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# 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 federal Law  
2 Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 (LEOSA), Public Law  
3 108-277, was intended to afford active and retired law  
4 enforcement officers the privilege of carrying a concealed  
5 firearm across state lines. The LEOSA was amended by the Law  
6 Enforcement Officers Safety Act Improvements Act of 2010, Public  
7 Law 111-272, to include former officers who have separated after  
8 serving as law enforcement officers for ten years or more. The  
9 LEOSA was amended again by section 1089 of the National Defense  
10 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, Public Law 112-239, to  
11 include a certain category of military employees with statutory  
12 powers of arrest or apprehension. However, since the enactment  
13 of the second amendment of the LEOSA, varying state approaches  
14 to implementation have hindered the consistent and effective  
15 operation of the federal law, especially with respect to  
16 qualified retired law enforcement officers.



1 Under the LEOSA, as amended, qualified retired law  
2 enforcement officers who wish to carry a concealed firearm in  
3 any of the fifty states are required to carry a photographic  
4 identification that is issued by the agency from which the  
5 qualified retired law enforcement officer was employed that  
6 indicates or is accompanied by a firearm certification. If the  
7 photographic identification does not indicate that the retired  
8 officer has met firearm training standards, then the  
9 photographic identification is required to be accompanied by a  
10 firearm certification that is issued by the state in which the  
11 qualified retired law enforcement officer resides or by a  
12 certified firearms instructor who is qualified to conduct  
13 firearms qualification tests for active duty officers within  
14 that state. The firearm certification must also certify that  
15 the qualified retired law enforcement officer has met, within  
16 the most recent twelve-month period, the active law enforcement  
17 standards for qualification, as determined by the state, to  
18 carry a firearm of the same type as the firearm the qualified  
19 retired law enforcement officer intends to conceal and carry.  
20 If the state that the qualified retired law enforcement officer  
21 resides in has not established any qualification standards, then



1 standards established by any law enforcement agency within that  
2 state may be used. Currently, Hawaii has not formally  
3 established firearm qualification standards for qualified  
4 retired law enforcement officers residing in the State or a  
5 statutory framework to uniformly permit active and qualified  
6 retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed weapon in  
7 Hawaii pursuant to the LEOSA, as amended.

8 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of  
9 the attorney general to develop and implement a state program to  
10 issue firearm qualification certifications to qualified retired  
11 law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm in Hawaii  
12 pursuant to the LEOSA, as amended.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 134, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
15 designated and to read as follows:

16 "§134- Carrying of concealed firearm by law enforcement  
17 officers. (a) To carry a concealed firearm in this State  
18 pursuant to title 18 United States Code section 926B, a  
19 qualified law enforcement officer shall comply with all state  
20 laws, including but not limited to this chapter. If a qualified  
21 law enforcement officer is not on official duty with the



1 officer's government agency and is carrying a concealed firearm  
2 pursuant to title 18 United States Code section 926B in this  
3 State, state law shall apply to the officer as a person with no  
4 law enforcement powers.

5 (b) To carry a concealed firearm in this State pursuant to  
6 title 18 United States Code section 926C, a qualified retired  
7 law enforcement officer shall comply with all state laws,  
8 including but not limited to this chapter and rules adopted  
9 under this section. Title 18 United States Code section 926C  
10 and state law shall not authorize a qualified retired law  
11 enforcement officer to act as a law enforcement officer in this  
12 State.

13 (c) The attorney general may issue firearm qualification  
14 certifications to qualified retired law enforcement officers, in  
15 conformity with title 18 United States Code section 926C. The  
16 attorney general may adopt, amend, and repeal rules concerning  
17 the issuance of firearm qualification certifications."

18 SECTION 3. Section 134-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "§134-9 Licenses to carry. (a) In an exceptional case,  
21 when an applicant shows reason to fear injury to the applicant's



1 person or property, the chief of police of the appropriate  
2 county may grant a license to an applicant who is a citizen of  
3 the United States of the age of twenty-one years or more or to a  
4 duly accredited official representative of a foreign nation of  
5 the age of twenty-one years or more to carry a pistol or  
6 revolver and ammunition therefor concealed on the person within  
7 the county where the license is granted. Where the urgency or  
8 the need has been sufficiently indicated, the respective chief  
9 of police may grant to an applicant of good moral character who  
10 is a citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years  
11 or more, is engaged in the protection of life and property, and  
12 is not prohibited under section 134-7 from the ownership or  
13 possession of a firearm, a license to carry a pistol or revolver  
14 and ammunition therefor unconcealed on the person within the  
15 county where the license is granted. The chief of police of the  
16 appropriate county, or the chief's designated representative,  
17 shall perform an inquiry on an applicant by using the National  
18 Instant Criminal Background Check System, to include a check of  
19 the Immigration and Customs Enforcement databases where the  
20 applicant is not a citizen of the United States, before any



1 determination to grant a license is made. Unless renewed, the  
2 license shall expire one year from the date of issue.

3 (b) The chief of police of each county shall adopt  
4 procedures to require that any person granted a license to carry  
5 a concealed weapon on the person shall:

6 (1) Be qualified to use the firearm in a safe manner;

7 (2) Appear to be a suitable person to be so licensed;

8 (3) Not be prohibited under section 134-7 from the  
9 ownership or possession of a firearm; and

10 (4) Not have been adjudged insane or not appear to be  
11 mentally deranged.

12 (c) No person shall carry concealed or unconcealed on the  
13 person a pistol or revolver without being licensed to do so  
14 under this section or in compliance with sections 134-5(c) or  
15 134-25.

16 (d) A fee of \$10 shall be charged for each license and  
17 shall be deposited in the treasury of the county in which the  
18 license is granted.

19 (e) This section shall not apply to qualified law  
20 enforcement officers carrying a concealed firearm in compliance  
21 with title 18 United States Code section 926B or qualified



1 retired law enforcement officers carrying a concealed firearm in  
2 compliance title 18 United States Code section 926C."

3 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Firearms; Active and Retired Law Enforcement Officers; Carrying of a Concealed Firearm; LEOSA

**Description:**

Authorizes the department of the attorney general to develop and implement a state program to issue firearm qualification certifications to qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm in the State pursuant to the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004. Makes a conforming amendment to state firearm laws. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

