



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 459, S.D. 1, RELATING TO FIREARMS.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325, Via Videoconference

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

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Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department to develop and implement a statewide program to issue firearm qualification credentials to qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms in Hawaii pursuant to the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, as amended. The bill also requires qualified law enforcement officers and qualified retired law enforcement officers to comply with state firearm laws.

The bill would give the Department statutory authority and the ability to promulgate rules to ensure qualified retired law enforcement officers are properly certified to carry concealed firearms safely. The Department would create a program that would be well regulated and operated uniformly throughout the State with public safety as a priority.

The Department respectfully requests the passage of this bill.



Young Progressives Demanding Action  
P.O. Box 11105  
Honolulu, HI 96828

March 13, 2021

**TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB459 SD1**

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action **strongly opposes SB459 SD1**, which would implement a state program to issue firearm qualification certifications to retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm.

We absolutely do not need this program. According to both the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, [crime has steadily fallen by almost half since the 1990s](#). The violent crime rate fell 49% between 1993 and 2019, with large decreases in the rates of robbery (-68%), murder/non-negligent manslaughter (-47%) and aggravated assault (-43%).

The idea that we need more guns on the street in the hands of retired law enforcement is a foolish idea based on precisely zero evidence or data. Just like the “stand your ground” bill that this committee saw fit to kill before crossover, this bill will be rabidly supported by a small, vocal segment of the population obsessed with weapons and convinced violence is a legitimate solution to social ills. Just like that bill, we urge this committee to **kill this bill as well**.

The solution to ending crime is to create a socially and economically just and equitable society in which everyone’s basic needs are met and everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive. The House of Representatives should support raising the minimum wage and passing tax increases on the wealthy instead of passing poorly thought-out “police state” bills like this.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron

Board President & Secretary  
action@ypdahawaii.org

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 7:45:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to the extent that this will make it easier for qualified retired officers to be certified and maintain their certification. Please do not pass legislation that will restrict and burden those who are qualified under LEOSA. Mahalo.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 2:09:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose sb459 sd1

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 3:21:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Babcock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

no concealed carry for former police

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 3:27:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to [SB459](#), which would allow former law-enforcement officers to conceal-carry guns in Hawaii. Passage of this bill will make Hawaii a more dangerous place. There will be more violent crime and more chances that confrontations will become lethal, Such outcomes have been repeatedly noted by reputable academic studies (i.e. research that is not funded by the pro-gun lobby).

A 2018 study conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research concluded, “There is not even the slightest hint in the data that RTC [right-to-carry] laws reduce violent crime. Indeed, the weight of the evidence from the panel data estimates as well as the synthetic control analysis best supports the view that the adoption of RTC laws substantially raises overall violent crime in the ten years after adoption.” The authors found, “Ten years after the adoption of RTC laws, violent crime is estimated to be 13 - 15 percent higher than it would have been without the RTC law.”

According to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, “members of the public who carry guns risk escalating everyday disagreements into public shootouts, especially in places where disputes frequently occur—in bars, at sporting events, or in traffic.” This is true not just for untrained members of the public but also for retired police officers with firearms training. For example, in the infamous “popcorn shooting” of January 13, 2014, Curtis Reeves, a retired police officer with a legally concealed handgun shot and killed another man during an argument over text messaging in a movie theater in Florida. While Reeves claims to have been in fear for his life, witnesses attest that the only action taken by his victim, Chad Oulson, aged 43, was to throw popcorn at him after Reeves shouted at him to stop texting during the movie previews. Clearly, even former police officers are more than capable of taking a person’s life simply for feeling dis-respected.

The proposed bill SB459 SD1 must be opposed as it is a serious danger to our safety.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 3:49:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose having more guns on the streets no matter who is carrying them.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 4:56:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matthew Swalinkavich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Do not allow retired law enforcement to conceal carry in Hawai'i!! No good can come

of this! Only violence! Hawai'i police have high violence statistics relative to population.  
A'ole!

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 6:05:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

*I OPPOSE SB459, which allows retired law enforcement to conceal-carry in Hawai'i.*

*We absolutely do not need this bill.*

*Between 1993 and 2019, crime fell by almost half.*

*The idea that we need more guns on the streets in the hands of retired cops*

*is a foolish idea not based on either evidence or data.*

*Mahalo!*

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 7:42:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is an unnecesay bill that has no evidence or data to support it.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 8:03:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Philip T. Rapoza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 8:25:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gaye Chan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This Bill is a serious threat to all of our safety!

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 9:27:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah Michal Hamid	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this measure.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 11:22:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
I. Robert Nehmad	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is no reason to allow the Chief of Police to approve concealed carry permits to any civilian.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 2:01:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Absolutely NO!

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 2:32:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strong opposition to this bill.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 3:13:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass SB 459 SD 1 which would allow retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 4:15:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tamara Swift	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose all conceal/carry laws for Hawaii, including former law enforcement.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 4:15:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meredith Buck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB459. There is no evidence that more guns on the streets in the hands of any cop, active duty or retired, keeps communities safe. On the contrary, as we have all witnessed in recent years (most especially throughout 2020), more guns just means more violence. As a citizen and community member I do not feel safe with this bill, and I do not trust retired police with concealed weapons to protect me or others in my community. Please do not pass SB459.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 5:31:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Mrowczynski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** SB459 SD1 for the following reasons:

- We absolutely do NOT need this program. According to both the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, crime has steadily fallen by almost half since the 1990s.
- The idea that we need more guns on the street in the hands of retired law enforcement is a reckless idea based on precisely zero evidence or data.
- The solution to ending crime is to create a socially and economically just and equitable society in which everyone's basic needs are met, and everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 8:08:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am against this Bill.

We absolutely do not need this program. According to both the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, crime has steadily fallen by almost half since the 1990s. The violent crime rate fell 49% between 1993 and 2019, with large decreases in the rates of robbery (-68%), murder/non-negligent manslaughter (-47%) and aggravated assault (-43%).

The idea that we need more guns on the street in the hands of retired law enforcement is a foolish idea based on precisely zero evidence or data.

The solution to ending crime is to create a socially and economically just and equitable society in which everyone's basic needs are met and everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick. Honolulu

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 8:13:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is completely unnecessary and a disaster waiting to happen. Between 1993 and 2019, crime fell by almost half. Giving retired officers the right to carry concealed weapons without regular on the job training, counseling, education, regulation and oversight is a foolish idea not based in either evidence or data.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 3:31:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barryn Chun	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB459. Respectfully, while we appreciate officers who serve and help our community, no individual should be given exceptions for concealed-carry privileges, and all firearms owners-- retired officer or not-- should be held to the same exact rules.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 5:33:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Isabella Hughes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am proud that Hawai'i has some of the lowest rates of gun violence in the US and I firmly believe this is because we have strict and sound laws around guns compared to other states. I firmly oppose SB459 as it makes no sense to issue firearm qualification certifications to retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm. They're retired and shouldn't be permitted to carry a concealed firearm. Please oppose this and continue to keep our islands and community as gun-free as possible and safe.

Mahalo,

Isabella Hughes

Hilo, HI

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:23:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kanani Kai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this measure!

Please hold this bill.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 10:10:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Do not pass this dangerous bill!

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:37:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ivy Hsu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

As a resident of Kaka`ako and a public educator in Kalihi, I am writing to oppose this bill. Between 1993 and 2019, crime fell by almost half. The idea that we need more guns on the streets in the hands of retired cops is a foolish idea not based in either evidence or data. I'm sure we can all imagine the potential accidents that may arise in the future if this is allowed. Hawai`i should continue to be a state with some of the lowest rates of gun violence, and allowing more individuals to carry guns will counter that. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:56:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose with comments

I don't believe this bill goes far enough to ensure that the AG will be able to keep this situation under control. There are SO many retired law enforcement on these islands and around the USA and there seem to be no restraints or controls? Is there a database from which the AG can check to see if these folks have any concerning behaviors? For example, if Mr. Deedy retired would he be allowed to get this consideration? What about the "retired" officers who were responsible for the deaths of others but retired before they were convicted? The basics of this bill make sense if there is regulation and a strong database and double check. We have more than enough weapons on this island.

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 12:18:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark K.Wilson III	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

no comments

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 2:00:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
SUSAN WONG	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No one should be allowed to carry and especially conceal firearms in Hawaii merely from being a former law enforcement professional. Jan 6th US Capitol riot is proof that former and current career law enforcement professionals are willing to perform unlawful and undemocratic acts. Stop further action on getting this bill approved. Mahalo

**SB-459-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 2:16:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

This bill is grossly misguided.

There is no provision in the United States Constitution asserting the any category of persons (including law enforcement or former law enforcement officers) have any elevated rights regarding “the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed”.

The proper role of any legislator, who has sworn or affirmed an oath of office to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, is to repeal all the laws in Hawaii that violate the Second Amendment and pass laws that reinforce the rights stated therein for ALL CITIZENS.

This would include passing a “shall-issue” “permitless carry” (aka “constitutional carry”) law (as 18 states already have) that clarified the fact that no government entity may violate the fundamental individual natural enumerated rights of law-abiding citizens to bear arms outside the home for the purpose of self-defense, either openly or concealed, by requiring any compliance with any special requirements beyond law-abiding citizen status (e.g. “permit”, “license” and any and all requirements thereto (e.g. training, fees, “background checks”, “elevated need”, etc.)). Such a law would obviate the need for any laws elevating the status of one group of citizens over another group.

Do your job. Uphold rather than violate your oath of office. Pass a permitless “shall-issue” open and concealed carry bill.