

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
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No. \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 950, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT.

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

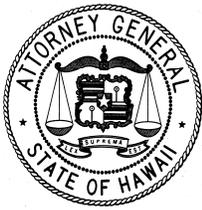
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March, 19, 2019; 1:35 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 950, House Draft (HD) 1, which would establish in the Department of the Attorney General a program responsible for issuing credentials to qualified law enforcement officers pursuant to the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, as amended ("LEOSA"). PSD supports a uniformed statewide program that is well regulated and operated with public safety as a priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 950, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019

**TIME:** 1:35 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 229

**TESTIFIER(S):** Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or  
Amy Murakami, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to amend chapter 28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding to part I a new section to establish in the Department a program responsible for issuing credentials to qualified retired law enforcement officers pursuant to the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, as amended (LEOSA or "Act").

The Department's intent is to create a uniform statewide program that would be well regulated and operated with public safety as a priority, while also streamlining multi-island travel by retired law enforcement officers. Under the LEOSA certification program, retired officers may be certified only if they pass standardized firearms qualification testing, a medical exam every two years, and a mental health clearance every year.

This bill will give the Department statutory authority and ability to promulgate rules to ensure qualified retired law enforcement officers are properly certified to carry concealed firearms safely, and clarifies that the Department is the agency responsible for issuing credentials pursuant to LEOSA requirements.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.



The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair  
The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates  
House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

State Capitol, Room 430  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HEARING: Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at 10:00am

RE: HB950 Relating to the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act

Aloha Members of the House Committee,

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition OPPOSES HB950.

We support the intent of HB950 to place more law-abiding gun owners in public to keep the peace and defend themselves, and others, against criminals. However the Hawaii Firearms Coalition opposes this bill because we feel every law-abiding person must have the option of carrying a handgun for self-defense, not just former law enforcement. In fact former law enforcement personnel would benefit should the legislature pass a "shall issue" or "constitutional carry" for the public in Hawaii with reciprocity agreements to carry in other states. This would relieve former law enforcement of LEOSA's overly burdensome training and administrative requirements.

49 other states observe the right of the public to carry concealed handguns for self-defense. 14 of those states observe constitutional carry where the law abiding can carry handguns in public without any permits. Hawaii is the lone exception whereas permitting is allowed by law (HRS 134-9), but police departments do not issue any permits and therefore no law-abiding member of the public is allowed to carry a handgun to protect themselves. Please pass "shall issue" or "constitutional carry" for concealed carry weapons.

For these reasons the Hawaii Firearms Coalition Opposes HB950. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake  
Director, Hawaii Firearms Coalition  
PH. (808) 255-3066  
Email: [todd@hifico.org](mailto:todd@hifico.org)



**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 5:12:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Isaacson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Great idea! More good guys with guns discourages criminals.

**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 8:11:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 1:34:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven Melling	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this, as concealed carry should be available for all law abiding citizens, especially law enforcement. They have put many people behind bars and are obligated and trained to protect.

**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 4:09:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JOY SCHOENECKER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 4:45:50 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Vote YES, but amend the bill. This bill is a good idea and a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough. Some Hawai'i residents have concealed-carry permits and concealed-weapons licenses from states that issue them to out-of-state US citizens. Many of these permits and licenses are recognized in over half of the states in the US, but not in Hawai'i, the home state! Some states, such as Texas, recognize Hawai'i concealed weapons licenses but Hawai'i offers no reciprocity to any other state. The law-abiding gun owners of Hawai'i want reciprocity with all out-of-state concealed-weapons licenses. The crime rate among such permit holders is vanishingly small - much lower than the population at large, and even lower than that of police. (See amicus briefs in the Peruta case for proof.) Remember, society is safer when criminals don't know who is armed. Make Hawai'i safer now. Vote Yes on an amended HB950.

**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 4:48:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Toby Rushforth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Surely you are kidding? This Bill is necessary???? Bureacracy at it's worst.

**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:41:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:50:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cindy Snow	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 5:36:31 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

**WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE BLANKET APPROVAL OF ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO CARRY CONCEALED FIREARMS. CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ARE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, YET A BILL WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS THAT WOULD HAVE PERMITTED CORRECTIONS OFFICERS TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS WHILE THEY ARE OFF DUTY, WAS DEFERRED, BECAUSE THEY LACK THE TRAINING THAT POLICE OFFICERS HAVE. EVEN THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY WAS AGAINST THAT BILL. THEREFORE, AN AMENDMENT TO THIS BILL MUST EXPRESSLY EXCLUDE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS FROM THIS LAW SHOULD IT PASS.**

**HB-950-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 5:41:25 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2019 1:35:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Martin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: