
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIREARMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has some
2 of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, having received
3 an A-minus rating from the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun
4 Violence. However, the legislature also finds that the State
5 can improve its gun safety laws by prohibiting the new
6 acquisition and use of large-capacity magazines for firearms
7 that can hold more than ten rounds of ammunition. Existing
8 Hawaii law prohibits the use of these magazines with pistols but
9 not with long guns, such as rifles or shotguns.

10 According to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun
11 Violence, large-capacity magazines have been used in all ten of
12 the deadliest mass shootings that have occurred in the last
13 decade. Mass shootings that involve large-capacity magazines
14 result in two to three times as many fatalities as other mass
15 shootings. By enabling a shooter to fire repeatedly without
16 needing to reload, these magazines significantly increase the
17 shooter's ability to quickly injure and kill large numbers of



1 people. For example, using an assault weapon and a drum
2 magazine containing one hundred rounds of ammunition, the
3 perpetrator of the 2019 mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio, was able
4 to fire at least forty-one rounds of ammunition in less than
5 thirty seconds. As a result, the shooter was able to kill nine
6 people and wound twenty-six more.

7 Further, the legislature recognizes that the amount of time
8 a shooter needs to reload a weapon can be a critical factor in
9 allowing would-be victims to escape and for law enforcement or
10 other persons to intervene. In the 2011 mass shooting in
11 Tucson, Arizona, six people were killed and thirteen others were
12 wounded, including United States representative Gabrielle
13 Giffords. Fortunately, the shooting was interrupted when the
14 perpetrator stopped to reload his weapon and was tackled by a
15 bystander. Similarly, during the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory
16 Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, students were
17 able to flee down a stairwell as the shooter paused to reload
18 his weapon.

19 The purpose of this Act is to reduce gun violence in the
20 State by:



- 1 (1) Prohibiting the possession of large-capacity magazines
2 for all types of firearms, unless it was legally in
3 possession of an individual prior to this Act; and
- 4 (2) Prohibiting the sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer,
5 or acquisition, except by means of inheritance, of a
6 detachable ammunition magazine that was legally in an
7 individual's possession prior to this Act.

8 SECTION 2. Section 134-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "**§134-8 Ownership, etc., of automatic firearms, silencers,**
11 **etc., prohibited; penalties.** (a) The manufacture, possession,
12 sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer, or acquisition of any of
13 the following is prohibited: assault pistols, except as
14 provided by section 134-4(e); automatic firearms; rifles with
15 barrel lengths less than sixteen inches; shotguns with barrel
16 lengths less than eighteen inches; cannons; mufflers, silencers,
17 or devices for deadening or muffling the sound of discharged
18 firearms; hand grenades, dynamite, blasting caps, bombs, or
19 bombshells, or other explosives; or any type of ammunition or
20 any projectile component thereof coated with teflon or any other
21 similar coating designed primarily to enhance its capability to



1 penetrate metal or pierce protective armor; and any type of
2 ammunition or any projectile component thereof designed or
3 intended to explode or segment upon impact with its target.

4 (b) Any person who installs, removes, or alters a firearm
5 part with the intent to convert the firearm to an automatic
6 firearm shall be deemed to have manufactured an automatic
7 firearm in violation of subsection (a).

8 (c) The manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade,
9 gift, transfer, or acquisition of detachable ammunition
10 magazines with a capacity in excess of ten rounds [~~which are~~
11 ~~designed for or capable of use with a pistol~~] is prohibited.
12 This subsection shall not apply to magazines [~~originally~~]:

13 (1) That were legally in possession of an individual prior
14 to the effective date of Act _____, Session Laws of
15 Hawaii 2020; and

16 (2) Originally designed to accept more than ten rounds of
17 ammunition [~~which~~] that have been modified to accept
18 no more than ten rounds and [~~which~~] that are not
19 capable of being readily restored to a capacity of
20 more than ten rounds.



1 (d) No person shall sell, barter, trade, gift, transfer,
2 or acquire, except by means of inheritance, a detachable
3 ammunition magazine pursuant to this subsection.

4 (e) Detachable ammunition magazines with a capacity in
5 excess of ten rounds may be acquired, possessed, and used by a
6 law enforcement agency or duly authorized law enforcement
7 officer for official purposes.

8 [~~d~~] (f) Any person violating subsection (a) or (b) shall
9 be guilty of a class C felony and shall be imprisoned for a term
10 of five years without probation. Any person violating
11 subsection (c) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor except when a
12 detachable magazine prohibited under this section is possessed
13 while inserted into a [~~pistol~~] firearm in which case the person
14 shall be guilty of a class C felony."

15 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
16 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
17 begun before its effective date.

18 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Firearms; Large-capacity Magazines; Prohibition

Description:

Prohibits the manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer, or acquisition of detachable ammunition magazines with a capacity in excess of ten rounds, regardless of the type of firearm with which the magazine is compatible, except for magazines that was legally possessed prior to this Act. Prohibits the sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer, or acquisition, except by means of inheritance, of such large-capacity magazines. Makes an exception for possession and use by law enforcement agencies and officers. (SD2)

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