

JAN 23 2026

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 Hawai'i has some of
2 the strongest gun safety laws in the nation and for many years
3 has received an A or A-minus rating from the Giffords Law Center
4 to Prevent Gun Violence. Additionally, Hawai'i had the lowest
5 number of gun deaths per capita among the states in 2020 and
6 continues to have one of the lowest rates according to the
7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The legislature is
8 committed to protecting the safety and well-being of residents
9 of the State.

10 The legislature further finds that fifty-caliber firearms
11 are exceptionally powerful weapons that pose extraordinary risks
12 to public safety, law enforcement personnel, and critical
13 infrastructure. "Caliber" is the measurement in inches of the
14 internal width of a firearm's barrel and correspondingly the
15 width of the bullet. A fifty-caliber bullet is half an inch in
16 size and capable of penetrating light armor, vehicles, and
17 buildings from significant distances, making them particularly



1 dangerous in both urban and rural environments. The fact that
2 Hawai'i still allows any firearm with the capacity to fire
3 ammunition with a caliber of fifty or greater is inconsistent
4 with its commitment to protect the safety and well-being of its
5 residents. The legislature also finds that the prohibition of
6 firearms with the capacity to fire ammunition with a caliber of
7 fifty or greater aligns with existing restrictions on other
8 weapons that present similar risks to public safety.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit any
10 firearm with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or
11 higher, with exceptions for currently-owned fifty-caliber
12 firearms and antique firearms.

13 SECTION 2. Section 134-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

15 "(a) The manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade,
16 gift, transfer, or acquisition of any of the following shall be
17 prohibited: assault pistols, except as provided by section
18 134-4(e); after July 1, 2026, any firearms with the capacity to
19 fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher; automatic firearms;
20 rifles with barrel lengths less than sixteen inches; ghost guns;
21 shotguns with barrel lengths less than eighteen inches; cannons;



1 mufflers, silencers, or devices for deadening or muffling the
2 sound of discharged firearms; hand grenades, dynamite, blasting
3 caps, bombs, or bombshells, or other explosives; or any type of
4 ammunition or any projectile component thereof coated with
5 [teflon] Teflon or any other similar coating designed primarily
6 to enhance its capability to penetrate metal or pierce
7 protective armor; and any type of ammunition or any projectile
8 component thereof designed or intended to explode or segment
9 upon impact with its target.

10 For the purposes of this subsection:

11 "Firearm with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty
12 caliber or higher" does not include antique pistols, antique
13 revolvers, or muzzleloaders.

14 "Muzzleloaders" means any rifle, pistol, or shotgun that
15 loads from the muzzle, or the open end of a weapon, from which
16 the ammunition is discharged."

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall not prohibit possession of a
18 firearm with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or
19 higher that was legally obtained prior to July 1, 2026.

20 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: Karl Rhoads



S.B. NO. 2734

Report Title:

Firearms; Gun Safety; .50 Caliber Firearms; Prohibitions

Description:

After 7/1/2026, prohibits firearms with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher with exceptions.

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