these firearms. SB401 does not contain any **grandfather clause** for individuals who legally own these firearms today, meaning that lawful owners would either have to surrender their property to the state or face criminal prosecution.

Under existing Hawaii firearm laws, **illegal possession of a prohibited firearm is a Class C felony**, which carries penalties including:

- **Up to 5 years in prison**
- **Hefty fines**
- **Permanent loss of firearm rights**

Such severe penalties for the mere possession of legally owned firearms would disproportionately impact responsible gun owners while doing nothing to reduce violent crime.

What Happens to Those Who Currently Own These Firearms?

SB401 fails to outline any process for current legal owners of .50 caliber firearms to retain their property. If passed, owners would likely face the following scenarios:

- **Mandatory surrender or confiscation** of their legally owned firearms, potentially without compensation.
- **Legal uncertainty**, as citizens who comply with current law may suddenly be in violation simply by owning something they purchased lawfully.
- **Risk of criminal prosecution**, fines, and imprisonment for keeping firearms that were legal at the time of purchase.

This lack of clarity and fairness would create confusion and legal jeopardy for thousands of law-abiding citizens.

Conclusion: SB401 Must Be Rejected

Rather than targeting responsible gun owners, legislative efforts should focus on enforcing existing laws against criminals who misuse firearms. This bill is unconstitutional under Supreme Court precedent, criminalizes responsible gun owners, bans common shotguns due to their ability to fire .50 caliber slugs, and fails to address what will happen to law-abiding citizens who currently own these firearms.

I urge you to oppose SB401 and instead support legislation that upholds the constitutional rights of Hawaii's citizens while focusing on actual solutions to violent crime. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:43:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Cunningham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Legislators,

Yet again I need to submit testimony in opposition to a proposed Bill that seeks to erode my constitutional rights, this bill will do nothing but impact law abiding citizens and their ability to enjoy shooting a particular caliber, a comparison would be telling Hawai'i drivers they can no longer drive cars with 8 cylinder engines because they are too powerful and you can not be trusted to own one.

Stop treating the Second Amendment as a second class right, it deserves equal respect afforded other rights under the Constitution and should not be under constant attack each and every legislative session.

Mahalo.

Dave Cunningham

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:51:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D Y	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to ask you to not impose, to not diminish, to take away anymore of the people's freedoms. Protect the Constitution. Honor it. No more to striping away rights and new gun restriction proposals is exactly that. The rights of "We the people" weren't given by you and should not be restricted by you. We live in a state that is already one of the most strictest states in the nation regarding gun laws and ownership. Passing any more will not make any change, but turn many law abiding citizens into criminals. You'll have many overnight. Laws will not stop the acts of a madman. Assault is an action, it could be done with bats, sticks, knives, hammers, vehicles and even empty handed, I don't see you go after those. Inanimate objects are harmless without the intentions behind it. On the flip side they can be used for good. Tools to build, fix and repair, sport, family time and protection. Please don't go forward with ANY gun control measures, they will not stop violence, they will only harm law abiding citizens as myself. Whatever amends to terms you want to make will not do anything to criminals. Again, it'll only affect law abiding citizens. It's a slope this country is already sliding down. Let the people be who are - Americans. Free. Not your subjects. Oppose SB401

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:59:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please approve this bill to ban 50 caliber firearms. These firearms have no place in civilian hands.

Thank you for helping to keep our islands safe from gun violence.

Ellen Godbey Carson

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:03:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Earvin Guerrero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it infringes on our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:06:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miles Chong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB401!

This arbitrary bill clearly violates a fundamental and constitutionally protected right, and unfairly targets lawful and responsible gun owners!

Miles Chong

Hilo, HI 96720

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:12:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tad Sumida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is an infringement on my second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:15:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Fukuhara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this bill. You cannot take away the rights of the people when it has already been written in the constitution.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:15:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Li Lundin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 401, SD1 to prohibit

I support SB 401, SD 1 ti prohibit firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50 caliber or higher.

Li Lundin

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:16:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:20:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Arzaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Oppose

making every larger caliber firearm illegal. And every legal firearm owner of these firearms a criminal. It infringes on my right as a citizen to own a firearm. At what point will each caliber be banned? This needs to stop.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:25:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony in Opposition to SB401****

Aloha Mai Kākou, Honorable Members of the Senate,

I am Tiare Smith, a Native Hawaiian resident of Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu, where I have lived for 45 years, deeply embedded in the cultural and communal fabric of this island. It is from this vantage point—steeped in the values of our kūpuna and the realities of rural life—that I submit my unequivocal opposition to SB401, a bill amending Section 134-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prohibit firearms or rifles capable of firing ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, effective January 1, 2026. While the intent to enhance public safety is ostensibly noble, this measure is a precipitous overreach, riddled with practical flaws and antithetical to the rights and needs of Hawaii’s diverse populace. I urge its rejection on the following grounds.

First, SB401’s blanket prohibition on firearms of fifty caliber or higher—excluding only antique pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloaders—demonstrates a disconcerting lack of nuance, imperiling lawful activities integral to our state’s heritage and sustenance. In rural communities like Kahalu‘u, large-caliber firearms serve legitimate purposes: hunting invasive species such as feral pigs, which devastate native ecosystems, and ensuring personal security in areas where law enforcement response times are protracted. By indiscriminately banning these tools, the bill disenfranchises residents who rely on them not for malice, but for survival and stewardship of our ‘āina. The exemption for muzzleloaders, while a nod to tradition, is a hollow gesture—such weapons are impractical for the modern demands of land management.

Second, the legislation’s scope betrays an intellectual inconsistency that undermines its purported aim. By targeting caliber size rather than specific misuse, SB401 casts an overly broad net, ensnaring law-abiding citizens while failing to address the root causes of firearm-related harm. Hawaii’s existing laws—among the strictest in the nation—already regulate automatic weapons, silencers, and explosives with precision. Adding fifty-caliber firearms to this list, absent evidence of their widespread abuse in our state, smacks of performative governance rather than data-driven policy. The Department of the Attorney General’s own statistics reveal firearm violence here is overwhelmingly tied to handguns, not high-caliber rifles. This mismatch renders SB401 an ineffectual distraction from targeted solutions.

Third, the bill encroaches upon individual liberties in a manner antithetical to the spirit of self-determination that defines our island identity. For Native Hawaiians and other rural residents, the

right to responsibly bear arms is not merely a constitutional abstraction but a practical extension of our sovereignty over our lives and lands. SB401's unilateral disarmament of these tools—without consultation or cultural consideration—echoes a colonial imposition, stripping us of agency under the guise of protection. Such paternalism erodes trust in governance, particularly in communities already wary of top-down edicts that disregard local context.

Finally, the implementation of SB401 risks exacerbating enforcement disparities, further straining an overburdened system. With no grandfather clause or compensation mechanism articulated, law-abiding owners face abrupt criminalization or coerced divestment of legally acquired property. This not only invites legal challenges but also diverts scarce resources—police, courts, and administrative oversight—from addressing actual threats to public safety. In a state where fiscal prudence is paramount, such a measure is an imprudent gamble on unproven gains.

As a Native Hawaiian who has witnessed O'ahu's transformation over nearly half a century, I implore you to reject SB401. It is not a safeguard but a misstep—an ill-conceived restriction that alienates rather than protects, and diminishes rather than empowers. Let us instead refine our laws with precision, honoring the balance between safety and liberty that Hawaii's people deserve. Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiare Smith

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:26:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MICHAEL ING	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:27:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401. Banning something because at some point a criminal who has no business having any type of gun goes out and uses the object to commit a crime doesn't stop the action from occurring. Look at aerial fireworks, you legislators have banned their use by the public in Hawaii but every year millions of dollars are spent by the public to illegally buy them. They are breaking the law because they can and would risk being arrested because the consequence of their action is so minor. If you want to make Hawaii safer due to gun violence, instead of demonizing the gun and making life difficult for those of us that follow the laws, make the penalties harsher for criminals that use guns to commit their crimes. Make their minimum sentences so steep and make them serve the full sentence so that they will think twice about the crimes they commit. This is why we do not trust you. You prove every year that you do not trust gun owners in Hawaii to do the right thing. With this bill you will be blanket banning muzzleloaders, handguns, and rifles because they all have a 50-caliber model across 100s of manufacturers. Not all 50 caliber firearms have the same capabilities as the next. 50 Caliber muzzleloaders are used by hunters every year during muzzleloader hunting season. Are they dangerous? Yes, every firearm has the ability to be dangerous, but its capabilities are nowhere near as strong as a rifle that shoots a 50 BMG cartridge. Blanketing all 50 caliber firearms in a single category to be banned is lazy and will only hurt the people who already own these firearms legally in our state. Hawaii gun owners should not be required to remove from their possession legally acquired property because some day you, one of a handful of citizens out of over a million people living in this state are lucky enough to have been given this opportunity to hold one of the few Senate Seats by your district.

Brandon Leong

President

Lessons In Firearms Education

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:27:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB401 to prohibit any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire fifty caliber or higher excluding antiques. A fifty caliber weapon can pierce bullet resisting materials and can pierce light armored vehicles, knock down hovering helicopters, and ignite fuel storage. This level of weaponry is not appropriate in civilian hands and would endanger law enforcement officers in the line of duty. It would not infringe on the 2nd amendment rights of gun advocates or prevent them from protecting themselves from crime.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:27:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayton Cabrerros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:30:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taz Gamble	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Taz Gamble, and I strongly oppose SB401. This bill as it is written is targeting the rights of citizens under the guise of safety. The fact of the matter is, the firearms targeted in this bill are commonly owned nationwide and are NOT in common use when looking at crime statistics. This ban is a fundamental targeting of our second ammendment rights and should not be supported.

Thank you for your time and I ask for your vote of opposition.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:39:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Iler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB401 would be an infringement and limitation on the freedom to keep and bear arms; a guaranteed right of the citizens of the United States. The Constitution of our country explicitly guarantees certain freedoms to its citizens as a protection from the tyranny of a government whose tendency is to grow infinitely in power and ultimately eclipse the freedom of men and women to pursue happiness and survival. If the 2nd Amendment law was intended, which it is not, to create limitations based on nuances such as technicalities on ammunition caliber such as proposed by SB401, this would have been clear from the outset. Passing SB401 would indicate wrongly by precedent that a legislature is able to arbitrarily modify and encroach on freedom guaranteed by our Constitution. If passed, law abiding gun owners would suddenly become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:44:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Cabunoc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose this bill as it goes against our 2nd ammendment rights. This caliber is not used in crimes as it requires a large sized rifle or shot gun. Most criminals use hand guns in my opinion. I would like to state that banning this from responsible gun owners is wrong, for most of us law abiding citizens, we have this type of caliber for hobby shooting at the range, or self protection. Which again is our right as law abiding citizens, the right to bear arms. Taking away the calibers will prevent us from the ability to protect us in our own homes. Do you think criminals care about your laws? Just because you make them, it won't prevent crime like you believe it will. Criminals do not follow laws. I strongly oppose this bill. Mahalo!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:46:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Goldberg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I Strongly Oppose SB401 as it violates the 2nd ammendment rights. Please listen to the people. Mahalo Nui

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:49:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Mueller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 401

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:49:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Guns laws are unconstitutional. "Shall not be infringed" means shall not be infringed. I oppose this bill

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:56:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to it infringing on my rights as a law abiding citizen.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:05:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew N. Bodnar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 401 would prohibit a specific type of military-grade weapon – firearms capable of firing .50 caliber or greater ammunition. Such rifles were designed for military sniper use, and have the capability of piercing an armored vehicle from a distance of over a mile away.

While we believe the state should prohibit the sale of *all* assault weapons in Hawai‘i, we support efforts to ensure the types of exceedingly dangerous weapons covered in SB 401 aren’t available for civilian ownership.

Note that is legislation does not affect owners of these wepons. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:06:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audie Gerilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon.

I oppose SB401 and other related bills as it is detrimental to the constitutional right of owning and to bear arms as a law-abiding citizens. This bill criminalize law-abiding citizens that own firearms who use either as protection for life and property to recreational purposes. I hope you will not pass this bill and other related bills.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Audie F Gerilla

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:07:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Rowe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ,

I strongly OPPOSE SB401 in its intent and in its current form. The law proposed is only punitive towards law abiding citizens as is the majority of legislation related to firearms in the State of Hawaii.

Further the language as written, is clumsy and casts a far ban on items that are not clearly identified in this bill. This law does nothing for increasing any kind of safety in the community, it only attempts to punsih enthusiasts and Hunters.

I would like to encourage all of the authors of this bill to abandone your repeated efforts to hamper and challenge the 2nd ammendment and concentrarte on laws that have the effect of penalizing repeat offender criminals and holding them accounatble for the crimes that they commit and set up treatements and counselings for offenders who have completed their time in custody so that they can contribute positivey.

You are in office to work for the people of Hawaii rather than infringe on the rights of legal gun owners.

Aloha,

Ben Rowe

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:18:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB401 which would be the proposed ban on .50 caliber or higher firearms. I firmly believe that such a ban would be an overreach and would not meaningfully address the real issues of gun violence in our country. Instead, it would infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens and fail to achieve the desired outcomes.

1. Misunderstanding of .50 Caliber Firearms

A .50 caliber firearm is not the type of weapon typically used in crimes of passion, street violence, or even mass shootings. These are specialized, high-powered rifles primarily used for long-range shooting, hunting, and sport shooting. The vast majority of .50 caliber firearm owners use them responsibly and for lawful purposes such as recreational shooting, collecting, and target practice. Banning these firearms would disproportionately impact responsible gun owners without addressing the types of weapons commonly used in violent crimes.

2. Rare Use in Crimes

The reality is that .50 caliber or higher firearms are exceedingly rare in criminal activity. They are not the firearms of choice for criminals or those committing violent acts. Handguns and assault-style rifles are much more commonly involved in gun violence. By focusing on a narrow segment of firearms, such as .50 caliber or higher rifles, the proposed ban ignores the broader issue of illegal firearms and criminal behavior.

3. Second Amendment Rights

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Banning .50 caliber firearms or similar weapons infringes on this constitutional right. While there are certainly valid arguments for regulating certain types of firearms, the government must balance this with the preservation of individual rights. The right to own firearms, including large-caliber rifles, is protected under the Constitution. A blanket ban on firearms based solely on caliber disregards the rights of law-abiding citizens to legally own and use firearms for legitimate purposes.

4. Ineffectiveness of a Caliber-Specific Ban

A ban on .50 caliber or higher firearms would be ineffective in addressing gun violence or crime. Criminals are unlikely to be deterred by such a ban, as they are already operating outside the law. Such a restriction would only affect responsible gun owners who follow the rules, leaving criminals to obtain weapons through illegal means.

5. **Impact on Legitimate Uses**

Many people legally own .50 caliber firearms for legitimate reasons, including precision long-range shooting, hunting, and collecting. These firearms are important tools for certain types of competitive shooting and specialized hunting, and banning them would unfairly limit the rights of individuals who use them for lawful, recreational purposes.

6. **Historical Precedent and Effectiveness**

Historically, bans on specific firearm types or calibers have been shown to be ineffective in reducing violence. The 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban is a prime example, as it did not lead to a significant decrease in crime or mass shootings. When a specific category of firearms is banned, criminals quickly find alternatives, and the law-abiding public is left with fewer options to protect themselves and their families.

7. **Criminalizing Law Abiding Gun Owners**

The context of this bill if signed into law would instantly criminalize law abiding citizens banning 28, 20 and 12 gauge shotguns which are the most commonly used calibers in the civilian market. This is a major overreach and targeting the wrong demographic of people.

In closing I ask that this bill be deferred as there is no justification for this ban and would do little to nothing in addressing gun violence.

Thank you,

Robert Doi

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:20:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Char	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose. This would infringe on our Constitutional Rights.

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose SB 401. This bill will violate the Hawaii State Constitution, United States Constitution, and the Supreme Court Bruen decision. The government needs to provide historical evidence of a historical analogue at the time the United States Constitution was ratified, and this bill contains no historical evidence. In fact, Section 134-8 violates the Hawaii State Constitution, United States Constitution, and the Supreme Court Bruen decision. During the Revolutionary War citizens could own cannons. SB 401 would also outlaw large caliber hunting rifles. The chances of someone being murdered by a hunting rifle meant to hunt elephants are astronomical. In addition, all arms regardless of size, are protected by the Second Amendment. Due to this bill providing no historical evidence and being a categorical ban on certain firearms, I strongly oppose SB 401.

Thanks,

Jordan Au

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:37:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
anne zellinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe in nonviolent actions to solve conflict.

Mahalo,

Anne Zellinger

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:38:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tony frascarelli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed. Though I no longer own a 50 caliber firearm, I support an individual's right or desire to own and use one as the 50 caliber rifle has a place in both recreational and competitive long range target shooting.

DLE's public hearing testimony in support of his bill at the 2/14/25 Committee hearing because such a weapon can penetrate buildings, vehicles and protective equipment is flawed because any number of large caliber hunting rifles are capable of doing the same.

In considering the Barrett line of 50 caliber rifles, retail prices range from \$5,000 to \$13,000, weigh from 23 to 31.4 pounds and have an overall length 48". Ammunition for these rifles range \$4.00 to \$11.00 for each round. So how many of Hawaii's run of the mill criminals are going to be able to afford one of these weapons much less want to hump one around to commit a crime.

Lastly, where are the statistics to support this bill. How many of the weapons in this bill have been used to commit crimes in Hawaii? How many people have been killed or injured by these weapons in our state? If these weapons were such a threat, I would expect that DLE or HPD would readily put forth the numbers.

SB401 is just another what if legislative feel good bill that does not deserve passage.

Thank you.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:51:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Ishii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Raymond Ishii and I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a violation of my rights as given to me by our creator and guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

The United States Supreme Court in the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association Vs Bruen has affirmed that the 2nd Amendment is an individual right and The Supreme Court declared that any regulation affecting the right to bear arms must be rooted in the “historical tradition of firearm regulation” in the United States.

President Donald Trump's Executive Order date 02-07-25 states as follows:

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. The Second Amendment is an indispensable safeguard of security and liberty. It has preserved the right of the American people to protect ourselves, our families, and our freedoms since the founding of our great Nation. Because it is foundational to maintaining all other rights held by Americans, the right to keep and bear arms must not be infringed.

Sec. 2. Plan of Action. (a) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Attorney General shall examine all orders, regulations, guidance, plans, international agreements, and other actions of executive departments and agencies (agencies) to assess any ongoing infringements of the Second Amendment rights of our citizens, and present a proposed plan of action to the President, through the Domestic Policy Advisor, to protect the Second Amendment rights of all Americans.

(b) In developing such proposed plan of action, the Attorney General shall review, at a minimum:

(i) All Presidential and agencies’ actions from January 2021 through January 2025 that purport to promote safety but may have impinged on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens;

(ii) Rules promulgated by the Department of Justice, including by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, from January 2021 through January 2025 pertaining to firearms and/or Federal firearms licensees;

(iii) Agencies’ plans, orders, and actions regarding the so-called “enhanced regulatory enforcement policy” pertaining to firearms and/or Federal firearms licensees;

(iv) Reports and related documents issued by the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention;

(v) The positions taken by the United States in any and all ongoing and potential litigation that affects or could affect the ability of Americans to exercise their Second Amendment rights;

(vi) Agencies' classifications of firearms and ammunition; and

(vii) The processing of applications to make, manufacture, transfer, or export firearms.

Sec. 3. Implementation. Upon submission of the proposed plan of action described in section 2 of this order, the Attorney General shall work with the Domestic Policy Advisor to finalize the plan of action and establish a process for implementation.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof;

or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

President Trumps Executive Order simply states that Firearms have been used since the founding of our great Republic for the protection of ourselves, our families and our freedom, and is the foundation for all the other rights we as American hold dear, the rights of the people must not be infringed.

In the historical context of the use of firearms in the Revolutionary War, many of the arms used by our patriotic forefathers including cannons and warships were privately own, and it is our historical tradition that the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

I strongly OPPOSE SB401 and ask you to vote no.

Thank You

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:59:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB401.

I see no point in this bill other than to criminalize law abiding gun owners over night. We need to do better and bring back common sense. In high school, a teacher once told the class, "rules were made for good people. people that follow rules." and that cant be further from the truth in this situation. Criminals will do criminal things. but when the playing fields are equal, everyone plays by the rules. We are all tired both the left and right. Vote with logic and not emotions.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:27:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Schneider	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 25, 2025

Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write to you not just as a concerned citizen, but as someone who believes deeply in the principles of liberty and self-preservation that define us as a free people. Senate Bill 401, Senate Draft 1 (SB401 SD1), set for your review on February 27, 2025, threatens to erode those principles under a veneer of safety that collapses under scrutiny. I implore you to reject this misguided legislation and stand with the law-abiding residents of Hawaii who refuse to be disarmed in the face of real danger.

Let's start with the fiction at the heart of this bill: the so-called "high capacity" magazine. This term isn't just misleading—it's a deliberate invention, a scare tactic dressed up as policy. What lawmakers label "high capacity" is nothing more than standard capacity—magazines designed by engineers for the reliable, everyday function of firearms owned by millions of responsible Americans. Calling them "high" implies excess, danger, something extraordinary, when in truth, they're the norm. Ask yourself: if a car's gas tank holds what the manufacturer intended, do we call it "high capacity" and ban it? This is a solution in search of a problem, and it vilifies citizens for owning what's practical and standard.

But the stakes here are higher than semantics. SB401 SD1 dares to dictate how much defense is "enough" for a mother shielding her children from an intruder, a small business owner facing a mob, or a lone hiker confronted by a threat in our wild lands. I say there is no limit—none—that should be placed on an individual's right to protect their life and loved ones. Self-defense isn't a privilege to be rationed by bureaucrats; it's a right, etched into the human spirit and affirmed by our Constitution. Yet this bill would tie our hands, counting bullets while criminals, unbound by laws, count their victims. Who among you would tell a grieving family that their loss was "acceptable" because their defender ran out of rounds?

You have the power to stop this overreach. SB401 SD1 doesn't make us safer—it makes us vulnerable, punishing the innocent while emboldening the lawless. I urge you to look beyond the rhetoric, see the real-world consequences, and vote no. Let Hawaii remain a place where freedom and security coexist, not where one is sacrificed for the illusion of the other.

With respect and urgency,
Jacob

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:32:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gene Lamkin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Same as SB308. The Second Amendment Shall Not Be Infringed. Please Respect Our Rights To Own and Bear Arms.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:32:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramiro Noguero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:43:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:49:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB 401, SD 1 - 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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:55:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael A. Wee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. Fifty caliber firearms are not a problem. They are big, heavy, and bulky firearms to handle and transport. They are not concealable weapons by any stretch of the imagination. They are not suitable for criminal behavior at all. There is no place to shoot them legally on Oahu. You lawmakers are wasting time on a problem that doesn't exist. Are you just trying to emulate the State of California?

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

- 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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:00:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roch Leblanc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose any restriction that is listed in this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:14:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Cucco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 401, SD 1 - 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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:15:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Wehrly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ,

I oppose this bill Sb401.

Why are you trying to strip us patriots of their constitutional rights to bear arms for self defense. You see all the crime going on around us. We need a way to protect ourselves. This is a radical gun-grab that ignores us law abiding citizens.

Please stop this bill from moving forward.

Thank you

Amanda .

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:28:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alex redeker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I severely oppose this bill, i travel to the mainland and compete in long-range. Big boar shooting with a 50 caliber. This would prohibit me from traveling to the mainland and competing if I am not allowed to own the firearm. If I send my firearm to the mainland for competition when I come back, I have to send it back to hawaii and would have to reacquire the firearm from a local gun store which this bill would prohibit even though it's already my property. There is already a law on the book that says we must unregister firearms, when they leave the state, but it says, nothing about it being temporary.

Unfortunately, more constructive bills could be created on e bikes which have had more fatalities than 50 cal rifles

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:30:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My family and I live in Waimea on Hawaii Island, and we support SB401 SD1. My husband and son are hunters, but there is no justification for military-grade weapons in our civilian communities.

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 - including in our small town. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:38:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bo Breda and I live in Pahoia Hiawaii. I am writing in support of SB401 SD1 which thankfully will prohibit the ownership of weapons that are 50 caliber. The idea that anyone would need or want to use this weapon is astonishing to me. This 50 caliber weapon will demolish anything that it hits. This round has a muzzle velocity that can exceed 4000 feet per second and the round is described as light armor piercing. There is no need for this weapons anywhere in any community in the state. Thank you for eliminating this threat from our population. I hope that this bill passes with a resounding plurality indicating the intelligence of the peaceful citizens of this island state.

Sincerely,

Bo Breda

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:43:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Betsy Scolnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is no place for guns and gun violence! make this happen please

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:48:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GUY NAGATA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates the Second Amendment rights enshrined in the United States Constitution, which unequivocally guarantees the right to bear arms. Any regulations infringing upon firearm ownership and storage represent a direct assault on our fundamental freedoms.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:49:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allan Sebastian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear HI Stare Legislators,

| oppose this bill because it infringes on our second amendment rights.

Thank you for your time,

Allan Sebastian

96777

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:57:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Millen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:00:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
G L Hutchinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good grief. We do NOT live in a war zone (yet)

there is no need for 50 caliber firearms in our neighborhoods.

I support SB401- prohibits weapons of war.

thank you

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:03:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will do absolutely nothing in the prevention of crime, not even gun crime. 50 caliber guns have never been used in crimes simply because they are big, heavy, very expensive, and unwieldy. They are difficult to transport, weighing upwards of 30-40 lbs. Additionally, the bullets for 50 caliber guns usually cost about 10 times more than what normal gun ammo costs, you're talking over \$10 per bullet, and since it's such a small niche category, 50 caliber bullets are hard to find here in Hawaii, you're not going to see criminals stocking up on 50 caliber ammo, ever. This bill just doesn't make sense, none at all. Not even "common sense". However, this bill will discriminate unfairly against the many Hawaii firearms enthusiasts who do shoot 50 caliber guns for hunting, sport, and just plain old shooting fun at the range. Please do not support this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:09:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick Laciste	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it infringes on our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:12:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB 401, SD 1 - 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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

Mahalo,

Paul Weissman

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:17:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaelan S.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:35:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Revells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly object to this bill as an infringement of my 2nd Ammendment rights. As legislators you people should invest more time and learning as opposed to the "blanket" coverage language you use.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:45:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:49:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Christopher Rafael	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as I do not see the point of banning a certain caliber. How is that going to make Hawai'i safer. The framer of this bill is just wasting valuable resources and should consider retiring. Let people that actually know what they are doing legislate.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:01:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Waialae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:04:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaeo Waialae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:12:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel and Michelle Levey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please prohibit all firearms in public space - especially high powered military grade automatic weapons. These are a danger to people and society. Also increase the scrutiny of background checks for people purchasing firearms.

Mahalo

Dr Joel & Michelle Levey

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:14:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Reiss	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Luke Reiss of Kahului HI 96732 oppose SB401.

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:17:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hilary Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The last thing Hawaii needs is more dangerous weapons in the hands of civilians. I support this bill to limit guns in Hawaii.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:18:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hookela kaleikini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, my name is kela kaleikini. I am a native Hawaiian who uses shotguns for hunting and putting food on our family's table. I oppose this bill for that reason. Thank you

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:47:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William R Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 401.

This bill would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms.

Thanks

William R Smith

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:48:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryota Takuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB401, particularly its provision prohibiting the manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer, or acquisition of any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of .50 caliber or higher. While I support efforts to ensure public safety, this specific ban is overly broad, lacks evidence-based justification, and unfairly impacts law-abiding Hawaii residents.

Firearms chambered in .50 caliber, such as the .50 BMG, are primarily used by enthusiasts for legitimate purposes like long-range target shooting and competitive marksmanship. These activities are well-established in the shooting sports community and pose no inherent threat to public safety when conducted responsibly. The rifles themselves are large, heavy, and expensive—hardly the weapons of choice for criminal activity. In fact, there is little to no data showing that .50 caliber firearms are disproportionately involved in crimes in Hawaii or elsewhere.

Moreover, this blanket prohibition fails to distinguish between lawful use and misuse. Law-abiding owners—hunters, collectors, and sport shooters—would be penalized without clear evidence that banning these firearms addresses any specific safety concern in our state. The ban also overlooks the rigorous federal regulations already in place for firearms, which include background checks and serial number tracking, ensuring accountability for owners.

The .50 caliber ammunition targeted by this bill is similarly misunderstood. It is designed for precision and power over long distances, not for the kind of rapid, close-quarters misuse often associated with gun violence. Criminals typically favor smaller, more concealable weapons, not the bulky, specialized firearms SB401 seeks to outlaw. Without data linking .50 caliber firearms or ammunition to crime in Hawaii, this ban appears to be a solution in search of a problem.

I urge the committee to reject this provision of SB401 and instead focus on measures that directly address illegal firearm use—such as cracking down on trafficking or enhancing mental health resources—rather than broadly restricting the rights of responsible citizens. Safety is a shared priority, but it should not come at the expense of fairness or reason.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ryota

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:49:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kallen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any proposed ban on shotguns utilizing .50 caliber or greater ammunition. It is important to recognize that the vast majority of responsible firearm owners use these weapons for lawful purposes such as hunting, sport shooting, and self-defense. Banning such firearms would unduly infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens, depriving them of their ability to use these tools in legitimate activities.

Shotguns of this caliber or greater are rarely used in criminal activities, and the push for banning them seems based more on emotional reaction rather than addressing any real threat. The regulation of firearms should focus on individuals who misuse weapons, not on broad restrictions that punish responsible citizens. Such bans would not significantly enhance public safety, but rather would alienate and unfairly target a specific group of gun owners.

Further, shotguns of this caliber are often used for specialized hunting purposes, including the harvesting of large game animals. They are an essential part of the tradition of responsible hunting, which contributes to wildlife management and conservation efforts. These firearms are subject to strict regulations, including background checks and licensing requirements, which already ensure that only qualified individuals have access to them.

Instead of pursuing a ban, it would be more effective to focus on improved enforcement of existing laws, mental health support, and education surrounding safe firearm use. This approach would have a more significant impact on preventing crime and protecting public safety, without infringing on the rights of responsible gun owners.

I urge you to reconsider any proposal to ban .50 caliber or greater shotguns. The issue of public safety should not come at the cost of eroding the rights of responsible firearm owners.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brown

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:41:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Akiyama	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose SB401 SD1. Why do you want to ban this particular caliber that is very uncommon and never??? used in committing a crime?

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:42:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Testifying for AFC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:28:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Marvin	Testifying for The Vet Voice Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and committee members,

I am testifying on behalf of the Vet Voice Foundation -- a leading national advocacy organization providing voice for veterans. We are in support of SB401.

Any veteran who has been to combat -- myself included -- knows what a 50-cal can do to a vehicle or building, let a long a human body. There is absolutley no need for these guns anywhere outside of the battlefield.

Along with all forms of gas-operated semi-automatic firearms, these need to be banned in Hawai'i.

Capt. Chris Marvin
US Army, retired
Honolulu

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:54:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Kiyabu	Testifying for YOUNG GUNS	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am **strongly opposed** to SB401 this bill does not take on consideration the numerous types of calibers that are used by a broad spectrum of citizens, military and law enforcement included. This proposed bill does not make Hawaii any safer. It only poses to make criminals out of law abiding citizens. You probably did not know that a 12 guage shotgun would be illegal if you pass SB401. It is widely used by the police, military, for home protection, sports shooters, and collectors. Please do not pass SB401.

Sincerely,

Martha Kiyabu

Young Guns

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:07:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janessa Bonifacio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:09:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Correia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:14:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401. This bill is an infringement on the second amendment of the United States Constitution, and Article one; section seventeen of the Hawai'i State Constitution. SB401 is a solution for a problem that does not exist. If passed, SB401 will make criminals of law abiding citizens. The language and intent of this bill are unconstitutional.

SB401 has vague language, and is an effort to blanket ban large caliber firearms. This ban would include rifles and pistols, that are popular with competition and sports shooters. SB401 would also ban airsoft replicas, paint ball guns, and less lethal pepper ball guns and rifles. Law makers need to focus on public policies that make sense; that deal with criminal behavior and the criminal misuse of firearms, and not criminalize the law abiding citizens.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:20:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marcy katz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:23:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan chamberlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose sb401 as it is a direct violation to my 2nd amendment right

Joshua Hooper
91-1050 Apaa Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
808-673-0565
February 24, 2025

Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: OPPOSITION TO SB401 & SB308 – Firearms Restrictions

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee,

I am submitting this written testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bills 401 and 308, both of which seek to impose a ban on so-called “high-caliber” firearms and restrict magazine capacities to ten rounds or fewer. These bills represent an overbroad and unconstitutional infringement on the rights of law-abiding citizens, lack a substantial basis in crime prevention, and impose undue burdens on individuals who responsibly exercise their Second Amendment rights.

1. Constitutional Concerns The proposed legislation violates fundamental constitutional protections guaranteed under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as Article I, Section 17 of the Hawaii State Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed, most notably in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), that firearm restrictions must be consistent with the nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation. A ban on so-called “high-caliber” weapons and standard-capacity magazines does not meet this legal standard.

2. Lack of Empirical Support for Crime Reduction The assumption that these bans will meaningfully reduce violent crime is not supported by empirical data. Studies, including those from the U.S. Department of Justice, have shown that magazine capacity restrictions have no measurable effect on crime rates. Criminals, by definition, do not adhere to firearm regulations, and restrictions such as those proposed in SB401 and SB308 disproportionately burden lawful gun owners without addressing the root causes of violent crime.

3. Disproportionate Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens Many commonly owned firearms—used for lawful purposes such as self-defense, hunting, and sporting—fall under the vague and arbitrary restrictions proposed in these bills. The majority of modern firearms, including those utilized by millions of Americans, come standard with magazines exceeding ten rounds. Restricting magazine capacity disadvantages law-abiding individuals in self-defense scenarios, particularly against multiple attackers, while providing no tangible public safety benefit.

4. Enforcement Challenges and Legal Liabilities If enacted, SB401 and SB308 would present serious enforcement difficulties, potentially criminalizing thousands of otherwise law-abiding citizens for possessing firearms and magazines that have been legally owned for

decades. This raises concerns regarding ex post facto laws, due process violations, and potential Fifth Amendment takings claims. Moreover, it places an undue burden on law enforcement agencies that should be focusing on criminal activity rather than regulating responsible firearm ownership.

Conclusion Public safety is of paramount importance, and we all share a common goal of reducing unlawful violence. However, SB401 and SB308 are misguided measures that will do little to enhance public safety while significantly infringing upon the constitutional rights of Hawaii's citizens. I urge this committee to reject these bills and instead focus on policies that address criminal behavior rather than penalizing law-abiding residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Hooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Hooper" clearly distinguishable.

Joshua Hooper

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:44:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad apigo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I oppose this bill because it infringes on our second amendment rights"

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:54:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james Wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 SD1. You cannot ban guns that shoot 50 caliber. We are not a communist country. You should make it unlimited rounds and any ammo size since crime is going up and you guys dont care. Stop making policys that make us look like california, newyork or chicago. Those states are a dump!!!! Do you want us to be a dump to?? If you do leave Hawaii, Ill pay your flight!!!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:03:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to this bill. We have our 2nd amendment rights

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:08:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stafford Uemura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. In my opinion this targets law abiding citizens not criminals. I shoot long range rifle matches and if i ever wanted to shoot a .50 cal for long range competition i would not be allowed to do so if this passes. This only hurts citizens that follow the law, criminals dont care.

Senator Brandon Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary (JDC)
Hearing: Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 10:01 AM
Regarding: **SB401 SD1 (Relating to Firearms)**
Voter Position: OPPOSITION

Senators of the PSM Committee,

I express my continued **opposition** to **SB401 SD1 (Relating to Firearms)**.

Irrational Premise

SB401 SD1 hasn't changed much from its original draft wording and continues the same objective of criminalizing ownership of a rifle with no express justification aside from conjecture and hypothesis.

The Measure Still Bans Shotguns

The purposefully crafted wording in **SB401 SD1** would still ban lawfully acquired shotguns and criminalize shotgun owners with no valid basis. Shotguns can accommodate .50 caliber rounds. With the wording of **SB401 SD1**, all non-muzzle loaded shotgun owners would be penalized for their lawfully acquired shotguns without a real reason for the penalty. Despite the fact that shotguns are not expressly designed to fire .50 caliber rounds, they have the "capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher," as mentioned in **SB401 SD1**. The semantic design flaw of the **SB 401 SD1** is intentional since it is always introduced and gets challenged every year it resurfaces (under a different measure number).

No Valid Threat Doesn't Constitute Enhanced Public Protection

SB401 SD1, like the original draft, continues to fail the logic test once again in 2025. Without a justifiable threat, there is no justifiable need for a ban other than for the sake of virtue signaling. If baseless conjecture is still used to justify passage of **SB401 SD1**, then the conjecture .50 caliber rifles can preserve the lives of constituents against heavily armored criminals at some point in the future is still a sufficient conjecture to counter **SB401 SD1**.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony.

Respectfully,

Ryan C. Tinajero

Constituent of **Senate District 23**

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:17:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Zhang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:23:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Victor Scholz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha esteemed members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed bill banning .50 caliber and larger firearms. This legislation, while perhaps framed as a public safety measure, misses the mark and instead imposes an unjust burden on law-abiding citizens. Here’s why it deserves to be defeated:

First, .50 caliber firearms are not the crime wave they’re made out to be. Nationally, FBI crime data shows rifles of all types account for only about 3% of gun homicides—fewer than 400 annually in recent years—and .50 caliber weapons are a tiny fraction of that. In Hawaii, with its low violent crime rate compared to the mainland, there’s no evidence these firearms are driving any local problem. This ban targets a phantom threat while ignoring actual crime sources like illegal handguns.

Second, these firearms have legitimate uses. For some on our islands, especially in rural areas, .50 caliber rifles serve practical purposes—long-range shooting sports, hunting invasive species like axis deer or boar, or even preparing for worst-case scenarios in our isolated Pacific home. Their power is precisely why they’re valued by responsible owners, not a reason to ban them. Punishing lawful use because of theoretical misuse makes no sense.

Third, it’s a slippery slope for rights. The Second Amendment protects arms in common use, and .50 caliber rifles, like the Barrett models, have been legally owned by civilians for decades. Hawaii’s unique history—marked by a need for self-reliance after events like the 1893 overthrow—should remind us why preserving individual freedoms matters. This ban sets a precedent for chipping away at more rights under the guise of safety.

Finally, enforcement is impractical and wasteful. How will you track down every .50 caliber rifle or ammo stash? The state’s resources are better spent tackling real issues—mental health, drug trafficking, or illegal gun smuggling—not creating a new class of “criminals” out of law-abiding hobbyists or hunters. This bill solves nothing but costs plenty.

Please vote no. Focus on real solutions, not symbolic bans that penalize the innocent and leave the guilty unchecked.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Charles Scholz

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:29:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Terpstra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 due to infringement on the 2nd amendment.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:30:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this measure SB401 SD1 which prohibits guns that are military grade sniper tools, far more dangerous to life than can be justified by uses for hunting or owning and shooting for fun or sport.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:31:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives of the People of Hawai'i~

TYSVM for reading & reviewing these testimonies as a vital part of the process of vetting these bills, to give space for the voices of WE THE PEOPLE! Mahalo plenty!

I stand in strong OPPOSITION to SB 401 regarding rights to bear arms, which is a right covered by the Constitution of the United States of America. This proposed bill in one of the lesser states of the Union would strip we the people of our right to defend ourselves, our families & our properties. This is a matter of self-defense for those of us who are law-abiding citizens. As you know the non-law-abiding citizens already do what they want, this bill would further strip the law-abiding citizens which is the majority of the population that you represent. Never in the history of humanity has taking away the weapons of the citizenry ended well for the citizens. In fact, it has always spiraled into violent tyranny. No thank you.

Overall this is a radical gun grab that strips the law-abiding majority of your voters. No thank you.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose SB 401 and I ask you to do the same. Thank you!

Malama Pono,

Dawn O'Brien

Pres., HOPE HI, Inc.

Lifelong resident & taxpayer of State of Hawai'i

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:39:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah McRae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Leah McRae and I am a resident living in Waipahu. I support SB 401 as common sense weapon legislation. Military grade weapons are for the military. Keep Hawai'i safe by passing SB 401.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:40:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwayne Lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to SB401: An Unconstitutional Attack on Law-Abiding Gun Owners

Honorable members of the committee, Hawaii Senate Bill 401 (SB401) is an unconstitutional overreach that directly violates the rights of law-abiding citizens by arbitrarily banning firearms based on caliber size rather than actual misuse. This bill is not about public safety—it is a blatant attempt to disarm responsible gun owners while doing nothing to deter crime.

1. SB401 Criminalizes Law-Abiding Gun Owners

SB401 targets firearms simply because they fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, a category that includes common and legally owned firearms. Many shotguns, widely used for home defense, hunting, and sport shooting, exceed this caliber threshold. By enacting SB401, the government is not disarming criminals—it is criminalizing responsible citizens who have followed every legal requirement to own and operate their firearms safely.

2. No Evidence Supports the Ban

The foundation of SB401 is built on fear-mongering rather than facts. There is no significant data proving that .50 caliber firearms are used in violent crimes in Hawaii or anywhere else in the United States. These firearms are expensive, large, and almost exclusively used for lawful purposes, such as long-range target shooting and competitive marksmanship. SB401 is a solution in search of a problem, punishing gun owners for crimes they have never committed and never will.

3. A Direct Violation of the Second Amendment

The Supreme Court has consistently ruled against blanket firearm bans that fail to justify a substantial connection to public safety. In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), the Court affirmed that the right to bear arms is a fundamental constitutional right that cannot be arbitrarily restricted. SB401 is exactly the kind of unconstitutional infringement these rulings were meant to prevent—an emotionally driven law that disregards precedent and individual rights.

4. Sets a Dangerous Precedent for Future Gun Bans

This bill is not just about .50 caliber firearms. It sets a legal precedent that allows the state to ban firearms based on arbitrary classifications. Today, it's .50 caliber rifles—tomorrow, it could be any firearm that legislators deem "too powerful" or "unnecessary." This is a calculated step toward incremental disarmament, stripping citizens of their right to self-defense piece by piece.

5. SB401 Ignores the Real Issue: Criminal Behavior

Gun violence is not caused by responsible gun owners—it is caused by criminals who have no regard for the law. Instead of targeting criminals, SB401 focuses on restricting lawful firearm ownership. Meanwhile, Hawaii continues to struggle with rising crime rates, and this bill does nothing to address the root causes of violence. If lawmakers were serious about public safety, they would focus on enforcing existing laws against violent offenders rather than attacking the constitutional rights of their constituents.

Conclusion: SB401 Must Be Rejected

SB401 is a deceptive and unconstitutional attempt to strip law-abiding citizens of their rights under the guise of public safety. It criminalizes responsible gun owners, lacks any evidence of necessity, directly violates the Second Amendment, and sets a dangerous precedent for further disarmament. Hawaii lawmakers must reject SB401 and focus on real crime prevention efforts that target criminals, not the constitutional rights of its people.

I stand against SB401. I stand for the Second Amendment. I stand for the right to self-defense.

Respectfully,

Dwayne Lim

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:41:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to Hawaii SB401: An Unconstitutional Attack on Law-Abiding Gun Owners

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I stand against SB401. I stand for the Second Amendment. I stand for the right to self-defense.

Respectfully,

Kelly Lim

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:43:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fedor Polyakov	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee Members,

I respectfully oppose this bill. While I understand the intent to reduce firearm-related violence, I believe this approach misses the mark in addressing the broader causes of gun violence.

The vast majority of firearm owners use these weapons responsibly for lawful purposes, including target shooting and hunting. It is important to recognize that restricting firearms based solely on caliber or size will only impact those who abide by the law. Instead of imposing blanket restrictions that would burden lawful gun owners, we should focus on more targeted, effective measures.

I urge you to reconsider this provision and explore alternative solutions that are both more effective and respectful of constitutional rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:55:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ari Daniel Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB 401.

This bill would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms. I don't even own guns at the moment but I disagree with this bill as it would make it harder for me to buy firearms if I wanted to.

Mahalo,

Ari Smith

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:05:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neal Wakabayashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Neal Wakabayashi oppose SB401.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:11:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanu Shimaoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:13:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:15:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB401

Hawaii State Legislature

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong opposition** to Senate Bill 401, which seeks to ban firearms and rifles capable of firing .50 caliber or higher ammunition. While I recognize the intent behind this legislation, it fails to accomplish its stated goal of improving public safety. Instead, it **unjustly restricts the rights of law-abiding citizens, does nothing to prevent criminals from accessing firearms, and exposes the state to costly legal challenges that burden taxpayers without any demonstrable public benefit.**

SB401 Does Not Deter Crime or Disarm Criminals

One of the most fundamental issues with SB401 is that it does **not** address how criminals obtain or use firearms. According to data from the **U.S. Department of Justice**, criminals overwhelmingly acquire firearms through **illegal means**—including theft, straw purchases, and black-market sales.

If this bill’s intent is truly to enhance public safety, it should focus on policies that **target criminals** rather than law-abiding citizens. Measures such as:

- **Harsher penalties** for crimes committed with a firearm
- **Increased law enforcement efforts** to crack down on illegal firearm trafficking
- **Strengthening mental health and intervention programs**

would be far more effective than a **broad and arbitrary ban on a specific firearm caliber that is not commonly used in crimes.**

Fact: .50 Caliber Firearms Are Rarely Used in Crime

Despite their portrayal as “high-powered” weapons, .50 caliber firearms are **not commonly used in violent crimes**. FBI crime data indicates that:

- The **overwhelming majority of gun-related crimes involve handguns**, not rifles or large-caliber firearms.
- .50 caliber rifles, such as the Barrett M82, are **expensive and difficult to conceal**, making them **impractical for criminal use**.

Simply put, banning these firearms does nothing to **address the real sources of gun violence in our communities**.

The Right to Self-Defense & Hawaii’s Emergency Response Delays

A core principle of the **Second Amendment** is the right to **self-defense**. The **U.S. Supreme Court** has repeatedly affirmed that citizens have a constitutional right to bear arms for lawful purposes, including the protection of **themselves, their families, and their property**.

This right is particularly **critical in Hawaii**, where **emergency response times can be dangerously delayed** due to the state’s geography and law enforcement staffing challenges.

Fact: First Responder Response Times in Hawaii Can Exceed 30 Minutes

- **In Hawaii County**, large portions of rural communities experience **emergency response times exceeding 30 minutes**.
- According to national crime data, **the average police response time to an active crime nationwide is 7-10 minutes**—yet in rural Hawaii, response times can be **three to five times longer**.

In life-threatening situations—whether from **home invasions, violent crimes, or other emergencies**—residents **cannot rely on immediate law enforcement intervention**. They must have the legal means to protect themselves, especially in rural areas where **law enforcement presence is limited**.

SB401 disproportionately impacts those who live in these vulnerable areas by stripping away lawful self-defense options while doing nothing to address the **actual** sources of criminal activity.

SB401 Will Burden Taxpayers With Unnecessary Legal Costs

This bill is **not only unconstitutional** but will also result in **costly litigation at the expense of Hawaii’s taxpayers**.

Fact: Other States Have Faced Millions in Legal Costs Over Similar Bans

Several states have attempted to enact sweeping gun bans **similar to SB401**—and have faced **significant legal challenges and taxpayer-funded expenses** as a result.

- **Illinois’ Semiautomatic Weapons Ban:** In 2024, a federal judge ruled Illinois’ ban unconstitutional, leading to an **estimated \$2 million in legal fees and appeals costs**—a financial burden **carried by taxpayers**.
- **California’s Magazine Ban:** In 2023, a federal court struck down California’s **ban on high-capacity magazines**, after the state spent **over \$3 million in legal battles defending it**.
- **New York’s Handgun Licensing Restrictions:** After *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, the state had to **pay nearly \$5 million in litigation fees** after losing in court.

If SB401 is enacted, Hawaii will likely face **similar lawsuits** challenging the ban under the **Second Amendment and recent Supreme Court rulings** (*District of Columbia v. Heller* and *Bruen*).

Estimated Costs to Hawaii Taxpayers

Based on the legal expenses incurred by **other states**, defending SB401 in court could easily **cost Hawaii taxpayers between \$2 million and \$5 million**—a **waste of public funds** that could instead be allocated to:

- **Improving law enforcement resources**
- **Strengthening public safety initiatives**
- **Addressing pressing community needs**

Passing **legislation that is highly likely to be overturned** is not only irresponsible **but fiscally reckless**. The state should **not** be spending millions of taxpayer dollars defending an ineffective and unconstitutional law.

Conclusion: SB401 Should Be Rejected

SB401 is deeply flawed legislation that:

- **Fails to reduce crime** or prevent criminals from acquiring firearms.
- **Unjustly restricts law-abiding citizens** while ignoring the real causes of gun violence.
- **Endangers Hawaii residents** by limiting their ability to defend themselves in areas with **long emergency response times**.
- **Exposes taxpayers to millions of dollars in legal costs** for a law that is almost certain to be overturned in court.

Rather than passing a **broad and arbitrary ban**, I urge lawmakers to focus on policies that **actually enhance public safety**—such as stronger enforcement against illegal gun trafficking, improved mental health resources, and targeted criminal justice reforms.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to **reject SB401** and instead pursue measures that respect both **constitutional rights and public safety**.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Cole

Hawaii Resident

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:18:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tad Araki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I oppose SB401 as it infringes on my second amendment rights

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:38:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Max Peterson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill goes against the 2nd amendment!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:43:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I would like to communicate my strong opposition to Senate Bill 401 (SB 401).

SB 401 is an effort to blanket ban larger caliber firearms. This ban would include rifles and handguns that are popular with competition shooters and sportsman, including .50 BMGr rifles, .500 Smith & Wesson revolvers, and .50-caliber pistols like the Desert Eagle.

SB 401 could turn otherwise law-abiding citizens into felons, for possession of firearms that were lawfully acquired and not associated with any crime. We encourage the legislature to focus on sound public safety policies that focus on criminal behavior and criminal misuse of firearms, not continue to pile more restrictions on the law-abiding.

For the foregoing reasons and many more I request your opposition to SB 401.

David V

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:46:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Kilakila Tolentino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this bill SB401, because it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

sincerely,

Tony Kilakila Tolentino

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:11:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Duby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for accepting my comments in the utmost opposition to SB 401. As a resident of the State of Alaska, I am extending support to my ohana and gun-owning friends in the Islands, who will be declared criminals for possessing any firearm with a bore diameter of .50 caliber or larger should this wretched piece of anti-gun legislation pass. Apparently those who wrote it are ignorant of just how many firearm owners will be impacted by this bill, namely hunters who use shotguns. Shotguns come in a number of gauges, the most popular being the 20 and 12. Both, when compared to this ridiculous bill as it is written, would fall under the exceedingly broad definition of "any firearm .50 caliber or higher". To be clear, the only amendment to this bill that I would support is one that deletes every word and retracts it entirely, with a sincere apology to the people of the State of Hawaii for even thinking about banning common-use firearms under the guise of only targeting .50 caliber rifles. There is no justifiable basis for this in any respect. .50 caliber rifles pose no immediate danger; many are single-shot target rifles, at least the (relatively) affordable ones. Owning and operating a .50 caliber rifle, is so expensive, and access to ranges that allow for testing their long-range precision so rare, that their presence in Hawaii is naturally self-limiting. Again, these facts provide absolutely no basis for justifying a ban. My hope is that the legislators looking at this bill will come to their senses and vote NO.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:12:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:15:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benel Piros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose due to the fact that WE as LAW ABIDING citizens are subjected to more infringement on our rights where criminals DON'T follow any Laws period.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:26:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The government should not put limits to what type of firearms and ammunition I am able to purchase and own. This infringes on the rights of hunters, competition shooters, and collectors. Focus on punishing the criminals and not the law abiding citizens Second Amendment rights. Uphold your oath to the Constitution and oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:26:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt L.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unconstitutional.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:32:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Carvalho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this legislation as it does nothing at all but infringe upon law abiding citizens. No one is committing crimes with .50 caliber firearms. It also infringes upon our constitutional rights. There are citizens who already own .50 caliber firearms, will they be grandfathered in? Will they be compensated for their expense?

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:48:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bergin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill as it directly violates the second amendment and our freedoms granted by our nation.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:31:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Lamosao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:32:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark W Iobst II	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401. It infringes on the rights of gun owners, and will criminalize hunters, collectors, and sport shooters.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:43:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rozalynn Marae Erickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The proposed prohibitions on so-called “assault rifles,” “assault shotguns,” and .50 caliber rifles, as well as the expansion of bans on high-capacity detachable magazines, represent a clear and unconstitutional infringement on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans. Recent Supreme Court decisions, particularly *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* (2022), reaffirm that firearm regulations must be consistent with the historical understanding of the right to keep and bear arms. This proposal fails that test.

Unconstitutionality and Second Amendment Violation

The Second Amendment guarantees that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” The Supreme Court’s decision in *Bruen* established a clear standard for evaluating firearm regulations: any restriction must be “consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.” This means that unless a law is grounded in historical precedent from the time of the Founding, it is unconstitutional.

1. No Historical Basis for Banning Commonly Owned Firearms

- The firearms targeted in this proposal—semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles—are in common use by civilians for lawful purposes, including self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting.
- *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) held that banning firearms in “common use” violates the Second Amendment. The *Bruen* decision reaffirmed this principle, making it clear that broad bans on commonly owned firearms are unconstitutional.

2. Unlawful Expansion of Magazine Restrictions

- High-capacity magazines are widely owned and used for self-defense, home protection, and competitive shooting.

- There is no historical tradition of restricting magazine capacity; therefore, such restrictions fail the *Bruen* test.
- Recent federal court decisions, such as *Duncan v. Bonta* (2023), have found that bans on high-capacity magazines violate the Second Amendment under *Bruen*.

Supreme Court Precedent: Bruen and Its Impact

In *Bruen*, the Supreme Court struck down New York’s restrictive concealed carry law, ruling that gun regulations must be historically justified. The decision emphasized that modern firearm restrictions must align with historical traditions of gun ownership. The proposed prohibitions do not meet this requirement because:

- There is no historical tradition of banning entire categories of commonly used firearms.
- There is no precedent for restricting magazine capacities based on arbitrary limits.
- Firearm restrictions must be evaluated based on whether they respect the individual right to self-defense—a right that these bans severely infringe upon.

This proposal is a direct assault on the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens and contradicts clear Supreme Court precedent. By banning commonly used firearms and restricting magazine capacity, it imposes unconstitutional limitations on the Second Amendment. Given the legal clarity provided by *Bruen*, any such restrictions are bound to be struck down in court. Lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws and addressing criminal misuse of firearms rather than infringing on the rights of responsible gun owners.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:45:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allegra Giacchino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill. Why on earth would we want military-grade weapons of war in the hands of civilians?

I believe we have a collective responsibility to advocate for public safety here.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Allegra Giacchino

96816

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:55:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marvie Bustos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:02:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Fuller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill makes no sense and should not pass. Stop trying to save the world. When is the last time someone in the State of Hawaii has used .50 cal or larger in a crime? Never. If you look at the testimony that has been presented tells you what the people want. This is a waste of tax payers money, unconstitutional, and just makes no sense. I oppose this bill as a collector and user of firearms.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:04:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanine Acopan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSED!!!!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:18:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Oberhofer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB401, which seeks to prohibit the manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer, or acquisition of any firearm or rifle capable of firing ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloaders. This bill unjustly penalizes law-abiding citizens and infringes upon constitutional rights without demonstrable benefits to public safety.

Constitutional Concerns:

SB401 infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of Hawai'i residents. The right to bear arms includes the possession of firearms suitable for various lawful purposes, including hunting, sport shooting, and self-defense. Prohibiting firearms based solely on caliber size, without evidence of misuse, undermines this constitutional protection.

Lack of Evidence for Public Safety Improvement:

There is no substantial evidence indicating that firearms chambered in fifty caliber are disproportionately used in criminal activities. These firearms are typically employed by enthusiasts for long-range shooting sports and hunting. Banning them would have a negligible impact on crime rates while unjustly targeting responsible gun owners.

Economic Impact:

The proposed ban could adversely affect local businesses specializing in the sale and maintenance of firearms and related accessories. This economic burden extends to consumers who have legally invested in these firearms for recreational and sporting purposes.

Precedent and Comparisons:

It's important to note that federal law does not prohibit the ownership of fifty caliber firearms. Implementing such a ban at the state level could create inconsistencies and confusion among law-abiding gun owners and law enforcement agencies.

In conclusion, SB401 imposes unnecessary restrictions on responsible firearm owners, infringes upon constitutional rights, and lacks evidence supporting its efficacy in enhancing public safety. I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider this measure and focus on initiatives that address the root causes of crime without impeding the rights of lawful citizens.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:23:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce F Braun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:41:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph P Vesperas Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 because it is a violation of my Second Amendment rights.

Joseph Vesperas

Hilo Hawaii 96720

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:58:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure. This is a ridiculous ban that vilifies 50 caliber firearms which are not inherently any more dangerous than other calibers and chamberings of firearms. 50 caliber firearms are only viewed as being so dangerous because they are commonly used by the military and they are big and loud, but there are many more deadly cartridges out there that are totally legal for any civilian in the USA to own. There are more powerful cartridges with higher muzzle energy. There are cartridges that fire with more velocity. There are cartridges with more penetration. There are cartridges that are more aerodynamic and can be used to shoot longer distances.

This rule is also poorly written and would seemingly ban any firearm with a larger bore than .50 cal. Which would ban most shotguns out there which are commonly used for defense and hunting.

Barring intentional subterfuge, it can be reasonably assumed that the intent of SB401 isn't to ban shotguns, but that's not what the words in this bill mean in normal language. A shotgun is a firearm, and the most-common shotgun (12 gauge) has a "caliber" of .729". Shotguns are explicitly excluded in most other bills and laws of this sort. The nearly century-old National Firearms Act, which is the federal law on the matter, imposes additional restrictions on:

*any type of weapon by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, the barrel or barrels of which have a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter, **except a shotgun...***

Banning almost all shotguns would be so far beyond the Overton window found anywhere in the country, or even much of the world, that I feel silly even needing to oppose it. Shotguns are extremely common for sporting, hunting and self-defense purposes. Such a ban would be met with popular outrage and enormous judicial blowback.

Due to the fatuous language in this bill, I expect the bill to be amended and so I'm also compelled to also testify on what must be the intent behind the bill. The typical points against bans on *non-shotgun* 50 caliber firearms are:

A) the targeted firearms have extremely little practical use to a common criminal,

B) (*non-shotgun*) firearms above 50 caliber are already tightly restricted by federal law, so it's extremely capricious to move the legal limit from "can't be over 50 caliber" to "must be under 50 caliber". This language seeks to play an audaciously punitive game of whack-a-mole. 50 caliber bores have been standardized on largely because they've been the legally-defined upper limit; banning 50 caliber bores would make "499 caliber" bores the upper legal limit. This would put a strain on the legal firearms community to retool to very-slightly-smaller calibers, but afterwards there'd be a legal product functionally identical to what it used to be. I'd personally be compelled to sell my 50 caliber rifle and buy a slightly smaller rifle. Would I then need to trade that in for yet another slightly smaller rifle a year later? What'd be the point of this?

Please don't advance this bill, and also please insist that legislators write better bills.

-Cassidy Kohout, Kihei

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:11:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Casey Nakama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:13:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401

This is an unconstitutional infringement of the 2nd Amendment. Judging by the SOCTUS Bruen standard of text, history, and tradition, these rifles would fall under the 2nd amendment for militia use and owned by the people.

Please do not let fear cloud your judgement on this topic as 50 caliber rifles are demonized in the media, but aren't used by criminals and terrorists in the US despite being available for sale for over 30 years.

I do not own a 50 caliber rifle but I fear what will come next. Will you attempt to ban firearms I own next?

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake

toddykutake@gmail.com

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:19:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phillip	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill 401sb

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:28:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Branden Hun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:39:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William chase	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill very much.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:48:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, my rights shall not be infringed.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:56:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Andres	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 because it is another infringement on our constitutional rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:07:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:13:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:14:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Coral Shaw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to strongly oppose SB401 and SB308, which threaten our Second Amendment rights and our fundamental ability to protect ourselves and our families. These bills do not address the real issue at hand – they only disarm law-abiding citizens, leaving us more vulnerable to crime.

PEOPLE KILL PEOPLE, NOT GUNS. Stripping law-abiding citizens of their constitutional right to bear arms does nothing to stop criminals who already operate outside of the law. In fact, **99% of gun violence is committed with illegal guns, not legally purchased firearms.** These bills do not target the source of the problem – they only punish responsible gun owners who follow the law.

If the intention is to combat violence and improve public safety, then focus should be placed on the root cause: **gang violence and illegal firearms.** Hawaii’s crime problem is driven by gangs who operate with no regard for the law. Disarming good people does nothing to deter bad actors – it only emboldens them, knowing their victims are defenseless.

Passing SB401 and SB308 would be a **totalitarian overreach**, undermining our constitutional rights and setting a dangerous precedent for government control. This is not the answer to making our communities safer. If the goal is truly to reduce violence, then efforts should be directed toward dismantling gang networks, increasing penalties for illegal gun possession, and better law enforcement resources to tackle organized crime.

Do not punish the law-abiding citizens of Hawaii for the actions of criminals. We deserve the right to **protect ourselves and our loved ones.** I urge you to **oppose SB401 and SB308** and instead focus on real solutions that address the actual issues facing our state.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Coral Shaw

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:38:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Collins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sean Michael Collins. I am an NRA Certified Firearms Instructor. I strongly oppose SB401 because it is a complete violation of our constitutional rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:41:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laetitia Thibault Santoro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Laetitia Thibault Santoro. I am writing as a citizen, as a mom and as a retail professional.

I support SB 401. We don't need that 50 caliber firearm.

I believe it is harmful to our community.

best regards,

laetitia Thibault Santoro

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:48:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicia Nohealani Otsuji	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it is UNCONSTITUTIONAL!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:48:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas M. McCamley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

According to the office of the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i, for years now there have been more lawfully registered guns in this state than the total resident population, yet Hawai'i continues to rank at the very bottom percentiles of gun crime nationally according to FBI statistics.

Gun owners in Hawaii perennially demonstrate their fidelity to the rule of law and the Constitution as citizens of the United States, yet, just as consistently, there are some state legislators who, as a matter of course, incessantly introduce unconstitutional measures the sole purpose of which are to torment and deprive the citizens of Hawaii of their Bill of Rights. SB401 is a clear case in point, as there is no countervailing public policy consideration whatsoever for firearms such as common shotguns, used for hunting, sport and home protection, which are now and historically have always been perfectly legal, to be made illegal overnight by some diktat like SB401.

It is a profoundly disturbing thing that we have legislators in this state who openly show such contempt for its citizens and the constitution they took an oath to uphold.

Depending on the survey, somewhere between 40% and 70% of the population here is seriously considering leaving this state.

This is incontrovertible evidence of the effects of decades of anti-business, anti-growth and increasingly anti-constitutional governance as exemplified by measures such as SB401 - and so the people simply have no choice but to vote with their feet, and they are doing so in increasing numbers.

Bills like SB401 simply accelerate a fiscal death spiral of the ruling party's own making, as they day by day take away reasons for citizens to continue to call an increasingly hostile Hawaii, home.

We call on those legislators of goodwill, who recall their oath of office and retain their commitment to the lawful rights of the people, to vote against all bills of the ilk of SB401, and keep the focus of the Legislature on pulling this state out of the existential crisis it is in.

Mahalo

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:55:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymund Bragado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm a retired service member with two combat tours in Iraq 2003 and 2008. I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. The same oath every law makers took.

Please do not infringe on our second amendment.

Mahalo,

Raymund Bragado

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:12:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Foth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB308 which Expands the current ban on handgun magazines

Steven Foth

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:18:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl Laugerbaum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to communicate my strong opposition to Senate Bill 401 (SB 401).

SB 401 is an effort to blanket ban larger caliber firearms. This ban would include rifles and handguns that are popular with competition shooters and sportsman, including .50 BMG rifles, .500 Smith & Wesson revolvers, and .50-caliber pistols like the Desert Eagle.

SB 401 could turn otherwise law-abiding citizens into felons, for possession of firearms that were lawfully acquired and not associated with any crime. We encourage the legislature to focus on sound public safety policies that focus on criminal behavior and criminal misuse of firearms, not continue to pile more restrictions on the law-abiding.

For the foregoing reasons and many more we request your opposition to SB 401.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:22:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel B	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This law would ban many different types of firearms that law abiding citizens use to provide food for their ohanas via hunting. It will also ban firearms that law abiding citizens use to protect their families at home. This law will not reduce gun violence in Hawaii as most of those crimes are committed with handgun calibers. This is clear government overreach which harms law abiding citizens. A progressive society should aim to keep people out of prisons, not to fill them.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:43:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanette Cruz-Tongpalan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it infringes on our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:45:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Moyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401. SB401 does not support the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:47:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Another unconstitutional bill. Please encourage enforcement of current laws and get real criminals off the streets and give them good rehab programs.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:50:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terence Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard Vice Chair and members of the Judiciary Committee

Aloha, My name is Terence Lee and I live on the Winward side of Oahu where I grew up. I supprt this bill. I am a gun violence survivor. It was a Sunday evening before Christams. I was at work. It was festive and busy. Then a man walks in brandishing a gun. I was shot 5 times before the police ended the shooters life. My life was upended. I do remember not knowing what kind of gun it was that shot me. My knowledge was based on what I saw on TV and movies. It was a pistol. I had no idea what calliber it was. I found out later it was a .22. You put a dot before the number. The odd thing to me was that I was told more than once I was lucky. Lucky it was only a 22 caliber. 4 of my shots were almost point blank. The bullets went in and out. If it had been a 50 caliber pistol or higher I would have a very different story here. A 22 caliber pistol caused so much damage and pain. That "little .22" took away years of my life. It also opened a door to an aspect of gun ownership I had little knowledge of. I have watched more closely than most the gun violence increase every year in the US. It's been 32 years since my shooting. Hawaii should remain a strict gun law state, We are a Family Tourist Destination. These high caliber weapons do not belong here.

Thank you for reading my testimony

Mahalo,

Terence Lee

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:52:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Lefiti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401.

It is a violation of second amendment.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:55:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julian Tongpalan Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Infringes on my rights as a law abiding citizen of the United States of America

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:00:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DAVE SMITH	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a member of the Big Island Community I implore you to vote no on these bills.

Gun magazine bans, which limit the number of rounds a firearm can hold, are often proposed as a way to reduce gun violence, particularly in mass shootings. However, there's a case to be made that they don't work as intended, and here's why.

First, the practical impact on shooters is minimal. Reloading a firearm takes seconds—experienced shooters can swap magazines in under two seconds, and even novices can do it quickly with minimal practice. In a mass shooting scenario, where victims are often unarmed and chaos reigns, this brief pause doesn't meaningfully hinder the attacker or provide a window for intervention. Look at the 2012 Aurora theater shooting: the shooter used a 100-round drum magazine, which notoriously jammed, yet he still fired 76 rounds by switching to other weapons. A ban on high-capacity magazines wouldn't have stopped him—he adapted on the spot.

Second, enforcement is a nightmare. Millions of standard-capacity magazines (typically 10-30 rounds) are already in circulation, legally owned by civilians. The ATF estimated in 1994, during the federal assault weapons ban, that there were tens of millions of these magazines out there. No buyback or confiscation program could realistically collect them all, especially since many owners wouldn't comply. Criminals, who don't follow laws by definition, would keep or source them illegally anyway. The 1994-2004 federal ban saw no measurable drop in gun homicides, per studies like the 2004 DOJ report, partly because pre-ban magazines stayed widely available.

Third, the focus on magazine size ignores the bigger picture of gun violence. Most gun deaths—over 60% in the U.S., according to CDC data—are suicides, where magazine capacity is irrelevant. Homicides, often tied to gang activity or domestic disputes, typically involve far fewer rounds than any magazine limit would restrict. A 2013 study from the FBI found that the average number of shots fired in criminal assaults is under 4. Mass shootings, while horrific, are statistically rare, making up less than 1% of gun deaths annually. Targeting magazines feels like a solution mismatched to the problem.

Lastly, bans spark workarounds. Shooters can carry multiple guns or magazines—Virginia Tech

(2007) saw 174 rounds fired with 10- and 15-round magazines, legally compliant at the time. 3D printing now lets anyone make high-capacity magazines at home, bypassing laws entirely. Tech's only gotten better since then.

The argument isn't that magazine bans are inherently bad policy—just that they don't deliver the promised results. They're a feel-good measure that doesn't address root causes or adapt to real-world behavior. Data and history suggest the juice isn't worth the squeeze.

Thank you for your review and no vote.

Mahalo,

Dave Smith

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:04:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Jensen III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Legislature,

Why is there a constant moving of the goal posts for so many of our rights already outlined in our Constitution? Why do you continue to ignore the voices of your constituents, the people who you represent, and the people who pay your salaries. Why do you continue to pass legislation against law abiding citizens? I strongly oppose SB401.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:09:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Norberto Dumo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

There's a lot of people here in Hawaii who uses these caliber to hunt for food to feed their family and friends. Please reconsider and introduce Bill that will target criminals and not law abiding citizens.

Thank you

Norberto Dumo

Hilo HI 96720

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:12:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB 401 SUPPORT

Good afternoon Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Senator Chang, Senator San Buenaventura, and Senator Awa:

My name is Terriann Mohideen, I am a mother and a resident of Hawaii. I urge you to support SB 401. Firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher are weapons of war that we do not want civilians owning in our state. The Department of Law Enforcement in Hawaii supports this law in the interest of public safety. Please help keep us safe by passing this bill. Thank you.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:14:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neil Wehrsig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose SB401as this infringes on my 2nd Ammendement rights as a US Citizen.

Thank you

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:17:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:25:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB401

[SB401](#) would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms.

These firearms are not on the restricted list of firearms by the ATF and are legally allowed to be owned by a U.S. citizen.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:29:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea L W Fruggiero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 401, SD 1 - 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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

Andrea Fruggiero

Waikoloa Village, HI

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:36:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Hawkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 401 is an endeavor to blanket ban larger caliber firearms. This ban would include rifles and handguns that are popular with competition shooters and sportsman, including .50 BMG rifles, .500 Smith & Wesson revolvers, and .50-caliber pistols like the Desert Eagle. Not to mention that as written, this proposed ban would include the most common hunting/sporting shotguns (12, 16 and 20ga), which are above the .50 limit of this ban.

SB 401 would turn countless otherwise law-abiding citizens, hunters, high school athletes, and many more into felons, merely for possession of firearms that were lawfully acquired and never associated with any crime. I encourage the legislature to focus on creating sound public safety policies that focus on criminal behavior and criminal misuse of firearms, not continue to assault the right of the people by creating more restrictions on the law-abiding.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:37:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifford Deanson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB401 because it infringes on our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:40:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Haught-Aliotti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose because this goes against individuals second amendment rights. We the people should be able to obtain any kind of firearm we want if we go through the proper channels.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:43:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheryl Summers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:44:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luanna H Meyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to prohibit 50 caliber firearms. There is no good reason for these firearms to be in the hands and homes of ordinary civilians. They are not designed for hunting, they are designed to kill and/or wound human beings in warfare or dangerous police work. If anyone has a penchant to own and use such weapons, they should volunteer for the military and for their police force.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:45:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erick Allende	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as its a violation of our constitutional rights to bare arms

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:47:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Stenaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to communicate my strong opposition to Senate Bill 401 (SB 401). SB 401 is an effort to ban larger caliber firearms to include ones used legally by our state's citizens. This ban would include rifles, shotguns and handguns that are popular with competition shooters and those who hunt and enjoy the shooting sports.

One glaring issue with SB 401 is that shotguns are not excluded. Shotguns are used for hunting and self-defense legally in Hawai'i and every state in the United States. Shotguns provide much needed food for our citizens and are of limited range and perfect for protecting a home. There are over 600,000 shotguns sold every year in the United States to include Hawaii. This fact will lead to SB 401 being overturned by higher courts if it is passed.

This bill will have no impact in reducing crime but will make otherwise law-abiding citizens into felons, for possession of firearms that were lawfully acquired and not associated with any crime. I encourage the legislature to focus on sound public safety policies that focus on criminal behavior, reduction of drug use and criminal misuse of firearms. Do not continue to pile more restrictions on the citizens of Hawaii. For the foregoing reasons I request your opposition to SB 401

Sincerely,

Joe Stenaka

Waikiki

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:48:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Iobst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop trying to make law abiding citizens criminals. People using these firearms maliciously will do so whether or not the firearm is legal! STOP TREADING ON MY 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS! I oppose SB401!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:56:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas M. Power	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 401, SD 1 - 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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:56:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan roldan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

This bill seeks to make common calibers used for hunting and sporting purposes illegal. Most shotguns used for hunting if game birds and larger game have a nominal bore size greater than .50 inches in diameter and have been in common use for hunting and law enforcement from before we were a country let alone a state. There has not been any crime committed with a so called .50 caliber firearm that would warrant a need for an outright ban. Military grade .50 caliber firearms are a far cry from what the public uses for everyday use.

Please dont make common everyday firearms illegal vote no to this bad bill

Thank you for your time

Nathan Roldan

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:58:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If someone is a legal owner of one of these firearms and you pass a Hawaii state law that has nothing to do with being illegal - you are the problem not the firearm. Please don't make law abiding citizens felons with this bill. You need more education on what is being introduced you should ask.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:04:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Aguiar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it infringes on our second amendment rights

George Aguiar

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:07:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William J M. Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let me quote a NJ State Senator when that state banned 50 caliber firearms:

“These are weapons of war that may serve the needs of our armed forces and police SWAT teams but they make no sense for hunters, sportsmen or for personal protection,” said Senator Lesniak. “They are so powerful they can take down low-flying aircraft, penetrate armored vehicles and disable fast-moving boats. They belong on the battlefield or in special police actions, not in the hands of those who shouldn’t have them and not for civilian use in our communities.”

I agree with the sensible legislators of New Jersey. So should you!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:15:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh Lockhart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:18:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlee Kamakaala-Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this law and I hope you will vote to oppose it also.

This law is very flawed as written. It would ban all .50 caliber firearms and larger.

.50 BMG firearms may not be the most practical for everyday hunting or target shooting. But they are constitutionally protected by the second amendment and legal to own in the United States.

But this law goes farther in that it has the potential to ban all firearms greater than .50 cal. Which includes almost all shotguns and even many black powder firearms used for hunting.

please vote no. Mahalo

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:21:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawaii is the Aloha State. Hawaiian culture is about aloha, is not about violent gun culture. Military weapons have no place in civilian life. It is an absurd world that thinks this is okay in any sense, and where it is okay, it is a violent world.

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. **SB 401, SD1** is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical.

Please protect Hawaii citizens, and this includes our keiki, from gun violence and support SB 401.

With great appreciation, mahalo for considering my opinions.

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chairman
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairman Chairman K. Rhoads; Vice Chairman M. Gabbard,

I am writing to register my STRONG OPPOSITION to Bill SB401 (all forms put forth to date), the proposed legislation on the banning of all modern firearms with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher.

I oppose this bill for many reasons. To enumerate a few:

- 1) This bill will do nothing to prevent violent criminals from using such firearms to commit crimes anywhere in the State. Violent criminals pay no attention to laws or restrictions of any kind, and thus such a law only affects the law abiding who would not misuse firearms for criminal purposes. This, clearly, is not rational.
- 2) This bill attempts to ban an entire class of firearms: namely, those modern weapons with a caliber above the arbitrary value of fifty caliber. The Supreme Court has held that arms which are commonly possessed by citizens for lawful purposes **may not be banned**. There are hundreds of thousands of pistols and rifles possessing the characteristics specified in this legislation, and owned today by U.S. citizens for lawful purposes. There is nothing "magical" about the value of fifty caliber. Such weapons are not classified by existing rules as "destructive devices". Clearly, according to Supreme Court ruling, such firearms may NOT be banned.
- 3) The attempt to pass legislation which is itself forbidden under The Constitution and as clarified by the US Supreme Court sets a very bad example. Because it puts forth the idea that certain groups in our Nation are above the Law of the Land. This is a very dangerous slippery slope. Laws must be consistent with the Constitution, and must apply to all, equally. Otherwise they are meaningless.

So. PLEASE vote AGAINST this bill. It is not only bad policy, but it also blatantly violates the supreme law of the land, which is the Bill of Rights as enshrined in The Constitution of the United States.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell Price
831 Lower Kimo Drive
Kula, Hawaii 96790
808-763-9653
rnfrmprice@gmail.com

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:24:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 because it violates our constitutional rights to bear arms for self-defense.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:24:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Yamamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose, meaningless continued infringement on 2nd Amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:30:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahulili Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because, 1, the language is too broad and could potentially include firearms that hunters use for hunting which provides food for their families. 2, it is an infringement on our second amendment rights.

Mahalo!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:30:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laney Azevedo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it infringes on our second amendment rights.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:38:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have the Right to bear arms.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:41:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ryan hopf	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This law is very poorly written and shows a clear lack of basic firearm knowledge. It does absolutely *nothing to combat gun violence or violent crime*. Banning certain types of firearms unfairly penalizes law-abiding citizens like myself while doing nothing to stop criminals who will always find other ways to obtain such firearms by illegal means.

Myself and countless others *commonly use* the types of firearms targeted by this bill to protect ourselves and our homes.

This ban will only further punish responsible citizens like me.

Please do your duty and vote in alignment with the *will of the people* and vote *NO*.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:42:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Ramirez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Opposition to SB 401 SD1

As an American who cherishes the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution, I stand firmly against any legislation that undermines the Second Amendment. The right to keep and bear arms is not just a privilege—it's a fundamental pillar of individual liberty and self-defense. History shows that disarming law-abiding citizens doesn't stop violence; it leaves them vulnerable to those who don't follow laws in the first place. I've seen firsthand how responsible gun ownership fosters safety and independence in my community—whether it's a single mother protecting her family or a hunter providing for his. Every restrictive gun law chips away at our ability to exercise that right, handing power to bureaucrats instead of the people. The data backs this up: places with stricter gun control often see higher crime rates, not lower. I urge lawmakers to respect the Constitution and trust citizens over control. Our rights aren't negotiable.

Lawrence Ramirez

Kailua Kona, Hawaii

lardg@yahoo.com

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:46:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph hudsons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Shall not be infringed

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:48:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
steven lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 401.

This Bill would make popular hunting bullets illegal.

Some states prohibit the use of lead bullets for hunting due to the toxicity of lead in our environment. I don't use lead bullets in my hunting rifles because I don't want to feed lead-tainted meat to my family. I use nonlead hunting bullets which are typically made of copper and are designed to fragment to effectively, and mercifully put down game. If a bullet does not expand/fragment upon hitting game, it would just "pencil through" the animal resulting in a wounded animal that would run off to die a slow and painful death.

This Bill would make popular hunting bullets illegal. This Bill would take a step backward and discourage the use of lead-free bullets in Hawaii with the unintended results of introducing toxic lead into our environment and in the game meat the hunters harvest in Hawaii.

SB401 would arbitrarily make 50 caliber and larger firearms illegal. Large caliber firearms have the lowest use in crimes. Smaller calibers are used in more crimes. This bill would infringe on our personal freedom and our right to bear arms while doing nothing to reduce crime. It is apparently a mis-guided attempt to solve a problem that doesn't exist by restricting our personal freedom.

Other provisions of SB401 also violate our rights under the Constitution.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 401.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:48:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dale Hayama	Testifying for Young Guns	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly oppose SB401. Fifty caliber and larger firearms have existed for well over a hundred years. They have been used for hunting since the 1800s. They are a common place here in America and Hawaii. Most of the shotguns in existence would fall in this category. Most of them are over fifty caliber in size. Owners use them for self defense, hunting and sporting purposes. These proposed bans have all failed in the past and proven to be unnecessary and ineffective. As for the .50cal. rifle or larger in particular, to this date and to my knowledge, there has been no crime ever committed by one. Please stop going after law-abiding citizens and go after the criminals! Thank you!

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:50:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Plank	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Kenneth Plank Honolulu, HI, 96814 Date: February 26, 2025 To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature, I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to Senate Bill 401 (SB401), which seeks to ban all firearms calibers exceeding .50 caliber. While I recognize the legislature’s aim to promote public safety, I believe this bill is misguided, overly restrictive, and fails to address the actual drivers of firearm-related issues in Hawaii. Firstly, firearms chambered in calibers above .50 are not commonly associated with criminal activity in our state or nationwide. These firearms—often used for specialized purposes such as long-range shooting, hunting large game, or historical collecting—are typically owned by law-abiding enthusiasts who follow strict regulations. Banning them outright penalizes responsible citizens without evidence that such a measure would reduce violence. Data from law enforcement and crime statistics consistently show that smaller, more concealable calibers dominate in illegal activities, not the larger calibers targeted by SB401. Secondly, this bill overlooks the practical uses of these firearms. For example, some residents rely on calibers above .50 for hunting invasive species like feral boars, which pose a significant threat to Hawaii’s ecosystems and agriculture. Such firearms are often the most effective tools for this purpose. A blanket ban would hinder these efforts, potentially exacerbating environmental and economic challenges without a clear public safety benefit. Moreover, SB401 raises constitutional concerns. The Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms, and recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings have reaffirmed that this right extends to firearms in common use for lawful purposes. Large-caliber firearms, while less common than handguns or rifles in smaller calibers, are legally owned and used responsibly across the country. This bill risks infringing on these protected rights, inviting legal challenges that could burden the state unnecessarily. Finally, the proposal lacks a clear connection to Hawaii’s specific needs. Our state already has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, yet violent crime persists due to factors like illegal trafficking, socioeconomic issues, and mental health gaps. A ban on calibers over .50 addresses none of these root causes and instead imposes an arbitrary restriction on a small group of law-abiding residents. I urge you to reject SB401 and focus instead on practical, evidence-based solutions—such as enhanced enforcement of current laws, community safety programs, or mental health initiatives—that tackle crime without unduly restricting individual freedoms. Thank you for considering my perspective. I am available to discuss this further if it would assist your deliberation. Sincerely,^[L]_[SEP] Kenneth Plank

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:54:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan Fergerstrom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 as it is a violation of second amendment rights and serves no legitimate purpose.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:58:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cayce Rosario	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:08:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Fukuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:26:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keleb I. Paglinawan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed this bill because its violating the people's constitutional rights.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:28:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Gillis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Roy Gillis strongly oppose and disagree with this bill (SB401) as it goes against my (along with many others) 2nd amendment right.

Roy Gillis

Keaau, Hawaii 96749

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:34:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 this clearly violates 2nd amendment rights. This is a gungrab to disarm law abiding citizens.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:52:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard W. Adams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Hawaii State Senate Representative(s)

Dear Chair:

As a citizen of Hawaii for 50 years, I would like to communicate my strong opposition to Senate Bill 401 (SB 401).

SB 401 is an effort to blanket ban larger caliber firearms. This ban would include rifles and handguns that are popular with competition shooters and sportsman, including .50 BMG rifles, .500 Smith & Wesson revolvers, and .50-caliber pistols like the Desert Eagle.

SB 401 could turn otherwise law-abiding citizens into felons, for possession of firearms that were lawfully acquired and not associated with any crime. I encourage the legislature to focus on sound public safety policies that focus on criminal behavior and criminal misuse of firearms, not continue to pile more restrictions on the law-abiding.

For the foregoing reasons and many more I request your opposition to SB 401.

Mahalo for your efforts to retain our citizens 2A Rights

Richard W Adams

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roanne Abe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

I am a woman, a mom, a businesswoman, a voter, and a concerned citizen.

Having the ability to protect myself and others from severe bodily injury, death, rape, forceable sodomy or kidnapping is key to being and feeling safe as a woman, a mom and a business owner. A shotgun (20 gauge or 12 gauge) is key component in my home defense plan as it allows me to protect myself without endangering my neighbors. This bill would take away this key component in my home defense plan, and I would be unable to defend myself until the police arrive. The police force is currently understaffed by hundreds of positions, and they cannot be expected to defend concerned citizens like myself on a consistent basis.

Furthermore, no grandfather clause is allowed in this bill, so law-abiding citizens possessing shotguns would be felons.

I respectfully ask you to oppose SB401 because it prevents me from protecting myself and has no grandfather clause.

Thank you,

Roanne.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:10:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Pleas read that thing called the Constitution of the United States of America. In the back there is also a Bill of Rights, that are guarenteed to the People of the united states.

Here's how the 2nd Amendment reads: A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear Arms, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

These brilliant founders knew about people such as yourself. They used the word "arms" to insure as the weapons changed over time, that those weapons would be included.

STOP with the Unconstitutional Bills. Either you are uneducated or you are purposely warring against the founding documnets, the Consitution is the highest law of the land. Ingnoance of the law is no excuse.

What should be the penalty for public servants who do this?

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:13:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Abe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:17:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keenan Place-Puaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong opposition for this bill.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:21:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly oppose this bill!!!

Any bill that is geared towards 2nd amendment rights is rightfully wrong. And any gov't that tries to take away this amendment or find a loop hole that will control guns from being owned by law abiding citizens is gov't overreach and **WRONG**. We have this right for a reason and why our forefathers created it. To protect us the people from a tyrannical controlling government which you are slowly creeping towards.

The solution you're looking for is to find a way to make owning a gun safer. So more education on gun ownership and use. More safety requirements before owning a gun such as a gun use and safety class. More training hours required. Tax ammo more. Better and more thorough background checks. There's a lot better solutions that just stripping away bits and pieces of our second amendment b/c you found a loop hole or think b/c you're gov't you can do what you want without listening to the **PEOPLE** you actually work for.

Criminals will still find a way to illegally own and use guns of any kind. Look at drugs. Most are still illegal but yet millions still get them and use them and distribute them. So you're actually making it less safe for law abiding citizens by stripping away rights to protect ourselves.

OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE SB401!!!

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:41:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Pikini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:54:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
s shimoda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Please focus on enforcing the current laws instead of creating new ones.

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 11:56:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phil Davidson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Simple, this is a clear violation of our second amendment rights. Well, you sit in your cool air-conditioned offices, protected by arm guards. The people of Hawaii are at risk of violent crimes with little to no means to protect ourselves. There are more protections for criminals than there are for the people you serve.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:01:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicolas Dramisino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose all anti gun laws.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:17:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB 401, SD1 is an important step in the right direction to protect our citizens. Prohibiting firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of 50-caliber or higher (with certain exclusions) is critical. These are military grade weapons that have no place in civilian life.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:31:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No thank you!! Again, no touch God-given liberties!! Please reread the Constitution & Bill of Rights!!! GOD KNOWS & SEES ALL!!

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:43:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac croydon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a violation of our second amendment rights. I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:00:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Woodward	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 SD1.

If passed, this bill will be a clear violation of my constitutional rights granted to me by the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:08:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winfrey Pablo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB401,

Law abiding citizens want to exercise their 2nd ammendment rights, knowing full well that it is a responsibility, education, discipline, and training. Many of the restrictions that this bill proposes already wants to take away calibers that are legal and in use for hunting and self defense. I would rather see that we enforce the laws that are already in place.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:12:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyndel C Cabatu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen and gun owner, I strongly oppose bill sb401. If not only infringes on my rights, it does nothing against criminals.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:28:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Conol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss Hawaii's SB401 Bill which seeks to ban firearms and rifles that can fire ammunition above .50 Caliber. My opposition to this bill stems from its infringement upon our Second Amendment rights. While I recognize that the legislation intends to enhance public safety and lower the danger of disastrous incidents, I think that banning these firearms entirely may not represent the best solution.

Our focus should be on developing integrated approaches to tackle the root problems of gun violence instead of banning particular types of firearms. The approach includes mental health support provision along with law enforcement enhancement and responsible firearms education delivery. Understanding the complexities of gun ownership became necessary through my firsthand experiences.

Many responsible gun owners who focus on safety and training can become essential partners in gun policy discussions. I recognize that specific firearms with larger calibers find legitimate use cases in activities like sport shooting and hunting. The banning of these weapons could create unfair consequences for citizens who use them responsibly. A large portion of gun owners should not be blamed for firearm violence because only a small group of people who misuse guns require stronger rules.

While the SB401 Bill in Hawaii was established to enhance safety measures it remains evident to me that addressing gun violence requires a broader and more integrated strategy. By prioritizing public safety alongside responsible gun ownership rights, we can achieve a solution through focused education, mental health initiatives, and enforcement instead of complete bans.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 2:13:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karl Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose SB401. It does nothing for public safety. It only further harasses the law abiding citizens who follow and respect the word of the law. I have not heard or seen any person, aircraft or anything at all being killed by a .50 cal projectile. I have only seen it in Hollywood movies.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 2:35:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maverick Quartero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill violates our 2nd Ammendment rights and restricts law abiding citizens from owning common caliber weapons. Shotgun shells are larger caliber ammunition than 50 Caliber, this would make most shotguns illegal. As you may know, shotguns are a common home defense weapon. I feel the lack of firearm knowledge attributes to the introduction of this Bill. Any Caliber weapon can cause harm or death, it is the intent of the individual that determines its danger. There's a reason we have speed limits versus limiting the speed potential of every vehicle. The individual decides to speed. The vehicle's capabilities, whether 120mph or 200mph, does not matter. We as a society no longer hold people accountable for their actions, but seek to blame inanimate objects. This is not freedom. This does not make people safer.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 3:42:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason acosta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

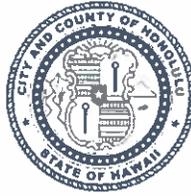
Aloha, im writing to oppose bill SB401as this goes against our 2nd ammendment right as a US citizen. Statistics have also shown places that have limited their magazine capacity, crime rates have not gone down and its just is unfair for the law abiding citizens. Mahalo

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • WEBSITE: www.honolulu.org

LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE **CL-DNK**

February 27, 2025

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 401, S.D. 1, Relating to Firearms

I am Carlene Lau, Major of the Records and Identification Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD appreciates the intent of Senate Bill No. 401, S.D. 1, Relating to Firearms, and offers the following concerns.

This bill would add to the list of prohibited weapons to include any firearm capable of firing ammunition of .50 caliber and higher, excluding antique pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloaders. This complete ban would affect existing gun owners for these types of firearms.

The HPD prefers the language in Senate Bill No. 600, Relating to Firearms, specifically pertaining to the proposed changes to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 134-8, Ownership, etc., of automatic firearms, silencers, etc., prohibited; penalties, for .50 caliber and higher firearms.

The HPD appreciates the committee's consideration of our comments regarding Senate Bill No. 401, S.D. 1, Relating to Firearms, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police

Captain Arnold Sagucio 
For Carlene Lau, Major
Records and Identification Division

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, February 27, 2025
TIME: 10:01 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
TIMESLOT: JDC

PHOTO ID REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE TO THE STATE CAPITOL
BUILDING HOURS: 7AM TO 5PM, MONDAY - FRIDAY

A live stream of all Senate Standing Committee meetings will be available on the [Senate YouTube Channel](#).

AGENDA

The following measure(s) were previously heard in their respective subject matter committees:

<u>SB 401, SD1</u> _____ (SSCR552) <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO FIREARMS. Includes any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols and revolvers, and muzzleloaders, in the list of prohibited weapons. Effective 1/1/2026. (SD1)	PSM, JDC
<u>SB 308, SD1</u> _____ (SSCR555) <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO FIREARMS. Expands the ban on pistols with a detachable magazine with over a ten-round capacity to any firearm with a detachable magazine with over a ten-round capacity. Effective 1/1/2026. (SD1)	PSM, JDC
<u>SB 382</u> _____ (SSCR186) <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO PROCUREMENT. Prohibits a procurement officer from disclosing a competing offeror's proposal or evaluation score, except the summary of scores, during a debriefing requested by a non-selected offeror. Authorizes the disclosure of a competing offeror's proposal or evaluation score after any protest is resolved and the contract is executed.	GVO, JDC
<u>SB 597</u> _____ (SSCR255) <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE DRIVERS LICENSE REVOCATION. Extends the time restriction in which the Hawaii Administrative Drivers License Revocation Office is required to issue a written review decision of a notice of administrative revocation of a person's driver license.	TCA, JDC

SB 771 <u>(SSCR139)</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. Repeals the requirement that the Chairperson of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board of Directors be a public member. Repeals the prohibition that certain ex officio board members shall not be eligible to serve as Chairperson of the HHFDC Board of Directors.	HOU, JDC
SB 1170, SD1 <u>(SSCR475)</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO THE EXPEDITIOUS REDEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING. Exempts certain affordable rental housing projects from the requirements for special management area use permits. Clarifies eligibility for affordable housing projects to receive an exemption. Requires administrative review of projects under the National Register or Hawaii Register for compliance. (SD1)	HOU/WTL, JDC
SB 1296, SD1 <u>(SSCR291)</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO DISASTER RECOVERY. Exempts certain reconstructions of all or a portion of a structure in the Lahaina National Historic Landmark District that was destroyed by wildfire on 8/8/2023, from the requirements of a special management area minor permit or a special management area use permit. (SD1)	WTL, JDC
SB 1318 <u>(SSCR605)</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION. Amends section 200-14, HRS, to clarify that enforcement of criminal water pollution offenses remains under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, rather than the Department of Land and Natural Resources.	WTL/HHS, JDC
SB 1657, SD1 <u>(SSCR450)</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. Authorizes the Agribusiness Development Corporation to acquire by condemnation any real property or interest in real property, including real property already devoted to public use, for the purposes of Chapter 163D, HRS. Requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to make a determination that the property is necessary for the corporation's immediate or future use. Prohibits real property acquired by condemnation from being subsequently transferred or taken for any other public use without the consent of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)	EDT, JDC
SB 1102, SD1 <u>(SSCR386)</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO THE AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING UNIT. Establishes that the Chief of the State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Unit of the Airports Division of the Department of Transportation shall serve not more than three terms of four years each. Requires the Director of Transportation to appoint the Chief from a list of three qualified candidates submitted for consideration. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)	TCA/PSM, JDC
SB 100, SD1 <u>(SSCR212)</u> <u>Status & Testimony</u>	RELATING TO INTOXICATING LIQUOR. Provides that leaders of nonprofit organizations shall be exempt from county liquor commission criminal history check requirements for license applicants. (SD1)	EIG, JDC

Decision making meeting only, no oral testimony will be accepted.

Persons wishing to submit written testimony may do so up to 24 hours prior to the hearing. Click [here](#) to submit written testimony.

All testimony received by the Hawai'i Senate is posted on the Hawai'i Legislature's website, which is accessible to the public. Please do not include private information that you do not want disclosed to the public.

For special assistance: The cable TV broadcast and/or live stream of this meeting will include closed captioning. If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please call the committee clerk at the telephone number listed below or email JDCcommittee@capitol.hawaii.gov. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled.

FOR AMENDED NOTICES: Measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are underscored. If a measure is both underscored and stricken through, that measure has been deleted from the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE COMMITTEE CLERK AT (808)587-7211.

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIREARMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 134-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:
3 "(a) The manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade,
4 gift, transfer, or acquisition of any of the following is
5 prohibited: assault pistols, except as provided by section
6 134-4(e); automatic firearms; rifles with barrel lengths less
7 than sixteen inches; shotguns with barrel lengths less than
8 eighteen inches; any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire
9 ammunition of fifty caliber or higher; cannons; mufflers,
10 silencers, or devices for deadening or muffling the sound of
11 discharged firearms; hand grenades, dynamite, blasting caps,
12 bombs, or bombshells, or other explosives; or any type of
13 ammunition or any projectile component thereof coated with
14 [~~teflon~~] Teflon or any other similar coating designed primarily
15 to enhance its capability to penetrate metal or pierce
16 protective armor; and any type of ammunition or any projectile



1 component thereof designed or intended to explode or segment
2 upon impact with its target.

3 For purposes of this subsection:

4 "Firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of
5 fifty caliber of higher" does not include antique pistols,
6 antique revolvers, or muzzleloaders.

7 "Muzzleloaders" means any rifle, pistol, or shotgun that
8 loads from the muzzle, or the open end of a weapon, from which
9 the ammunition is discharged."

10 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.



Report Title:

Firearms; Gun Safety; High Caliber Guns

Description:

Includes any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols and revolvers, and muzzleloaders, in the list of prohibited weapons. Effective 1/1/2026. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



Nakanelua-Kono, Donie Lou N

From: info@hawaii-legislativetracker.com
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 1:45 PM
To: Lau, Carlene M. Y.; Sagucio, Arnold J.; Nakanelua-Kono, Donie Lou N; Hayashi, Glenn; Hamamoto, Skye A
Subject: Hearing Updates
Importance: High

CAUTION: Email received from an EXTERNAL sender. Please confirm the content is safe prior to opening attachments or links.

Client HPD
HDate 2/27/2025 10:01 AM
HDUrl https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/hearingnotices/HEARING_JDC_02-27-25_.HTM
Bill_Code [SB401](#)
Title RELATING TO FIREARMS.
Description Includes any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols and revolvers, and muzzleloaders, in the list of prohibited weapons. Effective 1/1/2026. (SD1)
Committee JDC
roomno CR 016 & Videoconference
Hearing_Type

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 4:50:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Miyao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Senate Judiciary Committee,

Please oppose SB401.

Mahalo!

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:40:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shepard Shill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:41:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily McKinley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is an infringement on our rights.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:48:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Constitutional rights

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:49:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Korben Yonting	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it simply unconstitutionally infringes on my 2nd amendment right as an American. As a newly started responsible gun owner and aspiring gun enthusiast, I see a whole community of responsible owners that educate not only themselves but their communities, friends, & family about safe practices of proper gun ownership.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:17:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven T Takekoshi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairman Elefante,

Aloha, I am submitting written testimony in opposition to SB 401 because like so many others I am employed and need to conduct work during workdays so I can keep up with the insane cost of living here in Hawaii.

SB 401 is an effort to blanket ban larger caliber firearms. This ban would include rifles and handguns that are popular with competition shooters and sportsman, including .50 BMG rifles, .500 Smith & Wesson revolvers, and .50-caliber pistols like the Desert Eagle. In addition, this bill is either intentionally written or through total misunderstanding of firearms a ban on all shotguns over .410 caliber. On this point alone it should be rejected.

SB 401 could turn otherwise law-abiding citizens into felons, for possession of firearms that were lawfully acquired and not associated with any crime. We encourage the legislature to focus on sound public safety policies that focus on criminal behavior and criminal misuse of firearms, not continue to pile more restrictions on the law-abiding.

As I stated in my opening comments, perhaps a focus on making our home a more affordable place to live would go a long way to reducing crimes; instead of continuing to increase regulations that are not effective, and target law abiding citizens.

Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

Steven Takekoshi

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:27:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it chips away at the 2nd amendment. Also, in a time when we could be invaded by other countries or terrorists, we should not be limited as to what kind of defense we should be allowed to have for self defense.

I urge you to vote "NO" on this bill.

Thank you.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:50:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Hirata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This goes against our CONSTITUTIONAL second amendment right to bear arms. As a friendly reminder the second amendment was created to prevent tyranny and government overreach.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:15:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James A Stanley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill for the reason that a 50 caliber firearm is not different from any other firearm in its ability to inflict damage on a person. Singling out this caliber or above is nonsense. If you have ever fired a 50 caliber, as I have, you would be well aware of its limitations. This bill is just another attack on firearm possession, sale and use based upon the notion that if it looks scary we can get a regulation passed to limit its use in this state. There is no data that supports a position that the 50 caliber firearm ,pistol or rifle, has been utilized with any significant usage that makes it a greater threat to the public in criminal activity than any other firearm.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:51:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Proctor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill as arbitrary banning of anything is not the way to prohibit anything. How many crimes were committed with 50 caliber firearms? This ruling could also prohibit shotguns used commonly by hunters and competitive shooters unless exceptions are made there as well.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:31:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 SD1. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:58:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Mckay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

First of all, shame on you for not allowing verbal testimony. It's the voices whose tax-paying dollars pay your salaries to be the voice of the people and to protect the constitution.

I stand in **strong opposition** to **SB401 SD1**, which seeks to expand Hawaii's list of prohibited firearms, particularly targeting firearms and rifles capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition or higher. This bill represents yet another overreach of government authority that undermines the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens while failing to address actual criminal activity.

1. This Bill is Unconstitutional and Violates the Second Amendment

The **Second Amendment** of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to **keep and bear arms**, a right that **shall not be infringed**. SB401 SD1 blatantly disregards this fundamental right by arbitrarily banning an entire class of firearms based solely on caliber size rather than actual safety concerns. The **U.S. Supreme Court** has ruled in cases like *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010) that bans on commonly used firearms are unconstitutional. Given that .50 caliber firearms are legally owned by responsible citizens for hunting, sport shooting, and self-defense, this bill sets a dangerous precedent of government overreach into constitutionally protected rights.

2. It Targets Law-Abiding Citizens, Not Criminals

Firearm regulations should focus on **criminal misuse, not restricting responsible gun owners**. There is no statistical or empirical evidence that legally owned .50 caliber firearms are used in crimes in Hawaii. Criminals do not follow firearm laws—by definition, they break them. Stripping law-abiding citizens of their right to own certain firearms does nothing to stop violent crime but instead weakens the ability of responsible citizens to protect themselves and their families.

3. .50 Caliber Firearms Are Used for Sporting and Defensive Purposes

Contrary to the misleading portrayal of .50 caliber firearms, these weapons are not commonly used in crimes. Instead, they are frequently used for:

- **Long-range target shooting and precision sports**

- **Hunting large game**
- **Personal collection and historical preservation**

There are **no documented cases of a legally owned .50 caliber firearm being used in violent crime in Hawaii**. This bill is a **solution in search of a problem** and unfairly penalizes responsible gun owners.

4. Unenforceable and Creates a Dangerous Precedent

SB401 SD1 fails to define how the government will enforce this ban without infringing on due process and private property rights. Will the state **seize** legally purchased firearms from current owners? If so, this raises serious **Fourth and Fifth Amendment concerns** regarding unlawful searches and seizures.

Furthermore, history has shown that incremental firearm bans rarely stop at one restriction. If this bill passes, what is next? Banning all centerfire rifles? Restricting all semi-automatic handguns? The legislature must not open the door to further erosion of our constitutional rights.

5. Hawaii's Crime Issues Stem from Policy Failures, Not Lawful Gun Owners

Hawaii consistently ranks among the **most restrictive states for gun ownership**, yet crime remains a problem due to **soft-on-crime policies, lenient sentencing, and an overwhelmed justice system**. Instead of further restricting law-abiding citizens, lawmakers should focus on enforcing **existing gun laws**, ensuring **repeat offenders and violent criminals** remain behind bars, and addressing **mental health and societal issues** that contribute to violence.

Conclusion

SB401 SD1 is an **unjust, ineffective, and unconstitutional** restriction on responsible firearm ownership. It does nothing to reduce crime but instead **disarms law-abiding citizens while ignoring the root causes of violence**. I urge this committee to **reject SB401 SD1** and instead focus on policies that **hold criminals accountable, support law enforcement, and respect the constitutional rights of Hawaii's residents**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:44:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

I strongly support this bill and believe it's commonsense gun reform that has the potential to save lives. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:42:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill steps on the 2nd amendment. It is a radical gun grab. Please stop these government overreach bills that are a waste of time and money. It is offensive to law abiding citizens.

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:59:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nelson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it infringes on our second amendment rights.

Dennis M. Dunn
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

dennismdunn47@gmail.com

LATE

RE: SB 401, SD 1, Relating to Firearms

HEARING: Thursday, February 27, 2025, 10:01 a.m., Conference Room 016

Good morning, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. My name is Dennis Dunn, and I am the retired Director of the Victim Witness Kokua Services in the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office after 44 years of service. Prior to that I was a volunteer Victim Advocate for People Against Rape. I am testifying today **in strong support of SB 401, S.D. 1.**

Too often during my career in victim assistance I have had to console victims of gun violence or their surviving family members. We hardly need to be reminded of the immense destructive power of assault weapons as we are constantly made aware of the death and suffering cause by them in the virtual daily litany of mass casualty incidents that are caused by these weapons. There is no legitimate purpose in a civilized society for devices whose only purpose is to rapidly administer death and serious bodily injury to human beings. I am uncertain as to why our current firearms statutes fail to outlaw to encompass assault rifles and shotguns, but the time to change that is now. Given the increases in gun crimes, even in Hawai'i, this is a critical legislative need. Our statutory defense against assault weapons must be airtight with no loopholes. The stakes in the battle against gun violence are high and every resource in preventing assault weapons anywhere in Hawai'i.

Please support SB 401, S.D. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo!

LATE

SB-401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:58:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle R Stefanik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 as it violates the Second Amendment's right to bear arms. Prohibiting law-abiding citizens from being able to bear arms will not affect the criminals who don't abide by laws. Law-abiding citizens have a right to bear arms and should not have their rights infringed upon because the Second Amendment does not say that citizens can only bear certain kinds of arms. I urge you to vote NO!