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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WEAPONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to clarify, update,  
2 and revise Hawaii's laws relating to weapons in order to address  
3 hazards to public health, safety, and welfare.

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

7 "§134- Carrying of a firearm in the commission of a  
8 separate misdemeanor; penalty. (a) It shall be unlawful for a  
9 person to knowingly carry on the person or have within the  
10 person's immediate control a firearm while engaged in the  
11 commission of a separate misdemeanor offense, whether the  
12 firearm was loaded or not, and whether operable or not; provided  
13 that a person shall not be prosecuted under this section when  
14 the separate offense is an offense otherwise defined by this  
15 chapter or is the offense of criminally negligent storage of a  
16 firearm under section 707-714.5.



1       (b) A conviction and sentence under this section shall be  
2 in addition to and not in lieu of any conviction and sentence  
3 for the separate misdemeanor; provided that the sentence imposed  
4 under this section may run concurrently or consecutively with  
5 the sentence for the separate misdemeanor.

6       (c) Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a  
7 class C felony.

8       (d) For the purposes of this section, "misdemeanor" does  
9 not include a petty misdemeanor."

10       SECTION 3. Section 134-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12       "**§134-2 Permits to acquire.** (a) No person shall acquire  
13 the ownership of a firearm, whether usable or unusable,  
14 serviceable or unserviceable, modern or antique, registered  
15 under prior law or by a prior owner or unregistered, either by  
16 purchase, gift, inheritance, bequest, or in any other manner,  
17 whether procured in the State or imported by mail, express,  
18 freight, or otherwise, until the person has first procured from  
19 the chief of police of the county of the person's place of  
20 business or, if there is no place of business, the person's  
21 residence or, if there is neither place of business nor



1 residence, the person's place of sojourn, a permit to acquire  
2 the ownership of a firearm as prescribed in this section. When  
3 title to any firearm is acquired by inheritance or bequest, the  
4 foregoing permit shall be obtained before taking possession of  
5 the firearm; provided that upon presentation of a copy of the  
6 death certificate of the owner making the bequest, any heir or  
7 legatee may transfer the inherited or bequested firearm directly  
8 to a dealer licensed under section 134-31 or licensed by the  
9 United States Department of Justice without complying with the  
10 requirements of this section.

11 (b) The permit application form shall:

12 (1) Include:

13 (A) The applicant's name, address, gender, height,  
14 weight, date of birth, place of birth, country of  
15 citizenship, social security number, alien or  
16 admission number;

17 (B) Information regarding the applicant's mental  
18 health history;

19 (C) Any aliases or other names previously used by the  
20 applicant;



- 1 (D) Information that is or may be relevant in  
2 determining whether the applicant is disqualified  
3 under section 134-7 from the ownership,  
4 possession, or control of a firearm; and
- 5 (E) Information that is or may be relevant in  
6 determining whether the applicant lacks the  
7 essential character or temperament necessary to  
8 be entrusted with a firearm as set forth in  
9 subsection (e); and
- 10 (2) Require the fingerprinting and photographing of the  
11 applicant by the police department of the county of  
12 registration; provided that where fingerprints and a  
13 photograph are already on file with the department,  
14 these may be waived.
- 15 (c) An applicant for a permit shall:
- 16 (1) Sign a waiver at the time of application, allowing the  
17 chief of police of the county issuing the permit or a  
18 designee of the chief of police access to all records  
19 that have a bearing on the mental health of the  
20 applicant; and



1 (2) Identify any health care providers who possess or may  
2 possess the records described in paragraph (1).

3 (d) The chief of police of the respective counties shall  
4 issue permits to acquire firearms to:

5 (1) Citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent residents of  
6 the United States of the age of twenty-one years or  
7 more;

8 (2) Duly accredited official representatives of foreign  
9 nations;

10 (3) Duly commissioned law enforcement officers of the  
11 State who are aliens; provided that any law  
12 enforcement officer who is the owner of a firearm and  
13 who is an alien shall transfer ownership of the  
14 firearm within forty-eight hours after termination of  
15 employment from a law enforcement agency;

16 (4) Aliens of the age of eighteen years or more for use of  
17 rifles and shotguns for a period not exceeding sixty  
18 days, upon a showing that the alien has first procured  
19 a hunting license under chapter 183D, part II; and

20 (5) Aliens of the age of twenty-one years or more for use  
21 of firearms for a period not exceeding six months,



1           upon a showing that the alien is in training for a  
2           specific organized sport-shooting contest to be held  
3           within the permit period.

4           The attorney general may adopt rules, pursuant to chapter  
5 91, as to what constitutes sufficient evidence that an alien is  
6 in training for a sport-shooting contest.

7           Notwithstanding any law to the contrary and upon joint  
8 application, the chief of police may, upon request, issue  
9 permits to acquire firearms jointly to spouses who otherwise  
10 qualify to obtain permits under this section.

11           (e) The permit application form shall be signed by the  
12 applicant and issuing authority. One copy of the permit shall  
13 be retained by the issuing authority as a permanent official  
14 record. Except for sales to dealers licensed under section 134-  
15 31, dealers licensed by the United States Department of Justice,  
16 law enforcement officers, or where any firearm is registered  
17 pursuant to section 134-3(a), no permit shall be issued to an  
18 applicant earlier than fourteen calendar days after the date of  
19 the application; provided that a permit shall be issued or the  
20 application denied before the fortieth day from the date of  
21 application. Permits issued to acquire any pistol or revolver



1 shall be void unless used within thirty days after the date of  
2 issue. Permits to acquire a pistol or revolver shall require a  
3 separate application and permit for each transaction. Permits  
4 issued to acquire any rifle or shotgun shall entitle the  
5 permittee to make subsequent purchases of rifles or shotguns for  
6 a period of one year from the date of issue without a separate  
7 application and permit for each acquisition, subject to the  
8 disqualifications under section 134-7 and revocation under  
9 section 134-13; provided that if a permittee is arrested for  
10 committing a felony, a crime of violence, a criminal offense  
11 relating to firearms, or for the illegal sale or distribution of  
12 any drug, the permit shall be impounded and surrendered to the  
13 issuing authority. The issuing authority shall perform an  
14 inquiry on an applicant by using the International Justice and  
15 Public Safety Network, including the United States Immigration  
16 and Customs Enforcement query, National Crime Information  
17 Center, and National Instant Criminal Background Check System,  
18 pursuant to section 846-2.7 before any determination to issue a  
19 permit or to deny an application is made. The issuing authority  
20 shall not issue a permit to acquire the ownership of a firearm  
21 if an applicant is disqualified under section 134-7 from the



1 ownership, possession, or control of a firearm, or if the  
2 issuing authority determines that issuance would not be in the  
3 interest of public health, safety, or welfare because the person  
4 lacks the essential character or temperament necessary to be  
5 entrusted with a firearm. In determining whether a person lacks  
6 the essential character or temperament necessary to be entrusted  
7 with a firearm, the issuing authority shall consider whether the  
8 person poses a danger of causing a self-inflicted bodily injury  
9 or unlawful injury to another person, as evidenced by:

10 (1) Information from a health care provider indicating  
11 that the person has had suicidal or homicidal thoughts  
12 or tendencies within the preceding five years;

13 (2) Statements or actions by the person indicating any  
14 dangerous propensity or violent animus toward one or  
15 more individuals or groups, including groups based on  
16 race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender  
17 identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age,  
18 disability, religion, or any other characteristic, and  
19 the propensity or animus is of a nature or to an  
20 extent that would objectively indicate to a reasonable  
21 observer that it would not be in the interest of the





1 public health, safety, or welfare for the person to  
2 own, possess, or control a firearm or ammunition; or  
3 (3) Other information that would lead a reasonable,  
4 objective observer to conclude that the person  
5 presents or would present a danger to the community as  
6 a result of acquiring or possessing a firearm or  
7 intends or is likely to use a firearm for an unlawful  
8 purpose or in an unlawful manner.

9 (f) In all cases where a pistol or revolver is acquired  
10 from another person within the State, the permit shall be signed  
11 in ink by the person to whom title to the pistol or revolver is  
12 transferred and shall be delivered to the person who is  
13 transferring title to the firearm, who shall verify that the  
14 person to whom the firearm is to be transferred is the person  
15 named in the permit and enter on the permit in the space  
16 provided the following information: name, address, and  
17 telephone number of the person who transferred the firearm;  
18 name, address, and telephone number of the person to whom the  
19 title to the firearm was transferred; names of the manufacturer  
20 and importer; model; type of action; caliber or gauge; and  
21 serial number, as applicable. The person who is transferring



1 title to the firearm shall sign the permit in ink and cause the  
2 permit to be delivered or sent by registered mail to the issuing  
3 authority within forty-eight hours after transferring the  
4 firearm.

5 In all cases where receipt of a firearm is had by mail,  
6 express, freight, or otherwise from sources outside the State,  
7 the person to whom the permit has been issued shall make the  
8 prescribed entries on the permit, sign the permit in ink, and  
9 cause the permit to be delivered or sent by registered mail to  
10 the issuing authority within forty-eight hours after taking  
11 possession of the firearm.

12 In all cases where a rifle or shotgun is acquired from  
13 another person within the State, the person who is transferring  
14 title to the rifle or shotgun shall submit, within forty-eight  
15 hours after transferring the firearm, to the authority that  
16 issued the permit to acquire, the following information, in  
17 writing: name, address, and telephone number of the person who  
18 transferred the firearm; name, address, and telephone number of  
19 the person to whom the title to the firearm was transferred;  
20 names of the manufacturer and importer; model; type of action;  
21 caliber or gauge; and serial number, as applicable.



1 (g) No person shall be issued a permit under this section  
2 for the acquisition of a firearm unless the person, within the  
3 four years before the issuance of the permit, has completed:

4 (1) An approved hunter education course as authorized  
5 under section 183D-28, unless the applicant seeks to  
6 acquire a pistol or revolver, in which case the  
7 applicant shall complete a training satisfying the  
8 requirements of paragraph (2), (3), or (4);

9 (2) A firearms safety or training course or class  
10 available to the general public offered by a law  
11 enforcement agency of the State or of any county;

12 (3) A firearms safety or training course offered to law  
13 enforcement officers, security guards, investigators,  
14 deputy sheriffs, or any division or subdivision of law  
15 enforcement or security enforcement by a state or  
16 county law enforcement agency; or

17 (4) A firearms training or safety course or class  
18 conducted by a firearms instructor certified or  
19 verified by the chief of police of the respective  
20 county or a designee of the chief of police or  
21 certified by a nongovernmental organization approved



1 for such purposes by the chief of police of the  
2 respective county or a designee of the chief of  
3 police, or conducted by a certified military firearms  
4 instructor; provided that the firearms training or  
5 safety course or class provides, at a minimum, a total  
6 of at least two hours of firing training at a firing  
7 range and a total of at least four hours of classroom  
8 instruction, which may include a video, that focuses  
9 on:

- 10 (A) The safe use, handling, and storage of firearms  
11 and firearm safety in the home, as well as a  
12 component on mental health, suicide prevention,  
13 and domestic violence issues associated with  
14 firearms and firearm violence; and
- 15 (B) Education on the firearm laws of the State.

16 An affidavit signed by the certified or verified  
17 firearms instructor who conducted or taught the  
18 course, providing the name, address, and phone number  
19 of the instructor and attesting to the successful  
20 completion of the course by the applicant shall  
21 constitute evidence of certified successful completion



1 under this paragraph; provided that an instructor  
2 shall not submit an affidavit signed by the instructor  
3 for the instructor's own permit application.

4 (h) No person shall sell, give, lend, or deliver into the  
5 possession of another any firearm except in accordance with this  
6 chapter.

7 (i) No fee shall be charged for permits, or applications  
8 for permits, under this section, except for a single fee  
9 chargeable by and payable to the issuing county in an amount  
10 equal to the fee charged by the Hawaii criminal justice data  
11 center pursuant to section 846-2.7. In the case of a joint  
12 application, the fee provided for in this section may be charged  
13 to each person. If an application under this section is denied,  
14 the chief of police or a designee of the chief of police shall  
15 notify the applicant of the denial in writing, stating the  
16 ground or grounds for the denial and informing the applicant of  
17 the right to seek review of the denial through a hearing  
18 pursuant to subsection (k).

19 (j) In all cases where a permit application under this  
20 section is denied because an applicant is prohibited from  
21 owning, possessing, receiving, or controlling firearms under



1 federal or state law, the chief of police of the applicable  
2 county shall, within ten business days from the date of denial,  
3 send written notice of the denial, including the identity of the  
4 applicant and the reasons for the denial, to the:

- 5 (1) Prosecuting attorney in the county where the permit  
6 was denied;
- 7 (2) Attorney general;
- 8 (3) United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii; and
- 9 (4) Director of corrections and rehabilitation.

10 If the permit to acquire was denied because the applicant  
11 is subject to an order described in section 134-7(f), the chief  
12 of police shall, within three business days from the date of  
13 denial, send written notice of the denial to the court that  
14 issued the order.

15 When the director of corrections and rehabilitation  
16 receives notice that an applicant has been denied a permit  
17 because of a prior criminal conviction, the director of  
18 corrections and rehabilitation shall determine whether the  
19 applicant is currently serving a term of probation or parole,  
20 and if the applicant is serving such a term, send written notice  
21 of the denial to the applicant's probation or parole officer.



1 (k) If an application under this section is denied, a  
2 person or entity aggrieved by the denial shall be entitled to a  
3 hearing before the chief of police of the appropriate county or  
4 a designee of the chief of police. A person or entity aggrieved  
5 by the denial shall submit a request for a hearing in writing to  
6 the chief of police of the appropriate county no later than  
7 thirty days following the date of the decision or determination  
8 notice. The hearing shall constitute a contested case hearing  
9 for purposes of chapter 91. Following the hearing and final  
10 decision, an aggrieved party shall be entitled to a judicial  
11 review proceeding in state circuit court in accordance with  
12 section 91-14.

13 (l) The permit application form and the waiver form  
14 required under this section shall be prescribed by the issuing  
15 authority.

16 (m) The requirements of subsection (g) shall not apply to  
17 an applicant for a permit to acquire a rifle or shotgun who:

18 (1) Has been issued a hunter education certificate under  
19 section 183D-28 that is valid for the life of the  
20 person; or



1        (2) Has received a written exemption under section 183D-  
2            28."

3        SECTION 4. Section 134-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5        "**§134-51 Deadly or dangerous weapons; prohibitions;**  
6 **penalty.** (a) Any person, not authorized by law, who knowingly  
7 carries concealed [~~upon~~] on the [~~person's self or within any~~  
8 ~~vehicle used or occupied by the person or who is found armed~~  
9 ~~with]~~ person, or in a bag or other container carried by the  
10 person, any dirk, dagger, blackjack, [~~slug shot, billy,~~] metal  
11 knuckles, [~~pistol,~~] or other deadly or dangerous weapon shall be  
12 guilty of a misdemeanor [~~and may be immediately arrested without~~  
13 warrant by any sheriff, police officer, or other officer or  
14 person. Any weapon, above enumerated, upon conviction of the  
15 one carrying or possessing it under this section, shall be  
16 summarily destroyed by the chief of police or sheriff.];  
17 provided that this subsection shall not apply to a billy.

18        (b) [~~Whoever~~] Any person who knowingly possesses or  
19 intentionally uses or threatens to use a dirk, dagger,  
20 blackjack, metal knuckles, or other deadly or dangerous weapon,  
21 or a billy, while engaged in the commission of a [~~crime~~]





1 separate felony or misdemeanor shall be guilty of a class C  
2 felony.

3 (c) A conviction and sentence under subsection (b) shall  
4 be in addition to and not in lieu of any conviction and sentence  
5 for the separate felony or misdemeanor; provided that the  
6 sentence imposed under subsection (b) may run concurrently or  
7 consecutively with the sentence for the separate felony or  
8 misdemeanor.

9 (d) Upon conviction of a person for carrying or possessing  
10 a deadly or dangerous weapon pursuant to this section, the  
11 deadly or dangerous weapon shall be summarily destroyed by the  
12 chief of police or sheriff.

13 (e) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, this  
14 section shall not apply to:

15 (1) A firearm, whether loaded or not, and whether operable  
16 or not;

17 (2) A switchblade knife as defined in section 134-52;

18 (3) A butterfly knife as defined in section 134-53; or

19 (4) An electric gun as defined in section 134-81.



1        (f) For purposes of this section, "billy" includes a  
2 cudgel, truncheon, police baton, collapsible baton, billy club,  
3 or nightstick.

4        (g) It shall be a defense to a prosecution under  
5 subsection (a) that a person was lawfully present in the  
6 person's own home at the time of the offense."

7        SECTION 5. Section 134-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9        **"§134-52 Switchblade knives; prohibitions; penalty.** (a)

10 Whoever knowingly [~~manufactures, sells, transfers, possesses, or~~  
11 ~~transports in the State~~] carries concealed on the person, or in  
12 a bag or other container carried by the person, any switchblade  
13 knife[~~, being any knife having a blade which opens automatically~~  
14 ~~(1) by hand pressure applied to a button or other device in the~~  
15 ~~handle of the knife, or (2) by operation of inertia, gravity, or~~  
16 ~~both,~~] shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

17        (b) Whoever knowingly possesses or intentionally uses or  
18 threatens to use a switchblade knife while engaged in the  
19 commission of a [~~crime~~] separate felony or misdemeanor shall be  
20 guilty of a class C felony[~~-~~]; provided that a person shall not



1 be prosecuted under this subsection when the separate felony or  
2 misdemeanor is an offense otherwise defined by this chapter.

3 (c) A conviction and sentence under subsection (b) shall  
4 be in addition to and not in lieu of any conviction and sentence  
5 for the separate felony or misdemeanor; provided that the  
6 sentence imposed under subsection (b) may run concurrently or  
7 consecutively with the sentence for the separate felony or  
8 misdemeanor.

9 (d) It shall be a defense to a prosecution under  
10 subsection (a) that the person was lawfully present in the  
11 person's own home at the time of the offense.

12 (e) For the purposes of this section, "switchblade knife"  
13 means any knife having a blade that opens automatically by:

14 (1) Hand pressure applied to a button or other device in  
15 the handle of the knife; or

16 (2) Operation of inertia, gravity, or both."

17 SECTION 6. Section 134-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "[~~§~~§134-53~~]§~~ **Butterfly knives; prohibitions; penalty.**

20 (a) Whoever knowingly [~~manufactures, sells, transfers,~~  
21 ~~possesses, or transports in the State]~~ carries concealed on the



1 person, or in a bag or other container carried by the person,  
2 any butterfly knife[~~, being a knife having a blade encased in a~~  
3 ~~split handle that manually unfolds with hand or wrist action~~  
4 ~~with the assistance of inertia, gravity or both,~~] shall be  
5 guilty of a misdemeanor.

6 (b) Whoever knowingly possesses or intentionally uses or  
7 threatens to use a butterfly knife while engaged in the  
8 commission of a [~~crime~~] separate felony or misdemeanor shall be  
9 guilty of a class C felony[~~-~~]; provided that a person shall not  
10 be prosecuted under this subsection when the separate felony or  
11 misdemeanor is an offense otherwise defined by this chapter.

12 (c) A conviction and sentence under subsection (b) shall  
13 be in addition to and not in lieu of any conviction and sentence  
14 for the separate felony or misdemeanor; provided that the  
15 sentence imposed under subsection (b) may run concurrently or  
16 consecutively with the sentence for the separate felony or  
17 misdemeanor.

18 (d) It shall be a defense to a prosecution under  
19 subsection (a) that the person was lawfully present in the  
20 person's own home at the time of the offense.



1        (e) For the purposes of this section, "butterfly knife"  
2 means any knife having a blade encased in a split handle that  
3 manually unfolds with hand or wrist action with the assistance  
4 of inertia, gravity, or both."

5        SECTION 7. Every provision in this Act and every  
6 application of each provision in this Act is severable from each  
7 other. If any application of any provision in this Act to any  
8 person or group of persons or circumstances is determined by any  
9 court to be invalid, the remainder of this Act and the  
10 application of the Act's provisions to all other persons and  
11 circumstances shall not be affected because it is the  
12 legislature's intent that all valid applications shall remain in  
13 force.

14        SECTION 8. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
15 matured, penalties that were incurred, and enforcement  
16 proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

17        SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19        SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Weapons; Deadly or Dangerous Weapons; Prohibition

**Description:**

Prohibits carrying or using a firearm in the commission of a separate misdemeanor offense. Amends and clarifies prohibitions regarding deadly or dangerous weapons, switchblade knives, and butterfly knives. Clarifies hunter education certificates and other written exemptions regarding permit issuing. (SD2)

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

