STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1977-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09, 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2517
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2517, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to amend the penalty for the unlawful possession, control, or transfer of a firearm or ammunition in violation of a judicial protective order or restraining order by reclassifying the offense from a misdemeanor to a class C felony.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of the Attorney General; Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawai‘i; Kaua‘i Police Department; State of Hawai‘i Organization of Police Officers; and two individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Office of the Public Defender; Hawaii Firearms Coalition; SDM Training Group/Bows N Bullets; Libertarian Party of Hawaii; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that violations of firearm and ammunition prohibitions contained in judicial protective orders and restraining orders present heightened risks to the safety of protected persons and the public. Your Committee further finds

that the current misdemeanor penalty does not adequately reflect the seriousness of unlawfully possessing, controlling, or transferring a firearm or ammunition under these circumstances. This measure strengthens public safety by changing the penalty for such violations to a class C felony.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Clarifying the penalty for when a person restrained refuses to surrender a firearm or disclose the location of a firearm; and

(2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2517, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2517, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,

Hawaiian Affairs,

DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair

State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 1977-26

## Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

| Bill/Resolution No.: | Committee Referral: | Date: |
|---|---|---|
| SB2517 SD1 | JHA | 3/18/2026 |

☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

**The recommendation is to:** ☐ Pass, unamended (as is) ☒ Pass, with amendments (HD) ☐ Hold
☐ Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

| JHA Members | Ayes | Ayes (WR) | Nays | Excused |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. TARNAS, David A. (C) | ✓ | | | |
| 2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| 3. BELATTI, Della Au | ✓ | | | |
| 4. COCHRAN, Elle | | | | ✓ |
| 5. HASHEM, Mark J. | | | | ✓ |
| 6. KAHALOA, Kirstin | ✓ | | | |
| 7. SAYAMA, Jackson D. | | | | ✓ |
| 8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg | ✓ | | | |
| 9. GARCIA, Diamond | | | ✓ | |
| 10. SHIMIZU, Garner M. | | ✓ | | |
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| TOTAL (10) | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

**The recommendation is:** ☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
committee acronym(s)

**Vice Chair's or designee's signature:** _____

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