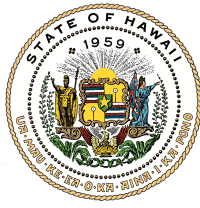


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
Director

ERNEST J. ROBELLO
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2503
RELATING TO FIREARMS**

Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Monday, February 2, 2026, 3:00 PM

State Capitol Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Testifier: Mike Lambert

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 2503. This bill appropriates moneys to support the State's gun buyback program, including at least two gun buyback events in each county. The requested funding would enable the DLE to effectively implement these voluntary firearm buyback events throughout the state.

The DLE has previously conducted successful voluntary firearm buyback programs and believes they serve an important public safety function by reducing the number of unwanted firearms in our communities. These events provide a safe, legal means for firearm owners to dispose of weapons they no longer want or need, potentially preventing these firearms from being stolen or misused.

The appropriation would cover expenses related to conducting multiple buyback events in each county, including the purchase of surrendered firearms, secure storage and proper disposal of collected weapons, support costs for partner agencies assisting with the events, and administrative expenses associated with organizing and implementing

the program. The appropriation would also cover costs associated with the certified destruction of surrendered firearms, including transportation, processing, and contracted destruction services to ensure all weapons are permanently rendered inoperable and disposed of in compliance with applicable laws and safety standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Rebecca V. Like
Prosecuting Attorney



Keola Siu
First Deputy
Prosecuting Attorney

LATE

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

3990 Ka'ana Street, Suite 210, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
808-241-1888 ~ FAX 808-241-1758
Victim/Witness Program 808-241-1898 or 800-668-5734

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Thirty-third State Legislature
Regular session of 2026
State of Hawai'i
February 2, 2026

RE: SB 2503. Relating to Firearms

Dear Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of this bill, which would appropriate money to support the State's gun buyback program for at least two gun buyback events in each county.

Gun buybacks are a practical, voluntary tool that reduce that number of unwanted and unsecured firearms in our communities. They provide a safe, judgment-free way for residents to dispose of guns they no longer want or need – particularly firearms that might otherwise be accessible to children, stolen or misused.

From a public safety perspective, buyback programs are preventative. They reduce the risk of accidental shootings, suicides and domestic violence incidents. They also help law enforcement safely remove firearms from circulation without criminalizing lawful gun owners. These programs are especially effective when paired with community outreach and safe-storage education.

These programs do not replace enforcement or other violence-prevention strategies, but they do complement them. They are cost-effective, non-controversial and widely supported proactive solutions to reduce gun-related harm. For these reasons, our Office supports this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

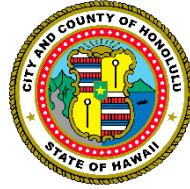
**DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELAWE KUPA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

ADMINISTRATION
925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
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KIMBERLY M. HASHIRO
DIRECTOR
PO'O

MEGAN JOHNSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O



February 2, 2026

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation:

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 2053 - Relating To Transportation
HEARING: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Customer Services (CSD) **supports** this bill and appreciates the opportunity to offer comments for your committee's consideration. Pursuant to Section 6-402 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, CSD Division of Motor Vehicle Registration (DMV) administers the motor vehicle registration program for the island of O'ahu. CSD appreciates the intent of the proposed legislation, however, we have concerns regarding its application and its legal implications.

CSD supports efforts to modernize and streamline motor vehicle title transactions, particularly those involving salvaged vehicles following total loss insurance settlements. Allowing supporting documents to be signed electronically, without requiring notarization, has the potential to reduce processing delays, minimize paperwork burdens, and improve efficiency for vehicle owners, insurers, and county offices.

From an administrative standpoint, electronic signatures can help expedite title transfers and reduce in-person visits, while maintaining continuity of service. The bill's inclusion of an indemnification provision for the Director of Finance provides important

Testimony for S.B. No. 2053
February 2, 2026
Page 2

protection for the counties when relying on electronically signed documents submitted by insurance companies.

At the same time, implementation of these changes will require careful coordination. Clear standards for acceptable electronic signatures, document retention, and verification procedures will be necessary to ensure the integrity of title records and to prevent fraud. DMV systems, staff training, and internal workflows may also need to be updated to accommodate electronic documentation on a consistent basis.

With adequate lead time and interagency coordination, CSD believes these changes can be implemented effectively and will result in a more efficient and customer-friendly title transfer process. For these reasons, CSD supports S.B. No. 2053 and appreciates the Legislature's consideration of measures that modernize motor vehicle administration.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 2053.

Sincerely,

for Kimberly M. Hashiro
Director

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:09:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa Kaku	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is **Kainoa Kaku**, President of the **Hawai'i Rifle Association**, and I respectfully submit testimony **in opposition to SB 2503**.

SB 2503 seeks to appropriate state funds to expand Hawai'i's firearm buyback program, including requiring at least two buyback events in each county and continuing the use of public funds in exchange for gift cards for surrendered firearms.

At the outset, I want to be clear that the Hawai'i Rifle Association supports safe firearm storage, lawful transfer, and responsible ownership. However, gun buyback programs are **not an evidence-based public safety strategy**, and SB 2503 directs limited taxpayer resources toward a program that has **not been shown to reduce violent crime, suicide, or accidental injury in any meaningful or measurable way**.

The bill cites the number of firearms collected at prior events as evidence of success. Quantity alone, however, does not equal impact. Buyback programs overwhelmingly collect:

- Older or inoperable firearms
- Firearms already lawfully owned and not linked to criminal activity
- Replica or non-functional weapons

These are not the firearms driving violent crime in Hawai'i. Individuals intent on committing crimes do not voluntarily surrender their weapons for gift cards.

SB 2503 also relies on anonymous participation, which means there is **no data showing whether the collected firearms were ever used in crimes, posed a risk, or would have been misused**. Without outcome-based metrics, the Legislature is being asked to fund a program based on assumptions rather than results.

From a fiscal perspective, this bill appropriates public money for a program with **unclear return on investment**, while other proven interventions, such as targeted enforcement against violent offenders, mental health crisis response, and suicide prevention services, remain under-resourced.

Finally, buyback programs can create a false sense of security. Removing lawfully owned firearms from compliant citizens does not address the root causes of violence and does not substitute for focused, evidence-driven public safety policy.

Public safety resources should be spent where they are most effective. SB 2503 does not meet that standard.

For these reasons, the **Hawai'i Rifle Association respectfully urges this Committee to reject SB 2503.**

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:58:31 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Asam	Testifying for Mid Pacific Pistol League	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Mid Pacific Pistol League respectfully opposes SB 2503.

This bill allocates public funds for gun buyback programs and mandates at least two such events per county. While often presented as a public safety initiative, substantial research from jurisdictions nationwide has shown that gun buyback programs have little measurable impact on violent crime.

These programs typically collect older, non-functional, or rarely used firearms and do not meaningfully address the sources of criminal violence. As a result, they represent an inefficient use of limited public resources.

The Mid Pacific Pistol League believes taxpayer funds should be directed toward strategies with demonstrated effectiveness, such as targeted enforcement against violent offenders, mental health services, and community-based prevention efforts.

For these reasons, the Mid Pacific Pistol League respectfully urges you to oppose SB 2503.

Sincerely,

Mid Pacific Pistol League

Board of Directors

DATE: Monday, February 2, 2026 **TIME:** 3:00 PM **PLACE:** Conference Room 016,
BILL : SB2503

Testimony of Hawai'i Firearms Coalition In Opposition to SB2503

Testimony in Opposition to SB2503

Hawai'i Firearms Coalition respectfully submits testimony in opposition to SB2503.

We acknowledge that the Attorney General's Office, members of the Legislature, and law enforcement agencies have previously recognized that firearm buyback programs have no measurable impact on the criminal use or possession of firearms. Firearms used in crimes are overwhelmingly not obtained through lawful channels or voluntarily surrendered at buyback events. As a result, buyback programs do not meaningfully address violent crime or illegal firearm activity.

Gun buybacks primarily collect firearms that are already unwanted, inoperable, inherited, or otherwise unlikely to be used in criminal conduct. The data cited in support of this bill confirms this reality, including the collection of replica firearms and firearms voluntarily surrendered by lawful owners. While safe disposal options are important, they should not be confused with crime prevention strategies.

The Legislature's findings assert reductions in assaults, suicides, and accidents, yet no causal evidence is presented to support those claims. Repeating buyback events without demonstrable public safety outcomes diverts limited state resources away from programs that directly address criminal behavior, mental health intervention, and enforcement of existing laws.

At a time when the State faces competing budget priorities, appropriating additional funds for a program that all parties acknowledge does not reduce criminal firearm use is neither fiscally responsible nor evidence-based policymaking.

For these reasons, Hawai'i Firearms Coalition respectfully urges the Legislature to reject SB2503.

Andrew Namiki Roberts

Director

Hawai'i Firearms Coalition

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:17:28 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Yuen	Testifying for Pu'uoloa Rifle and Pistol Club	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose SB2503 on the grounds that it does very little to deter criminals from using guns in crime, preventing gun accidents and suicides, and is not an economical way to get unwanted guns off the street.

Criminals will use gun buybacks to maximize the profit on guns they stole and can no longer utilize due to mechanical condition or disposition. Gun accidents are more a matter of lack of training and education than availability. Suicides will happen regardless of the availability of guns. Auctions and the resale of guns may be lucrative for the family wishing to dispose of them. The last buyback there was a M1 carbine that was surrendered that may have had a value up to \$3000. There are some other guns that are priceless due to the historical value. The State should work on a program that would auction or sell guns that are surrendered in a buy back program.



Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i, and City & County of Honolulu

Website: hawaiicounties.org | Email: hsac@hawaiicounties.org

LATE

Testimony of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties

S.B. No. 2503 - Support

Relating to Firearms

Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

Monday, February 2, 2026, 3 p.m.

The Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) is a non-profit organization that represents the collective interests of Hawai'i's four counties: the County of Kaua'i, County of Maui, County of Hawai'i, and the City and County of Honolulu. HSAC's membership includes the elected members of each county council, who advocate for policies and programs that strengthen county government, improve public safety, and enhance the quality of life for residents statewide. Through this work, HSAC helps ensure that counties are better positioned to address shared challenges and that statewide policies reflect county-level realities, an important outcome that helps make all counties stronger.

Counties play a critical role in residents' daily lives by delivering a wide array of essential services, including law enforcement and emergency response, public works and infrastructure, water and wastewater systems, parks and recreation, housing, public health coordination, and community services. Because counties are responsible for implementing and supporting many public safety and social service functions, policies that prevent harm and reduce demand on emergency and social systems are especially impactful at the county level.

HSAC supports this measure, which appropriates funds to the Department of Law Enforcement to sustain and expand the State's gun buyback program, including the requirement that at least two gun buyback events be held annually in each county. This bill is one of two evidence-based gun safety proposals included in HSAC's 2026 legislative package, both of which emphasize prevention, early intervention, and strategies proven to reduce gun violence and suicide risk.

Gun buyback programs provide residents with a safe, voluntary, and anonymous way to dispose of unwanted or unlawful firearms, including unregistered "ghost guns." These programs



complement county and state law enforcement efforts by reducing the number of firearms that could otherwise be used in suicides, domestic violence incidents, or accidental shootings, while also promoting safe firearm storage through the distribution of gun locks.

Recent results from O‘ahu demonstrate the effectiveness of these programs and underscore the value of a consistent, statewide approach. In April 2025, a gun buyback event on O‘ahu collected approximately 367 firearms and distributed \$37,900 in Foodland Farms gift cards. A subsequent event in August 2025, conducted in partnership between the Honolulu Police Department and the Department of Law Enforcement, collected 83 firearms, including unregistered ghost guns and replica firearms. These events removed hundreds of firearms from circulation and highlighted the importance of expanding buyback opportunities to Maui County, Hawai‘i County, and Kaua‘i County on a regular and predictable basis.

HSAC views SB 2503 as an important component of broader county and state public safety efforts, including investments in training, enforcement, and public awareness related to Hawai‘i’s Gun Violence Protective Order law. Together, these approaches focus on prevention and early intervention, acting before tragedy occurs, while reducing long-term demands on county services such as law enforcement, emergency medical response, public health systems, and social services.

By ensuring equitable access to gun buyback events across all four counties, this measure supports local law enforcement, promotes safer communities, and strengthens counties’ ability to continue providing essential services that residents rely on every day.

HSAC respectfully urges the committee to support SB 2503. We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and look forward to continued work with the Legislature and state agencies to advance practical, evidence-based solutions that benefit all counties and the people they serve.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 4:25:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I stand opposed to gun buybacks on principle as I believe they are a waste of time and effort that could be best used elsewhere to reduce gun violence and accidents. I thus wish to submit **COMMENTS.**

A friend of mine, a veteran who moved here from Texas to be with his wife’s family, his father in law had recently passed away and had some firearms. He was unsure what to do with the firearms as he had no idea about Hawaii’s gun laws but still wanted to keep them to honor his father in law. After being advised on State Law and beginning to make efforts to become a lawful gun owner, including having the required classes scheduled for himself, his wife, and his sister in law. He was notified that an untrustworthy individual became aware of the firearms and showed an ‘unhealthy interest’ in them.

Fearing the firearms would be stolen before he and the other family members could legally take possession of the guns, he instead opted to turn the weapons in at a Gun Buyback. He hates that that was the most viable option for him given the sentimental connection to father in law, on top of the real value of the guns compared to what they received through gift cards.

I would much rather see laws relaxed in terms of transferring firearms. I think a better system would be to allow FFLs (Gun Stores) to take possession of firearms that individuals wish to surrender, even if temporarily. FFLs would then do a primary inspection to render the firearm safe and then contact local police to do a secondary inspection and background check on the firearm.

This secondary inspection would be to see if the firearm itself is illegal or stolen or tied to an ongoing case and needs to be turned over to Law Enforcement for appropriate action, or is otherwise legal and could be released to the FFL. In the latter case the FFL could offer fair market value for the firearm and work with the current holder in selling the firearm on the legal market. Alternately if they simply wish the firearm to be destroyed for whatever reason and turn it over to HPD. Or, in my friend’s case they can be held securely until they can legally be acquired by the individual.

This can help to reduce the cost of the program, and help prevent chaos associated with hosting

buybacks such as security risks and reduce the potential for theft of firearms at such events. This can also be done year round as opposed to 2 times a year.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 4:42:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

2503 SB RELATING TO FIREARMS.	PSM	CR 016 & Videoconference	Feb 2, 2026 3:00 PM
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SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 7:24:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Cavitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my deep concerns with SB2503. I oppose this bill as it is a waste of tax payer dollars for something that can actually be a better service provided by private businesses. I feel this is something that licensed FFL's should be doing for our communities. A person who doesn't want a firearm and brings it into a legal gun store can submit whatever info they have if it was inherited or however they came across possession. Similar to how a police firearm buying/destroying program works. The FFL can then submit any information needed to the police department at any specified timeframe, most likely through a simple email and form. Then the FFL could take ownership of the firearm if it wasn't used in any crimes or stolen and then go back into the market if found safe for use and resold at a higher rate and a portion paid back to the owner who turned it in. If they want the money for the item then the person would leave contact info and personal info on the form when bringing it in. I have heard that gun buyback programs have no repercussions for those who have firearms and no questions asked. If that is true then this would be even better for the community and could lead to less tax money wasted, more income to our local economy and help those more who turn them in as the price the state pays an individual is usually far less than a reasonable offer.

I feel this is a wasted opportunity to build trust within the firearm community with lawmakers as most Hawaii politicians work to destroy our rights and waste our money. I am so tired of it being a my side your side thing and wish our community of "leaders" could actually do something that could help others and achieve the same goal as proposed with bills like this.

I do not appreciate my tax dollars being spent to destroy things that can help our communities. I oppose SB2503 and ask you to please stop this bill from going any further.

Mahalo,

Chase Cavitt

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:14:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven T Takekoshi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

To start I would like to remind this body that you have stated that cost of living, and affordability are "legislative priorities," as a taxpayer I do not see this from this body as you propose more spending which does not address these stated priorities.

I am tired of annually having to write testimony stating the obvious that anti-second amendment proposals are not what voters want; they are repugnant to the United States Constitution, and I would posit to Hawaii's great Constitution as well as it was modeled off of our National Constitution; and defending these unconstitutional proposal, such as the one the Attorney General recently argued, and is likely to lose, at the Supreme Court is costly and draws resources away from the "stated legislative priorities of affordability and reducing the cost of living here in Hawaii." We all know special interests do want these and are happy to buy your vote; it would also appear that some in this body are not adverse to selling theirs's either, but I will come back to that later. If proposals like these that steal resources from "legislative priorities" are supported, where does the money come from? Eliminating tax cuts which so many of you ran on? Increased taxes? The taxpayers of Hawaii are not an endless fountain of funding you can draw upon, and this does not help affordability or reduce cost of living; that alone should eliminate your support, unless of course passage of proposals that attack citizens' constitutional rights are your priority.

The idea that a gun buyback program will bring either cost of living reductions or affordability to Hawaii is a fantasy, I would ask you kill this bill and move on to the important work with which you have been charged.

I understand many will howl, "for safety!" Buy backs are costly gestures that yield old non-working firearms or functioning weapons that have a tendency to return to the streets. There is no safety in that. It is a cost to the taxpayer for which you care not, if you pass this travesty of a proposal into law. Please remember because of your promises to address affordability the People are watching and your addressing of ancillary non-priorities and pet projects such as this and the other seventeen proposals against our second amendment rights will be remembered when it is time to vote.

Last session, I followed up on proposals where testimony ranged from 9 to 17-to-1 against, yet these proposals moved forward, how is that doing the will of the people?

Lastly, the Legislature began this term under a cloud, a \$35,000 bribe which this body has not addressed in years, the people are aware that all the legislators who were in office when this bribe occurred are still in office, all have denied taking it, and you have refused to investigate to hold yourselves accountable to the voters. Please show us you are capable of doing the right thing and deserving of our trust. Kill this proposal and send a message to your colleagues who support these legislative rabbit holes that take this body's focus of priorities the message that at least you are here for the people when they are obviously not.

I thank you again for the opportunity and your attention.

Sincerely,

Steven Takekoshi

Waipahu, HI

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:40:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators of the committee, I stand in opposition to this bill, the funding is better spent elsewhere, criminals do not just give up their firearms and this does not do anything to prevent crime. Mahalo

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 11:29:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles-Michael victorino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony in opposition to SB2503.

At a time when Hawai‘i’s state budget is already stretched thin, allocating public funds for a firearm buyback program is fiscally irresponsible. These programs require significant taxpayer funding for administration, staffing, logistics, and compensation, yet they divert resources from areas of clear and pressing need.

Gun buyback programs have not been shown to reduce violent crime or improve public safety in any meaningful or measurable way. They primarily collect firearms from lawful owners, not from individuals who are committing crimes. As a result, the return on investment for these programs is extremely low, while the cost to taxpayers is high.

Our limited public funds should be directed elsewhere—toward enforcing existing laws, addressing violent offenders directly, supporting victims, improving mental health services, or investing in community-based initiatives that have demonstrated effectiveness. Spending scarce resources on programs with little evidence of success does not serve the public interest.

Responsible governance requires prioritizing policies that are both effective and fiscally sound. SB2503 fails to meet that standard.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB2503.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:13:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Waste of taxpayer money on a program that doesn't work. Criminals don't care about laws.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:09:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is tyrannical and does not in any way reduce crime. Criminals do not turn in their guns. This only disarms law abiding citizens. I refuse to have my tax dollars fund this insanity. Stop this bill.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:25:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Abbott	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB2503.

This is a complete waste of tax payer funds as gun buy back programs do not reduce crime rates.

I urge the Committee to OPPOSE SB2503

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:32:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Muneoka-Nagy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because I believe funds do not need to be appropriated for a buy pack program for something that is a constitutional right and shall not be infringed upon.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:54:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Ilo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose. This program does very little if anything to reduce atcual crime. It is a waste of time and Tax payer money

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 6:30:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mitchell H. Weber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2503!

No money for buy backs!

The state that cuts its own nose off to spite its face in regards to tax money, can't even take care of the people affected by fires and your terrible take is to allot more money for stupid pet projects?

Mitchell Weber

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:11:42 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
steven a kumasaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

waste of time and money...

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:42:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Lono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I *oppose* SB2503. Gun buyback programs use public funds without clear evidence that they reduce crime or improve public safety. These programs often collect low-risk firearms rather than those used in violence, making them an inefficient use of limited resources. Public funds would be better spent on proven prevention and community safety efforts. For these reasons, **I urge a NO vote on SB2503.**

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:37:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

this bill is an overstep of government and goes against the second amendment. Please oppose.

Mahalo

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:12:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Oya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose SB2503, which appropriates taxpayer funds to expand the State's gun buyback program, mandating at least two events per county annually. While voluntary disposal of unwanted firearms is reasonable, using public money for buyback events is ineffective public policy and an inefficient use of limited resources. Key concerns include:

1. **Proven ineffectiveness:** Multiple studies (including from the RAND Corporation, CDC, and academic reviews) show gun buybacks do not meaningfully reduce gun violence, crime, or suicides. They primarily collect old, inoperable, or low-value firearms from law-abiding citizens who were unlikely to misuse them anyway. Criminals rarely participate, so the program does not remove guns from high-risk hands.
2. **Waste of taxpayer dollars:** Funds could be better directed toward proven strategies like enhanced law enforcement against illegal gun trafficking, mental health services, domestic violence intervention, or community-based violence interruption programs. Mandating multiple events per county increases administrative costs without corresponding safety benefits.
3. **Potential for abuse and fraud:** Buybacks can be exploited (e.g., stolen guns turned in for cash, or participants buying cheap guns elsewhere to resell). Without strict verification, this risks rewarding bad actors or wasting money on ineligible items.
4. **Chilling effect on lawful ownership:** Expanding buybacks sends a message that firearms are inherently problematic, potentially discouraging responsible ownership and conflicting with constitutional protections (especially post-Bruen). Hawaii already has strict permitting, registration, and storage laws—focus on enforcing those rather than symbolic programs.

I support genuine efforts to enhance public safety, but SB2503 is not evidence-based and diverts resources from more impactful solutions. I urge the committees to reject this bill or redirect any funding to higher-priority areas like enforcement of existing laws or victim support services. Mahalo for considering my testimony. I respectfully request that this bill be defeated.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:44:01 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2503 does nothing more than create another failing money pit for the state to waste our taxpayer dollars. Criminals are not going to give up their guns for a foodland giftcard.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:08:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarrod Goode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a huge infringement on my 2nd ammendment rights. This bill should not be passed. This bill is also a huge overreach by the same people who pass infringement bills which make it hard to "keep and bear arms". Strike this bill down

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:28:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Asam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to respectfully oppose SB 2503.

This bill allocates funding for gun buyback programs, requiring a minimum of two events per county. While often promoted as a public safety initiative, gun buyback programs have consistently shown limited evidence of meaningful impact on crime reduction.

Numerous studies from jurisdictions across the country indicate that buybacks typically collect older or inoperable firearms and do not significantly reduce violent crime or gun misuse. As such, these programs represent a poor return on public investment.

Public resources are finite and should be directed toward solutions with demonstrated effectiveness, such as targeted enforcement against violent offenders, mental health services, or community-based intervention programs. SB 2503 does not meet this standard.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 2503 and advocate for evidence-based approaches to public safety.

Sincerely,
Wayne Asam

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:28:08 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 2503. Criminals don't turn their guns in this is a useless attempt to stop crime money could be used elsewhere to prevent crime vote no

SB 2503 allocates funding for gun buyback programs, requiring at least two events per county. While often presented as a public safety measure, studies across the country have shown limited evidence that buyback programs significantly reduce crime. Public resources should be focused on solutions with proven effectiveness.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:40:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikhael Kobayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

vote yes

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:44:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Xander Asam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is **Xander**, and I am a **16-year-old sophomore in Hawai'i**. I am writing to respectfully oppose SB 2503.

This bill would require gun buyback programs in every county. While these programs sound helpful, I've learned that they don't really reduce crime. Most of the items turned in are old or unused and are not connected to violence.

As a student learning about how government spends money, I think public funds should be used on programs that actually work. Things like education, mental health support, and community programs seem like better ways to improve safety.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 2503.

Sincerely,
Xander
Age 16, Sophomore
Hawai'i

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:46:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Asam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is **Kai Asam**, and I am writing to respectfully oppose SB 2503.

This bill allocates public funds for gun buyback programs and mandates multiple events in every county. While these programs are often promoted as improving public safety, studies from across the country have shown little evidence that gun buybacks significantly reduce violent crime.

Public resources are limited and should be directed toward programs with demonstrated effectiveness. Education, mental health services, and targeted community-based interventions offer a more responsible use of taxpayer funds.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 2503.

Sincerely,
Kai Asam

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:03:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cliff mello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB2503. Although presented as funding for a gun buyback program, this bill raises serious constitutional, legal, and policy concerns.

SB2503 appropriates general revenue funds to support a statewide gun buyback program that compensates participants for surrendered firearms, including automatic and semi-automatic weapons. The program allows anonymity and provides gift cards in exchange for surrendered firearms.

The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects an individual right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes, including self-defense. In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed that this right is not unlimited, but lawful firearm ownership cannot be unduly burdened without a compelling justification. Buyback programs that incentivize surrender risk creating indirect pressures on lawful owners. Historical courts have struck down laws that, even if framed as voluntary, operate in practice as disincentives to the constitutional exercise of rights.

Appropriating taxpayer dollars to encourage the relinquishment of constitutionally protected property raises important legal questions. Citizens' rights should not be indirectly discouraged through state incentives that effectively penalize lawful ownership in practice. The state must respect constitutional rights and avoid creating policy that undermines them through clever incentives rather than direct action.

There is also **no credible evidence that gun buyback programs significantly reduce violent crime or meaningfully improve public safety**. Multiple independent studies indicate that weapons collected at buybacks tend not to be those used in criminal activity and may not reduce

overall rates of gun violence or accidental shootings. Buybacks can disproportionately collect firearms from residents who were already compliant with safe storage practices, diverting public funds without measurable impact on crime. *This calls into question the program's justification as a public safety expenditure.*

Further, providing anonymity in exchange for compensation can undermine accountability. Law enforcement must prioritize strategies that target criminal misuse of firearms, not general voluntary surrender of guns from law-abiding citizens. Diverting resources in this manner could reduce funding available for programs that directly address violent crime and penalize offenders based on conduct rather than ownership.

Public safety funding should be evidence-based and uphold constitutional protections. **SB2503 fails to demonstrate that this program aligns with measurable public safety goals, and it risks creating indirect pressures that conflict with constitutional rights.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose SB2503.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:50:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Dodo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Whom It May Concern,

I oppose SB2503 as it violates my constitutional rights for the 2nd Amendment: the right to keep and bear arms. As an Army Veteran, I swore to defend and protect the constitution of the United States and the American way of life. I rely on the 2nd Amendment to not only protect myself but my loved ones and property. Something that our forefathers have fought bravely and sacrificed themselves to protect these rights.

Mahalo for taking the time to hear my testimony.

Aloha,

Josh

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:52:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:55:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:58:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:59:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Arakawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The amount of resouces expended to support these event can be better used elsewhere

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:23:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Djou	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:00:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Brissette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It has been nationally proven that gun buy back programs are ineffective in crime prevention/reeducation. It missallocates taxpayer resources from programs that are by far more effective and needed in Hawaii, such as mental health services, Police training or community safety programs.

Buy back programs fail to address the broader issue related to gun violence such as mental health or socioeconomic factors. The crime reported in Hawaii that involves guns almost exclusively involves persons prohibited from owning / using firearms from previous felony records.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:06:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Isaacson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gun buy backs allow criminals to dispose of crime guns without consequence, break the evidence chain and cheat ignorant citizens of the value of the firearms they turn in. The very name is a misnomer in that guns are not "bought back" but are purchased at a fraction of their value with tax dollars, while criminals get rid of damning evidence.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:23:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J. Cole	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

I wish to say that I do not support this Bill. Once again members of the legislature are overreacting to events and overstepping their bounds. The law abiding people of Hawaii are not the issue when it comes to weapons for protection. If the government really wants to enhance public safety, they should focus their efforts on ensuring repeat offenders are not allowed back in public.

Concentrate on the crooks, not the citizens.

V/R

Kevin J. Cole, Mililani Col USAF Ret.

Article 1 Section 17 of the Hawaii State Constitution The “RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS”

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms *shall not be infringed.*

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:54:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Terry	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 2503

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB 2503.

SB 2503 proposes to allocate public funding for firearm buyback programs, requiring at least two buyback events per county. While these programs are often presented as public safety measures intended to reduce gun violence, there is limited empirical evidence demonstrating that gun buyback initiatives produce measurable or lasting reductions in crime.

Numerous studies conducted across the country have found that gun buyback programs typically remove firearms that are older, non-operational, or already unlikely to be used in criminal activity. As a result, these programs tend to have little impact on violent crime rates while consuming public resources that could otherwise be directed toward strategies with demonstrated effectiveness.

From a constitutional standpoint, public policy related to public safety should be grounded in evidence-based outcomes and careful stewardship of taxpayer funds. Programs that do not meaningfully reduce crime or enhance community safety raise concerns about whether limited resources are being used in a manner consistent with both constitutional responsibility and public trust.

This concern is especially significant when viewed through Hawaii’s historical and cultural perspective. Traditional Hawaiian society placed great importance on kuleana—responsible stewardship and accountability to the community. Decisions affecting the wellbeing of the people were guided by practicality, balance, and an understanding of what truly contributed to safety and harmony. Public resources were not expended on symbolic actions, but on solutions that served the long-term needs of the community.

Gun buyback programs may offer the appearance of action, but without clear evidence of effectiveness, they risk diverting attention and funding away from initiatives that address the root causes of violence, support prevention, and strengthen community resilience. Public safety is best advanced through strategies that are data-driven, targeted, and demonstrably effective.

For these reasons, I respectfully oppose SB 2503 and urge lawmakers to consider whether the proposed funding aligns with evidence-based public safety practices, Hawaii’s cultural values of responsible stewardship, and the most effective use of limited public resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

John Terry

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:01:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
charles wei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Charles Wei and currently reside in Kalihi. I do not feel that government money is best used to buy back legal guns from legal gun owners. Legal gun owners who want to dispose of their firearms will dispose of it without needing a payment. The money would be better served in providing gun education in schools or helping with mental health issues.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:25:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please lower taxes instead of trying to spend more money on programs like this.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:51:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Tavares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:30:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlon Calventas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:05:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradford Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this legislation because these programs do not significantly reduce crime.

Respectfully,

Bradford Davis

SB-2503

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:17:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 2503. Gun buy back programs do nothing to reduce crime. Public resources can be put to better use.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:03:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Doi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Evening,

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to the proposed Gun Buyback Law. While I understand the intent behind this measure is to reduce gun violence and improve public safety, I believe that the implementation of such a law would not achieve the desired outcomes and would, in fact, undermine the very values it seeks to protect.

Numerous studies have shown that gun buyback programs are ineffective in reducing crime rates or addressing the root causes of gun violence. These programs often remove old, outdated, or non-functional firearms from circulation—guns that are unlikely to be used in violent crimes. Meanwhile, they do little to impact the most dangerous firearms or the criminals who misuse them. By incentivizing the removal of lawfully owned firearms, buyback programs fail to address the underlying issues of criminal activity and do not prevent guns from falling into the hands of those who are already breaking the law.

In cities where gun buyback programs have been implemented, the correlation between these programs and a decrease in gun-related crimes has been minimal or non-existent. Real progress in reducing violence comes from tackling root causes such as poverty, mental health, and ineffective law enforcement—not by attempting to reduce the number of guns in private hands.

Furthermore, I believe our taxpayer dollars can be of better use in other areas such as subsidies for the high cost of living, mental health programs or addressing the massively increasing homeless problem. Please stop trying to waste taxpayer dollars on a issue that does not exist.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:55:57 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew J. Vioria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2503 would allocate funding for gun buyback programs, requiring at least two events per county. While gun buybacks are often presented as a public safety measure, studies across the country from sources such as the *National Incident-Based Reporting System* and *National Vital Statistics System* have shown that there is limited evidence that gun buyback programs have any tangible impact on significantly reducing crime, suicides included.

I believe that this funding would be better served on programs that investigate and find solutions to better punish and further deter violent crime here in our state over gun buybacks. The issue isn't people owning legal firearms, nor is it the firearms themselves. It's the criminals that should be further punished and pursued much more harshly. The guns at buybacks are often older and less "functional" arms from low-risk individuals (like older firearm owners and people who inherit a gun they don't know the value of) rather than from the actual criminals and guns used in violent crimes. Gun buybacks have also led to the destruction of antique and rare firearms, which should be historically preserved.

As a lifelong citizen born and raised in Hawai'i, gun buybacks and programs such as this only serve to push Hawai'i's longtime agenda to completely discourage firearm ownership and normalize government-led disarmament. This funding should be for programs that inform and encourage safe gun handling and responsible firearm ownership among the public, especially for our children. I believe that another, equally effective use of this funding would be to expand upon and push for greater public initiative in utilizing our local mental health resources. That would be a better use of this funding than something that's, in my opinion, more performative than an actual crime deterrent.

In conclusion, gun buybacks are pointless and accomplish nothing in stopping violent crime. Even with Hawai'i's arguably unconstitutional gun regulation and registration process, violent firearm-related crime can and still does happen in our state no matter how many gun-free zones are made, restrictions implemented, and gun buybacks hosted. Regardless of how many obstacles are put in the way of obtaining a firearm, it will only punish the law-abiding citizens who have to follow these rules. Bad people will always find a way to do bad things and evade accountability regardless of firearms, and I, as a Hawai'i citizen, do not want to make things easier for a criminal to harm me and my family. It is a criminal's actions, not just guns, that should be held accountable. An individual's actions will have greater legal deterrents and penalties against criminals and repeat offenders. This continued push for harsher gun restrictions has only disarmed the residents of Hawai'i. It's the citizens of Hawai'i who are most vulnerable

to becoming victims of violent crime so long as people are discouraged by our incredibly strict and inaccessible firearm ownership rules from obtaining a highly effective means of self-defense. Something that should be an innate right as a United States citizen is the right to protect one's own home and family. Firearms are exceptional equalizers capable of stopping violent crime. Our rights should NOT be a privilege nor a fee-based commodity behind mandatory paid "safety" courses. The Second Amendment is an inalienable right that shall not be infringed.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:08:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eldon Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a waste of taxpayer money. Citizens of the United States of America should be able to freely exercise their Second Ammendment.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:43:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support SB2503. Public resources should be used for solutions with proven effectiveness.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:45:14 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Webb	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, because its a waste of money.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:21:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Our previous buyback program did not stop any of the numerous crimes involving a firearm in Hawaii. We have had increasing amounts of HPD reported crime using a gun. Where are the stats on legal vs illegal guns in crimes in Hawaii? Stop wasting tax \$\$ on these silly programs and focus on catching the criminals. Do not pass this bill please.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:29:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel Kekauoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. A well armed society it a polite society.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:58:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winfrey Pablo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB 2503,

Allocation of funding for gun buyback programs, requiring at least two events per county. While often presented as a public safety measure, studies across the country have shown limited evidence that buyback programs significantly reduce crime. Public resources should be focused on solutions with proven effectiveness.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:03:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Muhs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Hawaii's gun buyback program. Opponents of this measure argue that there's no evidence such programs reduce gun crime. However, that is not the purpose of such programs. In my mind, any unwanted gun off the streets is a positive. At least this way we know it was disposed of safely, rather than ending up on the streets, plus the owner gets a little cash in their pocket. It's a wiin-win for all.

Sincerely,

Katherine Muhs, Keaau, HI

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:09:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marko Mijuskovic	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2503 uses taxpayer dollars to fund an ineffective gun buyback program that has no proven impact on crime, suicides, or public safety. Every major study shows that buybacks do not reduce violence and primarily collect old, broken, or low-value firearms from people who are not involved in criminal activity. Criminals do not participate, and the program’s anonymous structure allows the destruction of potential evidence, prevents the recovery of stolen firearms, and exposes the State to liability.

The bill authorizes an open-ended appropriation with no spending cap, no reporting requirements, no performance metrics, and no oversight. Taxpayer money is converted into private-sector gift cards, raising concerns about procurement favoritism and poor fiscal stewardship. Because the program pays a flat rate, it also encourages fraud—allowing individuals to turn in junk guns or cheaply manufactured parts for profit at taxpayer expense.

Using public funds to buy back property that residents legally purchased—often at a fraction of its value—raises due-process and takings concerns. The program disproportionately impacts low-income residents and diverts money away from programs that actually save lives, such as mental-health services, domestic-violence intervention, and law-enforcement staffing.

In short, SB2503 is fiscally irresponsible, constitutionally questionable, operationally unsafe, and unsupported by evidence. It offers symbolism instead of measurable public-safety outcomes, and taxpayers should not be forced to fund an ineffective and unaccountable program.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:22:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Gibson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb 2503

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:44:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Borges	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've seen the firearms received during these gun buyback events most are antique historical Firearms, that you can no longer find ammunition for, destroying these do not make the our communities safer. Stop spending my tax money on stupid shit, Why don't you do spend my tax money on something useful like fixing our roads.... I can understand if people no longer want to be possession of firearm, but Why not register the guns received with HPD and auction them off to collectors and law abiding citizens?

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:45:01 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Ubias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:58:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chester Holt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gun buyback programs have been shown to not impact gun crimes, cost taxpayers, and rarely these guns have been later found at crime scenes. Spending should be focused on addressing solutions.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:06:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 2503 is a misuse of tax payer money, because law enforcement have proven incapable of keeping these firearms from criminals. In addition, I believe we should prioritize tax funds for other, more urgent projects, such as big island ifrastructure on the Hilo/Pahoa side, housing, renovating schools, and catching and prosecuting pedophiles.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:19:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theo-Den Boncales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2503 uses taxpayer dollars to fund an ineffective gun buyback program that has no proven impact on crime, suicides, or public safety. Every major study shows that buybacks do not reduce violence and primarily collect old, broken, or lowvalue firearms from people who are not involved in criminal activity. Criminals do not participate, and the program’s anonymous structure allows the destruction of potential evidence, prevents the recovery of stolen firearms, and exposes the State to liability.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:22:08 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ryan hopf	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose this bill as gun-buyback programs have been proven to be INEFFECTIVE in reducing illegal gun crime and violence. I urge my representatives to OPPOSE SB 2503.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:42:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Arnold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gun buy backs don't work. Evidence shows that only the elderly turn them in, criminals do not.

Also, quit wasting my tax paying dollars on efforts that violate the 2nd ammendment, unless the state/county will give ME the guns that I PAID FOR with my TAX MONEY.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:11:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Villarin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:12:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Villarin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:37:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Revells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stronglyoppose this bill !

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:55:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Albertbraceros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:58:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB2503.

Just like the firework situation, hawaii needs to focus on the criminals and not the law abiding citizens.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:11:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lekeli Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill Sb2503. The gun buy back program is a waste of money. It doesn't not take away the guns from criminals. The criminals are not turning in their weapons.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:18:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rustin Magliba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:25:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret ST Vesnefski	Testifying for For Liberty and Justice Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Our previous buyback program did not stop any of the numerous firearm-related crimes in Hawaii. We have had increasing amounts of HPD-reported crime using a gun. Where are the stats on legal vs illegal guns in crimes in Hawaii? Stop wasting tax dollars on programs that have not produced outcomes reflective of taxpayer spending, and focus on catching criminals. Do not pass this bill.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:38:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Covert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha respectfully submit testimony in opposition to gun buyback programs in Hawai'i.

While well intentioned, gun buybacks have not been shown to meaningfully reduce violent crime. Studies from jurisdictions across the country consistently show that buyback programs primarily collect firearms from law-abiding owners, not from individuals who intend to commit crimes. Those who use guns for criminal activity are unlikely to voluntarily surrender them in exchange for gift cards or cash.

Gun buybacks also raise concerns about the inefficient use of limited public funds. The resources spent purchasing and destroying firearms could be far better directed toward proven public safety strategies such as mental health services, substance abuse treatment, victim support programs, and targeted enforcement against violent offenders. In a state facing high costs of living and strained budgets, it is critical that taxpayer dollars be spent on measures that produce measurable results.

Additionally, firearms in Hawai'i are often used for lawful purposes including hunting, sport shooting, and personal protection. Hunting plays an important role in controlling invasive species that damage native ecosystems, watersheds, and agricultural lands. Buyback programs send the message that lawful firearm ownership is inherently problematic, despite strict existing regulations and licensing requirements in Hawai'i.

Finally, gun buybacks do not address the root causes of violence, such as poverty, addiction, domestic abuse, and lack of access to mental health care. Symbolic policies may create the appearance of action but do little to improve long-term community safety.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to oppose gun buyback programs and instead focus on evidence-based approaches that genuinely enhance public safety while respecting the rights of responsible, law-abiding residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:39:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alvin Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB2503 I would like the state to use this mony for a study on how meany times a year guns stop crimes from police and citizens and whould like the state to teach gun safty classes twice a year to all childrens fro kindigarden to seaniors.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:44:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pitman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:45:24 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Miyao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee,

Please oppose SB2503: Related to Firearms.

In the local news, I frequently see that many (including members of the Hawaii State government) are concerned over the economic uncertainty for Hawaii. Limited budgetary funds should therefore go toward impactful programs that address immediate problems. Funding into a gun buyback program would take limited funds away from impactful programs.

Hawaii falls within the top 10 states with the worst driving conditions. Poor road quality is one of the factors that keeps our state in this rating. Counties should prioritize funds toward improving road conditions.

I applaud legislation like SB86 which would help children who suffer from food uncertainty. There are many children who would benefit from free school meal programs. Helping children to gain nutrition, necessary to thrive, is an important allocation of taxpayer dollars.

I urge you to oppose SB2503. SB2503 would take funding from programs that would have an immediate impact for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:00:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David K. Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am writing to OPPOSE SB2503. The funds can be better utilized for safety programs and hiring MORE police officers instead of buybacks that, as studies have shown, do very little to actually stop gun crime.

Thanks you,
David Jones

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:02:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bunnie Harrington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:06:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Pepper Shiramizu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello!

As in previous history, I could make a good guess as criminals wouldn't attend these gun buyback programs. Most of these guns are old and don't function per the photos that were put to the public. This money could be used else where like tackling homeless problem and fixing the roads...no?

Thanks!

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:08:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Harrington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly disagree. and oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Michael

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:14:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lanette Bourg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't waste time and money on buy back. Law abiding people participate in buy back programs not lawbreakers. Strongly oppose this bill.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:16:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Au	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose SB 2503 because gun buybacks are ineffective and scam people out of the real value of their firearms. The bill states "The legislature believes that the gun buyback program helps reduce firearms-related assaults and suicides, and gun-related accidents involving children." I believe this is false on every level. If someone wants to commit a crime or commit suicide, offering to give them a gift card in exchange for the item they planned to use will do nothing. I challenge anyone to prove offering someone up to \$200 in gift cards per item will stop someone from committing a crime or committing suicide. Finally \$200 or less is a small fraction of what just about all firearms are worth, if you go to any gun store in the nation there will be very few if any firearms that cost less than \$200. Offering people such a small amount for their firearms is a rip off and preys on the uninformed. Many people would get way more money selling their firearms to a gun store or law abiding fun owner. For these reasons and many more I won't list for the sake of brevity I strongly oppose SB 2503.

Thank you

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:17:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Rathje	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sb2503: oppose

Aloha,

I am writing to express my deep concerns with SB2503. I oppose this bill as it is a waste of tax payer dollars for something that can actually be a better service provided by private businesses. I feel this is something that licensed FFL's should be doing for our communities. A person who doesn't want a firearm and brings it into a legal gun store can submit whatever info they have if it was inherited or however they came across possession. Similar to how a police firearm buying/destroying program works. The FFL can then submit any information needed to the police department at any specified timeframe, most likely through a simple email and form. Then the FFL could take ownership of the firearm if it wasn't used in any crimes or stolen and then go back into the market if found safe for use and resold at a higher rate and a portion paid back to the owner who turned it in. If they want the money for the item then the person would leave contact info and personal info on the form when bringing it in. I have heard that gun buyback programs have no repercussions for those who have firearms and no questions asked. If that is true then this would be even better for the community and could lead to less tax money wasted, more income to our local economy and help those more who turn them in as the price the state pays an individual is usually far less than a reasonable offer.

I feel this is a wasted opportunity to build trust within the firearm community with lawmakers as most Hawai'i politicians work to destroy our rights and waste our money. I am so tired of it being a my side your side thing and wish our community of "leaders" could actually do something that could help others and achieve the same goal as proposed with bills like this.

I do not appreciate my tax dollars being spent to destroy things that can help our communities. I oppose SB2503 and ask you to please stop this bill from going any further.

Mahalo,

Jacob Rathje

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:25:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Yuen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Many studies have shown limited evidence that buyback programs significantly reduce crime. Public resources should be focused on solutions with proven effectiveness.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:29:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Shankleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Our previous buyback program did not stop any of the numerous crimes involving a firearm in Hawaii. We have had increasing amounts of HPD reported crime using a gun.

Where are the stats on legal vs illegal guns in crimes in Hawaii? Stop wasting tax \$\$ on these silly programs and focus on catching the criminals.

Do not pass this bill please.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:37:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Holcomb	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

Evidence shows that gun buybacks don't work.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:42:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wruck	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

SB 2720 is discriminatory towards firearm manufacturers. In the state of Hawai'i, traffic deaths far outweigh deaths from firearms. This is a comparison with data gathered from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Center for Disease Control for the State of Hawai'i, which shows nearly double the traffic deaths from traffic every years when compared against firearm deaths:

Year	Traffic deaths	Gun deaths (all intents)
2014	133	40
2022	130	66
2023	122	73
2024	102	56

If the state is going to target firearm manufacturers, then they need to also target all automobile manufacturers since they are killing twice as many citizens utilizing the rationale of the the tool (and manufacturer of the tool) being responsible and not the person using tool.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:44:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Miyagi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To be short, sweet and to the point. I oppose this "Bill", due to the fact that that it is bias towards the firearms manufacturer for no reason. If this "Bill" is passed. Please create the same "Bill" for auto manufacturers in cases of "DUI's". There's more of them than there is of firearms incidents. Mahalo

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:47:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I provide comments to SB2503.

I am neutral to the idea of gun buybacks, however I believe it is an inefficient use of taxpayer funds and the firearms will be wasted.

Instead, people should be encouraged to turn in firearms to stores that can resell them. This results in:

1. Gun owner receiving more money and may conveniently go to a store in different locations at anytime.
2. Taxpayer funds and valuable law enforcement resources are not used.
3. The firearm can be reused and not go to waste
4. The goal is accomplished, the gun owner gets rid of the gun they do not want.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake

toddykutake@gmail.com

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:59:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Humpert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:00:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Hammond	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Eric Hammond, and I live in Laie, born and raised.

I OPPOSE this bill.

There is limited data and evidence that gun buyback programs work.

There have actually been firearms turned in and end up back on the street.

Save our resources for more effective programs.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 6:11:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymund Bragado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm a retired veteran with two combat deployment to Iraq 2003 and 2008. I took an oath to support and defend the US Constitution. This bill is not supporting or defending the 2nd Amendment? Our state should not be an anti 2nd Amendment state.

Please honor your oath and support and defend the US Constitution

Very Respectfully,

Raymund A. Bragado

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 6:57:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Max Peterson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Where is this money coming from? Is this more the taxpayers money that would support this?

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 6:59:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Millen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this proposed bill.

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:12:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Taxpayer dollars should not be used by the government to buy guns from citizens. People need guns to protect themselves and their families from criminals and tyranny.

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:42:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james smith	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is James Smith, and I respectfully submit testimony on SB2503.

I support the goal of reducing unsafe firearms in our communities and improving household safety. However, I ask that the Committee remove the General Fund appropriation for a statewide gift-card buyback model and instead adopt a private-sponsorship safety turn-in program funded by local businesses, retailers, and hospitality partners.

Hawai'i can meet the same safety objective without using taxpayer dollars by inviting community sponsors to provide non-cash incentives (gift cards, lodging credits, activity vouchers, retail credit, locks, safes, or safety classes) in exchange for voluntary firearm turn-ins. This approach:

1. Preserves public safety goals,
2. Protects scarce General Funds for core needs like officer retention, courts, and response times, and
3. Drives local economic activity by channeling incentives into Hawai'i businesses.

A sponsorship model could be coordinated by the Department of Law Enforcement, with participating sponsors providing incentives at no cost to the State. Resorts, retailers, and local companies gain positive community visibility, while residents receive meaningful incentives that circulate dollars back into the local economy.

This is not a request to end safety efforts. It is a request to modernize the funding model so the program is community-funded rather than taxpayer-funded.

I respectfully ask the Committee to:

- Remove or reduce the General Fund appropriation in SB2503, and
- Direct the Department to establish a sponsorship framework for safety turn-in events in partnership with Hawai'i businesses and nonprofits.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your commitment to both public safety and fiscal responsibility.

Respectfully,

James Smith

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:43:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2503 uses taxpayer dollars to fund an ineffective gun buyback program that has no proven impact on crime, suicides, or public safety. Every major study shows that buybacks do not reduce violence and primarily collect old, broken, or low-value firearms from people who are not involved in criminal activity. Criminals do not participate, and the program's anonymous structure allows the destruction of potential evidence, prevents the recovery of stolen firearms, and exposes the State to liability.

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:56:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Robertson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a poor use of government time and funding that would better be used on higher priorities. Many of the firearms surrendered are historic bringbacks from WWII of high collector value but no public threat.

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:17:28 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maverick Quartero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No outline on how much this will cost the taxpayer. Firearms ridiculously undervalued, it's practically theft. If you want to buy their unwanted firearms, offer them the actual value. Not a couple hundred on a two thousand dollar rifle.

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:32:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle HIromoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no evidence of the effectiveness of the buyback.

Thank you for your time.

LATE

Dennis M. Dunn
Kailua, HI 96734

dennismdunn47@gmail.com

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

RE: S.B. 2503 Relating to Firearms

HEARING: Monday, February 2, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 16

Good afternoon, Chair Fukunaga and Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs. I am providing testimony in **Support of S.B. 2721**. Firearms buyback programs have proven to be an effective means of removing unneeded and forgotten firearms from our community. Firearms which are left around improperly stored subject all of us to a variety of risks including accidental discharge causing death or serious bodily, suicides, or theft by criminals for illegal and illegitimate purposes. Getting neglected firearms off the street can only make all of us safer. Please support the appropriations for firearms buyback programs proposed in S.B. 2503.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:41:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Mueller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 2503

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:42:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Atom Kasprzycki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates the US Constitution and the Second Amendment.