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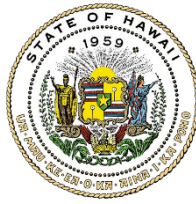
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**February 2, 2026**

**SB433: RELATING TO WEAPONS**

**Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **opposes SB433** which seeks to amend Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), § 134-51 by adding "(1) Openly on the person," in subsection (a), adding "bladed weapon" to subsection (a), and adding subsection (h), to make it an "affirmative defense to a prosecution for openly carrying a weapon on the person under subsection (a)(1) that the specific weapon carried by the defendant is currently in common use in this country for lawful self-defense purposes; provided that this affirmative defense shall not apply if the defendant: (1) Carries the weapon in any sensitive location or premises as defined in section 134-9.1(a); or (2) Displays the weapon with the intent to cause alarm by a member or members of the public or in reckless disregard of the risk thereof. The amendment further adds subsection (i) to make it an "an affirmative defense to a prosecution under subsection (a)(3) that the defendant is carrying or possessing the weapon in a vehicle or in an airport or any place, facility, or vehicle used for public transportation or public transit and the weapon is secured in a locked hard-sided container for the purposes of transporting the weapon."

As written, SB433 expands restrictions on carrying what HRS § 134-51 defines as "deadly or dangerous weapon." The amendment makes it unlawful for anyone to openly carry on their person any bladed weapon. As written, SB433, using the term "bladed weapon" is overbroad which can include knives that commonly used for everyday lawful activities. This amendment does not consider everyday situation where a person may openly carry a bladed weapon. Under this amendment a fisherman would be prohibited from opening carrying the knife they use to gut fish or cut line while fishing off the coastline. Divers would be

prohibited from carrying the knives they use while spearfishing. Families at weekend camping trips would be prohibited from bringing their knives for cooking or axes or machetes to chop firewood. Handymen or landscapers would be prohibited from carrying bladed weapons that are the tools of their trades. Making it unlawful for anyone to openly carry on their person, any bladed weapon, broadens the field of what is prosecutable under HRS § 134-51, would criminalize legal recreational and vocational activities, and will unnecessarily increase the cost to the State for prosecution, incarceration and supervision of convicted defendants.

Under existing case law, it is lawful for a person to brandish a bladed weapon to create an apprehension that they would use deadly force if necessary.<sup>1</sup> SB433 would illegally shift the burden on the use of self-protection (self-defense) as defined under HRS § 703-304 and the use of force for the protection of other persons (defense of others) under HRS § 703-305 to the person carrying the bladed weapon.

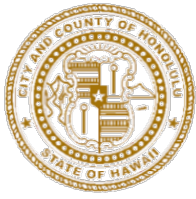
SB433 is overbroad and vague, and it will not pass constitutional muster. As written, SB433 will interfere with the lives and livelihoods of law-abiding citizens, and unnecessarily increase costs to the State for prosecution, incarceration and supervision of convicted defendants.

The OPD opposes SB433.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> See *State v. Realina*, 1 Haw.App 167 (1980); *State v. Casipe*, 5 Haw.App 210 (1984); and *State v. Culkin*, 97 Hawai‘i 206 (2001).



**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**  
**KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU**  
530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

**TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM**  
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Monday, February 2, 2026

Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs  
Conference Rm 016  
Monday, February 2, 2026 at 3:00 PM  
**SB 433** Testimony in Support

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, & Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs:

My name is Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, and I have the privilege of representing parts of Urban Honolulu from Kalihi Valley to Kakaʻako on the Honolulu City Council. I am pleased to submit **supportive comments on SB433**, Relating to Weapons. This measure prohibits individuals from openly carrying a deadly or dangerous weapon without legal authority and appropriately includes "bladed weapons" in the list of deadly or dangerous weapons.

My community supports policies that enhance public safety. This measure creates clear expectations regarding dangerous weapons and corrects an important gap in the current definition, which does not explicitly include bladed weapons.

There has been a recent uptick in the use of machetes in criminal activity. From January 11 through January 30, there were at least four reported crimes involving machetes. These weapons are often used to threaten, injure, and intimidate, posing a serious risk to public safety. The recent machete-related crimes in Chinatown have negatively harmed public perception of this bustling neighborhood.

I appreciate this committee's dedication to protecting our communities and am encouraged to see this bill moving forward for further discussion.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony for SB433.

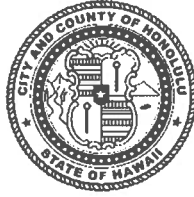
Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tyler Dos Santos-Tam".

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam  
Councilmember, District 6  
Honolulu City Council

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG  
RYAN T. NISHIBUN  
INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEFS  
NĀ HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I KŪIKAWA

OUR REFERENCE **MH-GK**

February 2, 2026

**LATE**

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Public Safety  
and Military Affairs  
State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Fukunaga:

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 433, Relating to Weapons**

I am Major Manuel Hernandez of District 3 ('Aiea/Pearl City/Waipahu) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD appreciates the intent of Senate Bill No. 433, Relating to Weapons, but has the following concerns.

The HPD is concerned with the language of this proposed bill. There is no definition of the term "bladed weapon" within the bill, nor is the definition found within Chapter 134 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, which this bill would fall under. The term "bladed weapon" could therefore be interpreted to mean any item with a blade, such as a small pocket knife, a multi-tool (Letherman brand multi-tools), or even a hobby razor knife (X-Acto brand hobby knife), which was not intended as a weapon.

The HPD urges you to amend Senate Bill No. 433, Relating to Weapons, to include a definition of the term "bladed weapon," and we appreciate the committee's consideration of these concerns.



The Honorable Carol Fuknaga, Chair  
and Members  
February 2, 2026  
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Hernandez', written over a horizontal line.

Manuel Hernandez, Major  
District 3

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Vanic', written over a horizontal line.

Rade K. Vanic  
Interim Chief of Police

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:46:06 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 write **in strong opposition to SB 433**.

SB 433 does not meaningfully improve public safety. Instead, it criminalizes otherwise lawful conduct, relies on vague, overly broad definitions, and shifts the burden of proof onto law-abiding citizens rather than focusing on the criminal misuse of weapons.

This bill makes the open carry of a broadly defined “deadly or dangerous weapon,” including undefined “bladed weapons,” a criminal offense and forces individuals to rely on an affirmative defense after arrest to justify lawful behavior. Lawful conduct should not require arrest first and explanation later.

The term “bladed weapon” is not meaningfully limited. Under this bill, ordinary tools such as standard folding knives, work knives, or items carried for fishing, hunting, or cultural purposes could subject otherwise responsible citizens to criminal charges. This vagueness invites arbitrary and selective enforcement, undermining trust in the law and disproportionately affecting working people and local communities.

Supporters may point to the affirmative defense language, but an affirmative defense is not a protection. It applies only after a person is arrested, searched, disarmed, and possibly has their property destroyed. That structure inverts due process and places the burden on citizens to prove innocence rather than on the state to prove wrongdoing.

From a constitutional standpoint, laws affecting commonly possessed arms must be clearly defined and narrowly tailored, and SB 433 moves in the opposite direction by criminalizing conduct first and sorting out legality only after enforcement.

Importantly, SB 433 does nothing to address actual violent crime. Criminals already ignore weapons laws. This bill does not target repeat offenders, illegal trafficking, or violent behavior. Instead, it expands criminal liability for people who are not the problem.

Hawai‘i already has laws that punish assault, threats, and weapon use during the commission of crimes. We do not need additional statutes that are vague, constitutionally questionable, and focused on compliant citizens.

Public safety laws should be clear, narrowly tailored, and evidence-based. SB 433 is none of those.

For these reasons, the **Hawai'i Rifle Association respectfully urges this Committee to reject SB 433.**

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:57:03 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:

On behalf of the Mid Pacific Pistol League, we write to respectfully but firmly oppose SB 433.

While we recognize the importance of public safety, SB 433 expands the definition of “deadly or dangerous weapons” to include bladed weapons without establishing clear, objective standards. This overbroad approach creates uncertainty for law-abiding individuals and increases the risk of inconsistent or arbitrary enforcement.

Although the bill provides a limited affirmative defense for lawful self-defense and transport, placing the burden on individuals to justify otherwise lawful conduct after the fact is inappropriate. Laws should clearly define prohibited behavior in advance, not rely on defenses to correct overly expansive restrictions.

The Mid Pacific Pistol League believes effective public safety policy must be narrowly tailored, clearly written, and focused on criminal misuse rather than lawful possession. SB 433 does not meet these principles and unnecessarily restricts individual freedoms without demonstrable benefit.

For these reasons, the Mid Pacific Pistol League respectfully urges you to oppose SB 433.

Sincerely,  
**Mid Pacific Pistol League**  
Board of Directors

**DATE:** Monday, February 2, 2026      **TIME:** 3:00 PM      **PLACE:** Conference Room 016,  
**BILL :** SB433

## **Testimony of Hawai'i Firearms Coalition In Opposition to SB433**

Hawai'i Firearms Coalition submits this testimony in opposition to SB433 on behalf of its members.

SB433 raises serious constitutional concerns under the Second Amendment and would reverse statutory reforms enacted in 2024 to address identified constitutional defects. As set forth below, the bill conflicts with settled principles governing the protection of arms commonly used for lawful purposes, relies on criminal prohibitions mitigated only by illusory affirmative defenses, and expands sensitive place restrictions in a manner that effectively eliminates lawful public carry of protected arms across much of the State.

For these reasons, and as detailed in the sections that follow, Hawai'i Firearms Coalition respectfully urges the Legislature to reject or defer SB433.

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I. Background: 2024 Reforms and Pending Litigation

II. SB433 Conflicts with the Second Amendment's Protection of Arms, Not Merely Firearms

III. Affirmative Defenses Do Not Cure an Otherwise Unconstitutional Ban

IV. Sensitive Place Restrictions Create a De Facto Statewide Ban on the Carry of Protected Arms

V. SB433 Is Unconstitutionally Vague and Overbroad

VI. Existing Hawai'i Law Already Addresses Dangerous, Threatening, and Unwanted Conduct Involving Arms

VII. Conclusion and Request for Rejection or Deferment

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### **I. Background: 2024 Reforms and Pending Litigation**

In 2024, the Legislature amended Hawai'i law governing the public carry of certain non-firearm

arms in direct response to active constitutional challenges pending against the State. Those lawsuits questioned whether Hawai'i's longstanding prohibitions on carrying knives and batons (Arms) could survive modern Second Amendment scrutiny, particularly in light of recent federal precedent reaffirming that the Amendment protects the right to bear commonly possessed arms for lawful purposes.

The 2024 statutory changes were not adopted in a vacuum. They occurred during ongoing litigation in which the State faced a substantial risk that its prior blanket prohibitions would be held unconstitutional. In response, the Legislature revised the statutory framework to permit the open carrying of arms while continuing to prohibit concealed carry. These amendments were intended to address the constitutional defects raised in litigation by allowing public carry in a manner consistent with historical regulation, while maintaining restrictions on concealed carry that have long been recognized as constitutionally permissible. It is our understanding that these unresolved constitutional concerns were also the reason substantially similar legislation did not advance to a hearing during the prior legislative session.

SB433 would reverse those reforms and reimpose criminal prohibitions materially similar to those that were the subject of challenge. If enacted, the bill would signal that the 2024 amendments were not intended to resolve the constitutional issues identified in litigation, but instead served only as a temporary measure to delay judicial review. Courts, particularly federal circuit courts, have consistently expressed skepticism toward such legislative reversals, viewing them as attempts to evade constitutional adjudication rather than good-faith efforts at compliance.

Reinstating a statutory scheme that closely resembles the challenged provisions invites renewed litigation and heightened judicial scrutiny. More importantly, it risks undermining the State's position that the 2024 reforms represented a deliberate and durable response to constitutional concerns. SB433 therefore places the Legislature on a direct collision course with the judiciary by reviving defects that the State had already acknowledged and begun to correct.

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## **II. SB433 Conflicts with the Second Amendment's Protection of Arms, Not Merely Firearms**

The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, not merely the possession of firearms. Courts have consistently recognized that the term "arms" encompasses weapons commonly possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes. Those lawful purposes are not limited to self-defense, but include a range of ordinary and legitimate uses historically associated with civilian arms.

In 2024, the Legislature acknowledged this constitutional framework by amending Hawai'i law to permit the open carrying of arms while continuing to prohibit concealed carry. That approach reflected the long-recognized distinction between open and concealed carry and aligned with historical regulatory traditions that permit regulation of the manner of carry without imposing a categorical ban on public carry altogether.

Courts have also made clear that arms may be prohibited only if they are both dangerous and unusual. Conversely, arms that are in common use for lawful purposes fall within the core protection of the Second Amendment. To justify a prohibition, the State must demonstrate a historical tradition of regulation that is sufficiently analogous to the restriction imposed. Absent such a tradition, a ban on protected arms cannot stand.

SB433 abandons this constitutional framework. The bill prohibits the open carrying of non-firearm arms. In doing so, it criminalizes the very form of public carry adopted in 2024 to cure constitutional defect. The result is a statutory scheme that effectively eliminates lawful public carry of protected non-firearm arms.

Equally significant, SB433 does not regulate misuse. It criminalizes mere possession and carry, regardless of intent, conduct, or threat, and relies instead on narrow affirmative defenses raised after arrest. This structure inverts the constitutional presumption by treating the exercise of a protected right as unlawful unless and until a defendant can establish a defense in court.

Notably, in the prior litigation that prompted the 2024 reforms, the State was unable to identify a national historical tradition of prohibiting the public carry of knives and batons commonly possessed for lawful purposes. SB433 would nevertheless reimpose restrictions that require precisely the same historical showing that could not previously be made. The Second Amendment does not permit the State to prohibit the public carrying of commonly used arms and defer constitutional justification to later litigation.

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### **III. Affirmative Defenses Do Not Cure an Otherwise Unconstitutional Ban**

SB433 attempts to mitigate its sweeping prohibitions by creating limited affirmative defenses. Those defenses do not cure the underlying constitutional defects of the bill. An affirmative defense does not prevent arrest, does not meaningfully constrain enforcement discretion, and does not provide clear guidance to ordinary citizens attempting to comply with the law. Instead, it requires an individual to assert constitutional protection only after being charged with a crime.

Under SB433, the open carrying of protected non-firearm arms is criminalized as a default rule. Lawful conduct becomes presumptively illegal, and constitutional protection is relegated to a post hoc defense raised in court. This structure reverses the proper constitutional order. The

Second Amendment limits the State's authority to criminalize protected conduct in the first instance; it does not permit the State to prohibit that conduct broadly and rely on courtroom defenses to justify enforcement.

The bill's affirmative defenses are further undermined by their own limiting conditions. The "common use" defense is unavailable if a person displays a weapon with the intent to cause alarm or acts in reckless disregard of the risk that others may be alarmed. These standards are inherently subjective. The mere visible presence of a weapon, carried openly and lawfully, may cause alarm to a member of the public regardless of the carrier's intent. Whether that reaction is deemed foreseeable or reckless will necessarily depend on the subjective judgment of individual officers and prosecutors.

In practice, these limitations ensure that lawful open carry will almost always result in detention or arrest. An officer need only conclude that a member of the public was alarmed, or that the carrier should have anticipated such a reaction, to negate the defense entirely. The individual is left to litigate intent, perception, and reasonableness after the fact, under threat of criminal penalty. This structure effectively collapses the defense into an after-the-arrest argument rather than a meaningful protection against enforcement.

The affirmative defenses are also narrowly circumscribed by extensive sensitive place restrictions, rendering them largely unavailable in much of the State. A constitutional right that exists only in isolated locations and only at the discretion of enforcing authorities is no right at all.

The Second Amendment does not tolerate a regime in which the exercise of a protected right is treated as criminal unless a defendant later proves innocence through subjective and indeterminate standards. Because SB433 criminalizes protected conduct at the outset and relies on affirmative defenses that are illusory in practice, those defenses cannot salvage the bill's constitutionality.

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## **IV. Sensitive Place Restrictions Create a De Facto Statewide Ban on the Carry of Protected Arms**

SB433 further compounds its constitutional defects by rendering its limited affirmative defenses unavailable in locations designated as sensitive places under existing law. Hawai'i's sensitive place framework is expansive and encompasses large portions of the State that are routinely accessed by the public for lawful activities. When applied in conjunction with SB433, these



restrictions operate not as narrow exceptions, but as a functional prohibition on the public carrying of protected non-firearm arms.

The bill expressly denies the “common use” affirmative defense in any sensitive location or premises. As a result, even if an arm is commonly possessed for lawful purposes and carried without unlawful intent, its possession is categorically criminalized in broad categories of public space. This includes parks and government-owned lands that are open to the public and that serve as primary venues for lawful outdoor recreation and subsistence activities.

The impact on hunting is particularly severe. A substantial number of hunters in Hawai‘i rely on knives, bows, and spears as essential tools for lawful hunting practices, including the humane dispatch of game and traditional methods of take. Much of Hawai‘i’s hunting occurs on government land open to the public, including forest reserves, parks, and other managed public lands. Under SB433, the possession of these arms in such locations would be criminalized, and the affirmative defenses offered elsewhere in the bill would be categorically unavailable.

Because hunting areas are commonly designated as public or government property, SB433 would effectively prohibit hunters from carrying the very arms necessary to engage in lawful hunting activities. This is not a marginal or incidental effect. It amounts to a de facto ban on most hunting in the State, accomplished not through wildlife regulation or game management law, but through criminal weapons prohibitions untethered from misuse or unlawful conduct.

The Second Amendment does not permit the State to eliminate the practical ability to carry protected arms by layering expansive location-based prohibitions on top of broad criminal bans. Sensitive place restrictions must be historically grounded and narrowly tailored. When such restrictions are applied so broadly that they extinguish lawful activity across vast areas of public land, they cease to function as permissible regulations and instead operate as categorical prohibitions.

By denying any meaningful avenue for lawful carry in public spaces where arms are commonly and lawfully used, SB433 transforms sensitive place doctrine into a tool for wholesale prohibition. This approach is inconsistent with constitutional limits and further underscores why the bill cannot be reconciled with the Second Amendment.

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## **V. SB433 Is Unconstitutionally Vague and Overbroad**

SB433 is further constitutionally infirm because it relies on vague and overbroad terminology that fails to provide ordinary citizens with fair notice of what conduct is prohibited and invites

arbitrary enforcement. Criminal statutes that implicate fundamental rights must be drafted with particular clarity. SB433 does not meet that standard.

The bill expands the scope of prohibited conduct by incorporating undefined and open-ended terms such as “bladed weapon” and “other deadly or dangerous weapon.” These phrases lack objective boundaries and provide no meaningful guidance as to which ordinary tools, implements, or traditional arms fall within the statute. As a result, individuals are left to guess whether commonplace items carried for lawful purposes subject them to criminal liability.

This vagueness is compounded by the bill’s reliance on subjective standards, including whether conduct causes alarm or is deemed reckless with respect to the reactions of others. When combined with undefined weapon categories, these provisions grant excessive discretion to law enforcement and prosecutors to determine, after the fact, whether otherwise lawful conduct should be treated as criminal. Such discretion is especially problematic where the exercise of a constitutional right is involved.

SB433’s overbreadth is equally apparent. Rather than targeting misuse or criminal conduct, the bill sweeps broadly to criminalize mere possession and carry across wide swaths of public space. It does so without regard to intent, context, or actual risk, and without narrowly tailoring its prohibitions to address specific public safety concerns. Laws that burden constitutionally protected conduct must be carefully drawn. SB433 instead adopts a one-size-fits-all prohibition that captures substantial amounts of lawful activity.

When a statute is both vague in its terms and broad in its reach, the risk is not merely theoretical. Law-abiding individuals will either refrain from exercising protected rights out of fear of prosecution or will be subjected to arrest and prosecution based on inconsistent and subjective enforcement. The Constitution does not permit such a chilling effect on the exercise of fundamental rights.

Because SB433 fails to clearly define the conduct it criminalizes and extends its prohibitions far beyond any historically supported regulation, it cannot withstand constitutional scrutiny. Its vagueness and overbreadth independently, and collectively, provide further grounds for its rejection.

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## **VI. Existing Hawai‘i Law Already Addresses Dangerous, Threatening, and Unwanted Conduct Involving Arms**

SB433 is unnecessary because Hawai'i law already provides law enforcement and property owners with extensive authority to address dangerous, threatening, or unwanted conduct involving arms. The State's existing statutory framework appropriately focuses on behavior and misuse, rather than mere possession, and already supplies effective tools to protect public safety without infringing on constitutionally protected activity.

Hawai'i's disorderly conduct statutes prohibit conduct that recklessly creates a risk of public alarm, inconvenience, or danger. These provisions allow law enforcement to intervene when an individual acts in a dangerous or disruptive manner while carrying an arm. Enforcement is properly tied to observable conduct, not the mere presence of a weapon.

Similarly, Hawai'i law criminalizes terroristic threatening, which addresses both verbal and non-verbal threats made with the intent to terrorize or place another person in fear of bodily injury. Where a person uses or displays an arm in a threatening manner, existing law already provides clear authority for arrest and prosecution, with penalties calibrated to the seriousness of the conduct.

Hawai'i law also provides robust remedies through its trespass statutes. Under current law, because Hawai'i requires open carry rather than concealed carry, the presence of a lawfully carried arm does not diminish the authority of private property owners. Any business or property owner retains the right to ask any individual to leave at any time, for any lawful reason. If a person refuses, law enforcement may remove the individual and pursue trespass charges. This mechanism already allows businesses to manage their premises and address discomfort or concern without criminalizing lawful carry statewide.

Additional statutes governing assault, harassment, and related offenses further address escalating or dangerous behavior involving arms. Together, these laws form a comprehensive conduct-based system that permits early intervention when public safety is genuinely at risk, while preserving constitutional protections for law-abiding individuals.

SB433 departs from this established approach by criminalizing possession and carry in the absence of threatening or unlawful conduct. Rather than relying on existing tools that address actual danger, the bill substitutes a broad prohibition based on subjective perceptions and hypothetical risk. Given the breadth of Hawai'i's current disorderly conduct, terroristic threatening, trespass, and assault statutes, SB433 is not necessary to protect public safety and instead represents an unwarranted expansion of criminal liability into constitutionally protected activity.

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## **VII. Conclusion and Request for Action**

For the reasons stated above, Hawai'i Firearms Coalition respectfully urges the Committee to reject SB433 or, at a minimum, defer further consideration of the bill. SB433 conflicts with the Second Amendment's protection of arms commonly used for lawful purposes, reverses reforms enacted in 2024 to address identified constitutional defects, and relies on criminal prohibitions and illusory affirmative defenses that cannot withstand constitutional scrutiny.

The timing of this legislation further counsels restraint. Questions regarding the scope of protected arms, permissible manner-of-carry regulations, and the proper application of historical tradition remain actively litigated before the United States Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Advancing legislation that revives previously challenged restrictions while those issues remain unresolved risks unnecessary litigation, legal uncertainty, and additional costs to the State.

There is also no demonstrated public safety justification for this bill. Since the 2024 reforms permitting the open carrying of arms while prohibiting concealed carry, Hawai'i has not experienced an increase in crime involving knives, batons, or similar arms. Existing laws addressing disorderly conduct, terroristic threatening, assault, and trespass have proven sufficient to address misuse and genuinely dangerous behavior without criminalizing lawful carry.

SB433 is therefore neither necessary nor prudent. It invites renewed constitutional challenge, undermines the State's litigation posture, and imposes sweeping restrictions on lawful conduct without evidence of corresponding public benefit. The Legislature should allow the courts to resolve the pending constitutional questions and preserve the current statutory framework rather than reintroducing defects that have already been identified and corrected.

For these reasons, Hawai'i Firearms Coalition respectfully requests that SB433 be rejected or deferred.

Respectfully submitted,

**Andrew Namiki Roberts**

Director

Hawai'i Firearms Coalition

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:38:47 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB433. This bill seeks to subvert the Second Amendment. Bladed weapon is ambiguous to the point where it could means anything from a butterknife to a bulldozer.

There are many practitioners of martial arts that use spears, swords, tridents, and other bladed weapons that do not have hard lockable cases for transport.

Hunters and fishermen will be affected. Landscapers and arborists will be affected. Chefs, butchers and fish cutters will be affected.

This is a bad law.

### **SB433 Position: Opposed**

Here are some concerns about SB433, however this list is far from exhaustive, it simply highlights some of the many serious concerns, and the reasons it should be rejected by the committee:

- Fencing and Escrima sporting events, Society for Creative Anachronism sports, and Cosplay events would be illegal in public outdoor & government facilities.
- Requiring all knives in cars & on public transportation to be carried in a locked container: Use of a lock box severely complicates the lives and increases expenses for workers normally carrying their pocket knives, multitools, box cutters & kitchen knives in their pockets, tool bags, tool boxes, chef's rolls, or anywhere in their vehicles.
- Would make it illegal to possess a diving knife while snorkeling or scuba diving.
- Criminalizes a supermarket employee carrying a knife to open boxes on the job.
- Section h para (2) is an open door for anyone who feels "afraid or endangered" to involve the police, even when they are simply observing someone in possession of any type of knife. Do you really want to expend police resources on calls like this? It also opens the door for retaliatory calls to the police in relationship squabbles. This may also open the door for ICE to get involved if a documented immigrant is simply using a common pocket knife. (Documented immigrants who are on probation can be deported for committing a crime while on probation.)
- Fillet knives being carried or used in recreational, subsistence or commercial fishing would be illegal.
- Knives carried for safety purposes while sailing or boating would be illegal.
- Horsemen/women and cowboys carrying knives for safety purposes would be illegal
- Agricultural workers bringing knives to work would be illegal
- The type of knives used rarely matters, what matters is crimes committed, for instance "Dirks & Daggers" are no more dangerous than kitchen knives, so why are they being banned?
- A knife for opening boxes at any stadium, or event venue, where students may be present would be illegal
- A librarian with a knife in their purse at a library or used to open boxes that arrive with ordered books or supplies would be illegal (*please see sec 134.9.1(a) "(6) All public library property, including buildings, facilities, meeting rooms, spaces used for community programming, adjacent grounds, and parking areas;"*)
- Laborers, or contractors making repairs in hospitals or schools or... would be illegal
- A parent with a knife or multi-tool in a pocket picking up their child in a school zone/parking lot, etc. would be illegal

### **Issues particular to kitchen knives that would be illegal:**

- School lunchrooms where there are normal kitchen knives
- A kitchen worker's knives in a hospital
- School campuses with no exception for kitchens
- Any private residence with a pre-school in it
- A golf course with a restaurant
- Places where people hunt and dress game (often with knives as the method of taking game including specifically feral hogs, a terrible problem in Hawaii and a source of tourism jobs)
- Taking any knife to a picnic in a state park

Respectfully submitted to the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, with a request to reject SB433.

Todd Rathner  
Knife Rights, Director of Legislative Affairs  
[trathner@kniferights.org](mailto:trathner@kniferights.org)  
520-404-8096

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:56:06 AM

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

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbra Green	Testifying for The Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:



In Opposition to SB433

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii stands in opposition to SB433, and you should too. This bill isn't about public safety; it's another step in Hawaii's long march to disarm law-abiding citizens, this time extending the attack from firearms to everyday tools of self-defense.

SB433 prohibits the open carry of “deadly or dangerous” weapons and extends restrictions to concealed carry in bags or containers. The bill's vagueness is dangerous: "Bladed weapons" could sweep in everything from a steak knife in a picnic bag to a field-dressing knife for hunters.

It escalates misdemeanors to class C felonies when paired with even minor offenses, and relies on affirmative defenses that flip due process on its head. You'll have to beg for your liberty after the cuffs are on, shifting the burden and eroding the presumption of innocence protected by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

Our Founders fought for the right of the people to keep and bear Arms. This was not just guns, but the common arms of the time, including bladed weapons and clubs carried openly or in sheaths and satchels for protection. The Second Amendment protects that individual right for self-defense, as affirmed in *Heller*, *Bruen*, and *Caetano*. Blanket bans on carrying these tools lack any deeply rooted historical tradition, and importing "sensitive location" restrictions from gun laws into non-firearm contexts mocks the *Bruen* test. Post-Wolford, these kinds of expansions are already on shaky legal ground.

True liberty means the state stays in its lane by punishing actual aggressions, not preemptively disarming the innocent under vague language and blanket pretexts.

Oppose SB433. It is a snub to the parchment that protects us all, and an erosion of the rights we hold dear.

In liberty,

Abbra Green

Libertarian Party of Hawaii



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:41:26 PM

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

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARTHA KIYABU	Testifying for Young Guns	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Public Safety Committee:

I would like to be put on record that I am strongly opposed to SB433. The term Dangerous Weapon is too broad and subjective. Do not go after the tool but the criminal that uses it illegally to commit a crime. Why make law abiding citizens criminals by possessing a pocket knife or fix blade. Personally I use a Victorianox multi tool and case cutter for work. SB433 would make me a criminal for having it in my pocket.

Our culture here as hunters will be severely impacted. We hunt game with bow and arrows also with knives. Please do not persue this bill it will not benefit the public by making them safer. Thank you for your time and efforts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Martha Kiyabu

Young Guns

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 4:02:10 PM

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

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

## Comments:

I stand in ***OPPOSITION*** to this bill as currently worded. This law was just recently changed, and rather hastily, so the state could avoid paying damages for a lawsuit that it lost. It is a poorly thought out knee jerk reaction following up another poorly thought out knee jerk reaction.

When this law was previously changed it allowed **only** for the open carry of such weapons. After a spate of attacks with tools, which would not fall under this law, it is now being changed to outlaw not only the open carry of them but concealed carry as well. This would be a violation of the ***Heller*** and ***Bruen*** decision from SCOTUS.

***Heller*** does not limit the *In Common Use* test to **only** Self Defense, but **any** Lawful Purpose.

This bill (and even the current law) negatively affects not only Second Amendment advocates but also those who practice Martial Arts, are historical collectors, or engage in Cosplay (Costume Play). Under current law it would be impossible to legally travel off island with de-edged or training weapons used as props by Cosplayers and Martial Artists as such weapons **MUST** be openly carried and not concealed in a bag. I'm sure the TSA would love me saying I need to carry my Trench Knife on the plane because State Law won't let me put it in a bag.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 4:39:07 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

433 SB RELATING TO WEAPONS.	PSM	CR 016 & Videoconference	Feb 2, 2026 3:00 PM	<a href="#">View Notice</a>
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**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 7:10:15 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:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB433. I understand the intent is to keep people safe but the truth that is consistently ignored by Hawaii lawmakers is that you actively punish law abiding citizens in order to hope criminals won't do harm. Truth is if a criminal brandishing a weapon, threatens or harms another, that is a crime. There is not a need for this law to prevent anything bad happening, it is only for after the fact. I am a rancher and wear openly displayed knives on my belt at work, on my way to work, at the grocery store, gas station, even when I go to church and many other public places. I have never and will never use a knife for harm. I believe a knife is an important tool and is improperly and aggressively termed in this bill, "a bladed weapon." Anything can be a weapon. The knife on my belt isn't a weapon as it is used daily, it is a tool. In fact it's a life saving tool for my work.

I oppose any bill that would make a criminal act out of something like me leaving work and forgetting to remove my belt knife or pocket knife that is currently allowed and legal for me to carry.

I think it is an unnecessary bill, and also a VERY unconstitutional bill if made law.

please do not allow this bill to go further.

Mahalo,

Chase Cavitt

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:15:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanaloa H	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose because it criminalizes law-abiding hunters/fishermen for simply carrying their tools in a bag. Requiring outdoor tools to be moved into locked, hard-sided cases for transport is an unnecessary burden that targets sportsmen rather than criminals.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:26:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Addison Caluya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

The broad wording of this proposed bill raises concerns to me as pertains to valid, registered hunters. The use of blades to clear brush while hunting, bows and spears has been a part of island hunting culture for decades.

As phrased I find this measure to be exceedingly vague and harmful to lawful hunters and every day people potentially just doing nothing more than tending to land or using common tools. I stand strongly opposed to this in it's entirety.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:33:17 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 strong opposition to this bill. This bill only will have an impact on law abiding individuals and not criminals. Mahalo

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:50:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richy Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit my testimony to OPPOSE SB 433.

SB 433 would prohibit the open carry of so-called “deadly or dangerous weapons,” expanding the definition to include bladed weapons. While it includes a limited affirmative defense for lawful self-defense and transport, the broader effect is another layer of restriction on law-abiding individuals. Expanding weapon classifications without clear standards creates confusion, risks inconsistent enforcement, and further erodes personal freedoms



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:52:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robert nago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I here by oppose SB433.

As it is unconstitutional to take away someones right to carry a knife and use weather it be for self defense, work or utility purposes.

The wording for this bill is very vague and someone carrying a kitchen knife in a shopping bag can be persecuted under this unrealistic bill.

This bill is also unrealistic due to the fact that alot of blue collar workers carry a pocket knife to aid them in the field of work they do.

The wording "deadly or dangerous" is also subjective as someone can view a butterknife as dangerous.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:56:22 PM

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, with the poor wording, it will make most hunters and some fishermen criminals.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 9:00:59 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:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I oppose this proposal.

The State of Hawaii is losing the "Sensitive Places" challenge in the Supreme Court right now. I would ask that we determine how much this has cost the taxpayers, and if there was a more pressing and prudent priority we could have supported? Perhaps further spending on the Rail or the new stadium as these would be a less wasteful spending than on this proposal, and these two projects are both prime examples of boondoggles, you know it and we know it.

Why are you proposing yet another unconstitutional proposal that will just cost our tax dollars to defend and lose again? I understand the need to propose this because the special interest anti-gun lobby "donates" to your campaign. We saw this last year when this body advanced proposals that were opposed nine to one against, yet still came to a floor vote. Represent the people, not the people who buy your votes.

Mahalo,

Steve Takekoshi

Waipahu, HI

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 9:19:55 PM

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 unconstitutional and infringes on the 2nd amendment.

mahalo

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 9:30:57 PM

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

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

Comments:

I highly oppose of this bill. Thank you for your time aloha

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 10:04:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Lukzen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

As a daughter of a hunter, the wife of a hunter, and a mother of future hunters, I oppose this bill as it will have lasting impacts on our island lifestyle. Hunting is a piece of our heritage that should not be taken away when done lawfully. Utilizing knives, bows, and spears allows us to maintain a piece of our culture and sustain our families. In a time where many local families are being priced out of paradise, taking away another resource of ours is the last thing that should be done.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 10:08:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Greenwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 10:39:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shelton medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill people have the god given right to hunt to feed our families and this bill would make it illegal to do so using blade type weapons which most hunting is done with ancient hawaiians hunted that why we aould preserve our cultural practices not ban them



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 11:16:17 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:

Aloha,

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB433.

This measure represents a legislative backtrack on conduct that was previously made legal under existing law and court rulings. Reversing that position now is not only unnecessary, but a misuse of the Legislature’s limited time and public resources.

The carrying of these weapons was permitted as a result of constitutional considerations. SB433 attempts to reimpose restrictions that raise the same constitutional defects that caused earlier prohibitions to be overturned or invalidated in the first place. As such, this bill is highly likely to face immediate legal challenges, placing the State in costly and prolonged litigation with little chance of a different outcome.

At a time when Hawai‘i faces pressing issues—housing affordability, public safety, infrastructure, and cost of living—it is counterproductive to pursue legislation that is unlikely to withstand judicial scrutiny. Enacting laws that conflict with established constitutional protections does not enhance public safety; it simply transfers taxpayer dollars from essential services to legal defense.

Sound policymaking requires respecting constitutional limits and learning from prior rulings, not repeating them. For these reasons, SB433 should be rejected.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 11:31:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shon uekawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

SB 433 proposes to add "bladed weapon" to the list of prohibited deadly or dangerous weapons under HRS § 134-51, without providing a definition of the term. The term could reasonably encompass virtually any object with a sharp edge, from hunting knives to kitchen utensils to box cutters. Hawaii has significant fishing, diving, and hunting communities that rely on carrying bladed tools.

The "sensitive locations" language is so sweepingly broad it outlaws the possession of knives at a family event at a state park.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 11:43:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaze Rendon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a law abiding citizen opposing this bill SB433 because it goes against our constitutional rights and the practicing of our cultural rights.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:05:03 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:

Stop infringing on our Second Amendment rights!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:15:07 AM

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

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

## Comments:

Howzit. My name is Daniel Juario Jr. Birn and raised in the island in Molokai. I have been hunting since I was about 5 years old with my father, brothers, uncles , and cousins. We have been taught to handle a firearm, knife, bow & arrow since we were young. For us, they were never taught to be used as weapons, but as TOOLS to provide food for our families and friends. I am OPPOSED to SB433, for it threatens our livelihood and gathering rights. In an island so isolated with only two barge days a week, price of food getting higher and higher, hunting with a firearm, with a knife, or with a bow & arrow helps to ease the costs to provide food for the table. I STRONGLY URGE you to vote against SB433 so that our lifestyle can go on for generations after generation. That we may continue carry on our tradition.

I THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

Aloha,

Daniel Juario Jr

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:38:07 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as I am a hunter and these are techniques and tools that I use to feed my family.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:15:13 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Inda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Relating to Weapons

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer, and I am a resident of Hawai‘i. I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to SB 433.

While I understand the intent of this bill is to promote public safety, I am concerned that SB 433 goes too far by broadly prohibiting the open carry of so-called “deadly or dangerous weapons,” including bladed weapons, and instead places the burden on law-abiding citizens to later prove an affirmative defense.

This bill effectively criminalizes otherwise lawful behavior, particularly for individuals who carry tools or weapons for legitimate purposes such as personal safety, work, recreation, cultural practices, or rural living. Many residents carry knives or other tools daily for practical reasons, and SB 433’s broad language risks sweeping these individuals into the criminal justice system unnecessarily.

Additionally, requiring people to rely on an affirmative defense means that a person may still be arrested, charged, and forced to defend themselves in court even if their intent was lawful. This creates financial and legal burdens for responsible citizens while doing little to deter actual criminal behavior.

Public safety should focus on addressing violent crime and illegal activity, not expanding criminal liability for peaceful and responsible residents. SB 433 shifts enforcement away from bad actors and toward ordinary people who are not a threat to public safety.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB 433.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jennifer

Hawai'i



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:15:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marvin Pascual	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:57:32 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 am strongly opposed to this bill. It is more restriction on our 2nd Amendment rights. It is vague and unclear in its wording, and can lead to confusion. Stop this bill.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:21:32 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 SB433.

Once again, a handful of legislators are trying to remove the rights of citizens. SB433 will ban the carry of all bladed weapons and tools commonly used by citizens for lawful uses.

For hunters, this will ban the use of knives for humanely dispatching pigs and field dressing game animals, Arrows, spears and axes.

For Martial Arts schools it will ban the use of bladed weapons for training and demonstration purposes. It will also ban their use during competitions.

Lastly, it is a violation of the Second Amendment in the US Constitution and it fails to meet the Bruen Test - there are no analogs to similar laws during the founding period. Or will this committee defend the use of Jim Crow laws as the State of Hawaii did in their defense of the Sensitive Places Law?

I urge the committtee to OPPOSE SB433.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:25:40 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 stopping law abiding citizens from being able to defending themselves doesn't stop criminals from breaking the law.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:51:06 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. Definitions much too broad and inconsistent. Self defense is a basic human right.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 6:40:38 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 SB433

The right of the people to keep and bear arms(dangerous weapons) is protected in our state. The fact that you would knowingly use legislation to stall a right with lawfare is testament to your authoritarian ideology. Shame in any "public servant" who votes yes on this.

Mitchell Weber

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 6:59:32 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:

strongly oppose this overreach...

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:04:37 AM

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

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

## Comments:

I oppose Bill SB433 because I am a hunter that hunts with a bow. I also use a knife to dispatch the animal properly. I hunt to provide food for my self, family & friends. I also hunt to teach my children & grandchildren how to provide for themselves & how to hunt properly & respectfully. Majority of the public hunting zones are on state land & if this bil is passed that would mean no hunting with a bow or knife in the very limited public hunting zones we have now. This bill will be taking away a tradition that has been around for hundreds of years. It would also prevent people from providing food for themselves & allow the zones to get over populated with animals & just add to the problems we have now due to the lack of proper animal management (not just mowing them down from helicopters during irradiations using public funds). Can't hunt on public land, can't hunt on private land, private land owners let the herds get out of control & now the state wants to pay the private land owners for eradicating animals on their property that they allowed to get out of control but the public can't go into to help or get some of that pay out 🙏🙏. No make any sense. Please use common sense & I hope you really take this into consideration & do the right thing & not allow this bill to pass.

Mahalo



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:12:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kona Llamas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I believe that it would be lawful to carry "bladed weapons". Although not very specific, it opens a very broad array of weapons that could be classified as "dangerous bladed weapons". My concern would be for hunting purposes. If Im caught outside legal grounds to be carrying such weapons because of this law can I be charged? For example walking to the hunting grounds, or on private property. Or even hunting in the ocean. I stress the broadness of these examples due to the broadness of the bill. I understand the bill is towards "self defense" purposes. However, if we can carry guns then we should be able to carry other such weapons for self defense. As well as other purposes that involve public access/usage. Mahalo.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:23:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika L Lawrence	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Us law abiding citizens live in a world full of exceptionally armed criminals. Written bills against so called, "deadly weapons," do nothing to disarm said criminals. Removing the right to bear arms from citizens is corrupt government. Citizens who obey the law should not be forced to become unarmed and defenseless.

Regards,

Kawika Lawrence

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:24:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Tokeshi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I oppose SB433 and urge the Senate not to advance the bill. It is too vague in its present form.

Specifically the term of ‘bladed’ and ‘deadly or dangerous’ weapons can include those tools used by legal hunters during a regular hunt. Deadly or dangerous weapons can include rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, bows, crossbows or pistols, all of which are used in legal hunting practices.

Legal and ethical hunters are responsible people. We carefully practice safe handling of lethal weapons and recognize the need for extreme caution when using our weapons.

The ‘prohibited areas’ include any areas controlled by the State or County for public use. EVERY public hunting area is controlled by the State, County or Federal government. This bill will effectively eliminate all public hunting areas in the state of Hawaii. Hunters will be relegated to private hunting areas and clubs that are, financially, out of reach of most hunters. Only the wealthy will be able to do any recreational hunting.

With the loss of recreational hunting, subsistence hunting will suffer also. Many hunters rely on the game gathered as their main source of protein. Taking this away will further our food shortage.

Our youth are also at great risk. They will never be able to experience the outdoors the way hunting is meant to be. The memories created will be lost to our young people. The hunting experience fosters responsibility and maturity to respect life.

I urge the Senate not to advance this bill.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:25:24 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*** SB433 because it is overly broad and poorly defined. The bill risks criminalizing everyday tools such as pocket knives, fishing knives, and work tools that many law-abiding residents carry for work, cultural practices, or personal safety. Its vague language creates legal uncertainty and opens the door to inconsistent or discriminatory enforcement. While public safety is important, SB433 places unnecessary burdens on responsible citizens without clear evidence that it would reduce crime. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill or significantly narrow its scope.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:27:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leinani arruda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB433

To: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs (PSM) Hearing  
Date: February 2, 2026, 3:00 PM Re: OPPOSITION to SB433 (Relating to Weapons)

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leinani Arruda, and I am writing to strongly OPPOSE SB433.

While I understand the intent to improve public safety, this bill ignores the reality of life in Hawaii and will negatively impact our people for the following reasons:

1. Cultural Impact and Threat to Subsistence As a Hawaiian, the use of bladed tools is not about violence; it is a way of life and a means of survival. We use these tools daily to hunt, fish, farm, and gather to feed our families and support our community. Whether it is clearing brush, preparing food, or working the land, these tools are essential to how we provide for one another. Criminalizing the open carry of these necessary items attacks our ability to sustain our households and maintain our cultural practices.

2. Criminalization of Daily Tools The bill's broad definition of "bladed weapons" fails to distinguish between dangerous weapons and essential work tools. It creates a legal trap where carrying a knife for legitimate work or community service could be interpreted as a crime. We should not have to prove our innocence in court for carrying the standard tools we use to care for our 'aina and our families.

3. Infringement on Rights By prohibiting the open carry of weapons for self-defense, this bill restricts the rights of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves. Criminals will not obey this ban, leaving only responsible citizens vulnerable.

- This bill creates a legal gray area where carrying a tool for a legitimate hobby or project could be interpreted as a criminal act.

- Citizens should not have to rely on an "affirmative defense"—which essentially requires us to prove our innocence in court—just for carrying standard tools of our trade or hobbies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Leinani arruda

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:43:06 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcus Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS!!!!

Haven't you learned from Wolfard vs. Lopez? Trying to throw in "sensitive places" will add more toward a lawsuit on this issue.

You will also make criminals out of children who partake in martial arts as none of them will use a locked container.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:47:13 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kale sylvia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this bill because it's straight up stupid. We obviously have a pig problem and the only way to keep there numbers in check it's to go out and get them the best way we know how. If this bill passes we could see a wild hog population explosion with in the first year.

Forget this bill!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:11:51 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in strong support of SB433. It seems that almost daily there are reports of people being threatened with machetes or actually being assaulted with machetes. This must stop. It also appears including shopping center parking lots.

lynne matusow

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:12:19 AM

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

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill since it addresses a non existing problem. The bill also furthers Hawaii's hostility towards small businesses.

The problem is with people not the tools they choose to commit crime.

The cosplay, photo, and other related industries will be greatly affected. Stop hampering businesses with these asinine laws.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:26:26 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calay Flippo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I oppose this bill. It goes against our constitutional rights and prevents us from being able to defend ourselves and our families from criminals. The safety and security of my family is my responsibility alone and this bill prevents me from doing that successfully. It is not your right to keep me from protecting my family or other innocent people for that matter from violent criminals. Criminals do not follow the law.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:28:59 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thoran Stanley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree with SB433. It is our right to gather food with non firearm equipment especially if we do not own a firearm so this bill will be taking away from my and many other families traditions. My family of 4 is an archery only family that loves to hunt and dive for our food

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:29:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator,

I strongly oppose SB433.

This bill violates the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to stop criminals. Criminals do not follow weapons laws. They will continue to carry knives and weapons regardless of what SB433 says. The only people affected by this bill are responsible citizens who obey the law.

By broadly banning the open carry of “deadly or dangerous weapons,” SB433 disarms peaceful individuals and makes them more vulnerable to those who intend harm. This creates a dangerous imbalance where criminals remain armed and citizens are left defenseless. That is not public safety—it is negligence.

The vague language in SB433 also invites abuse and arbitrary enforcement, forcing citizens to guess whether common tools or defensive items could make them criminals. Laws should be clear, constitutional, and targeted at criminals—not written so broadly that everyday people are put at risk.

SB433 does not protect the public. It punishes compliance, weakens self-defense, and undermines constitutional freedoms.

I urge you to oppose SB433.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Brown

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:55:23 AM

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

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

## Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose SB433, which would prohibit the open carry of deadly or dangerous weapons and explicitly include "bladed weapons" in that prohibition.

This bill goes too far and would criminalize everyday, lawful activities of Hawaii residents. Hawaii already has some of the strictest weapons laws in the nation, including broad restrictions on concealed carry and prohibitions on certain knives (e.g., prior bans on switchblades that were only recently repealed). Expanding these to ban open carry of bladed items creates vague, overbroad restrictions with serious unintended consequences.

## Key concerns include:

1. **Vague definition and overreach:** The addition of "bladed weapons" without clear definitions could encompass common pocketknives, utility tools (e.g., Leatherman multi-tools), kitchen knives transported openly in certain contexts, fishing knives, dive knives, gardening shears, or even box cutters used by tradespeople. This risks turning law-abiding citizens—hikers, fishers, farmers, construction workers, and everyday residents—into felons for carrying ordinary tools essential to their livelihoods and recreation in our island environment.
2. **Impact on self-defense and practical use:** While the bill offers an affirmative defense for "lawful self-defense," this places the burden on the accused to prove innocence after arrest, which is backwards and chilling. Open carry can serve as a visible deterrent in remote areas (e.g., trails, beaches, rural properties) where help is far away. Hawaii's geography—isolated trails, ocean activities, and limited law enforcement response times in outer islands—makes access to basic tools for protection or utility critically important.
3. **Disproportionate effect on certain groups:** Outdoor enthusiasts, cultural practitioners (e.g., those using traditional tools), hunters/fishers, and working-class residents who rely on knives for daily tasks would be disproportionately impacted. This does little to address actual violent crime while burdening non-criminal behavior.
4. **Lack of evidence for need:** There is no clear data showing that open carry of bladed items is a significant driver of crime in Hawaii. Existing laws already prohibit carrying with intent to use unlawfully. This bill appears to be a solution in search of a problem, potentially violating Second Amendment principles (as interpreted in recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions like Bruen) and Hawaii's own constitutional protections.

I urge the committees to reject SB433 in its current form. If the goal is truly public safety, focus on enforcement of existing laws against criminal misuse rather than broad prohibitions that affect law-abiding residents.

Mahalo for considering my testimony. I respectfully request that this bill be defeated.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:00:17 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maysen-Lee Stanley, and I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB433.

I am a bow hunter in Hawai‘i. Hunting is how I ethically provide food and stay connected to the land. It requires long hikes into the mountains and the use of basic field tools, including hunting knives, to process game responsibly and respectfully.

Although SB433 does not directly mention hunting or bows, the bill’s broad language regarding “deadly or dangerous weapons,” including bladed weapons, could unintentionally affect law-abiding hunters. These tools are essential for lawful hunting and are not carried for harm or public safety threats. Vague language creates confusion and puts responsible outdoorsmen at risk of being penalized for normal, regulated activities.

I support public safety, but this bill goes too far and risks impacting ethical hunters who already follow strict rules and regulations. I respectfully ask that you oppose SB433 or amend it to clearly protect lawful hunting and outdoor practices.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

maysen-Lee Stanley

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:17:57 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:

SB433 is against our constitutional rights and against a very bill that was passed previously. You dont get to backtrack on your decisions more so make any decisions pertaining to constitutional rights. The duty of elected officials is to uphold the rights of the people, not restricted them.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:33:14 AM

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

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

Comments:

Every year you democrats violate the constitution especially the 2nd Amendment, when are you guys gonna stop? Actually stand up for the constitution like you were sworn in to do. It's a right not a privilege.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:41:32 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 strongly oppose SB433.

This is another attempt at putting another onerous layer of restriction on law-abiding individuals. Expanding weapon classifications without clear standards creates confusion, risks inconsistent enforcement, and further erodes personal freedoms.

Support our constitutional rights. The 2A is undeniable. Vote NO on SB 433

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:49:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominic Acain	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to SB433

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dominic Acain from Kaua‘i, and I respectfully oppose SB433 as currently written.

While I understand the goal of public safety, this bill uses broad and unclear language about “bladed weapons” that could unintentionally criminalize ordinary knives that people across Hawai‘i use every day for lawful purposes.

In Hawai‘i, knives are essential tools. Hunters use them to field dress game and humanely process animals. Fishermen use them to clean fish and cut bait. Many residents carry knives for work in ranching, farming, construction, and other trades.

Knives also serve important emergency purposes. I have personally used one to cut someone free during a car accident. These are practical tools, not weapons intended for harm.

SB433 provides no clear exemption for lawful hunting, fishing, work, or emergency use, creating unnecessary legal risk and uncertainty for responsible residents.

I urge you to oppose SB433 unless it is amended to clearly protect lawful and traditional tool use in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,  
Dominic Acain  
Kaua‘i

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:51:22 AM

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

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

Comments:

Text

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:59:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Henson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 433 (SB433)

Submitted by: Philip Henson

Resident of: Ocean View, Ka'u, Hawaii 96737

January 31st, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB433.

As a Hawaii resident and hunter who uses traditional methods to harvest wild game for sustenance and cultural purposes, I strongly oppose this bill in its current form. While I support reasonable public safety measures, SB433's broad, undefined language creates serious constitutional issues that outweigh any intended benefits.

The bill amends HRS §134-51 to prohibit openly or concealed carrying "any dirk, dagger, blackjack, metal knuckles, bladed weapon, or other deadly or dangerous weapon." The terms "bladed weapon" and "other deadly or dangerous weapon" are not defined, leaving enormous ambiguity.

This vagueness renders the bill unconstitutional under both federal and state law:

Violation of the 14th Amendment Due Process Clause (U.S. Constitution) – Unlawful Ambiguity and Vagueness

Laws must provide clear notice of prohibited conduct and prevent arbitrary enforcement. Undefined terms like "bladed weapon" and "other deadly or dangerous weapon" fail this standard. Law-abiding citizens cannot reasonably determine whether a common hunting knife, utility blade, multi-tool, or even certain archery accessories fall within the prohibition. This invites selective, context-ignoring enforcement and criminalizes everyday lawful activities without fair warning. Courts routinely invalidate such vague statutes under the Due Process Clause to protect against overreach.

## Infringement on the Second Amendment (U.S. Constitution)

The Second Amendment protects "arms" in common use for lawful purposes, including self-defense and hunting. Post-Bruen (2022), regulations must align with historical tradition. Knives, bladed tools, and bows are historically recognized arms used lawfully for hunting and other purposes. Hawaii's own butterfly knife ban was struck down by the Ninth Circuit in *Teter v. Lopez* (2023) for similar reasons—lack of historical analogue. SB433 lacks exemptions for these tools during lawful hunting, effectively burdening core protected conduct without justification.

## Infringement on Article I, Section 17 of the Hawaii Constitution

Hawaii's Constitution provides: "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." This provision offers independent protection mirroring the federal right. By potentially prohibiting carry of arms essential to ethical hunting (e.g., knives for immediate field dressing), the bill infringes on this right. Hunting is a regulated privilege in Hawaii, but banning necessary tools undermines it without compelling need or narrow tailoring.

The bill's affirmative defenses (e.g., for lawful self-defense or locked transport) do not adequately cover traditional hunting on public lands, where tools must be readily accessible. Ambiguous wording allows ideologically driven application, leaving citizens vulnerable to prosecution for lawful behavior until courts intervene.

I respectfully urge the Committee to vote SB433 down or amend it substantially by:

Adding clear definitions that exclude common sporting/hunting tools.

Creating explicit exemptions for lawful hunting, fishing, and field use on public lands.

Requiring proof of intent to use as a weapon (rather than lawful purpose).

Thank you for your attention to these constitutional concerns. I am available for any questions.

Mahalo nui loa,

Phil Henson.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:03:41 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 an infringement on my 2nd ammendment right. This bill should not be passed. Please strike this bill down.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:08:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Carter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

To whom this may concern, hello my name is Eric Carter and I do believe this bill contradicts the bill 2342, which just 2 years ago legalized the open carry, switchblades and butterfly knives but just a couple of examples. This also implies that the hunting community would be effected as well. As a first generation hunter I was unaware of the importance hunting plays in hawaii's ecosystem and ecology. As a state with no native predators the individuals who do hunt them, whether it be with rifle, dogs, bows, or spear, and many other forms of hunting legal in Hawai'i, it is the responsibility of people now to regulate and control population numbers from getting out of control. As a state with an already very low hunting population, this bill severely restricts our ability to not only feed our families, but to also help bring balance to the already incredibly fragile ecosystem here in Hawai'i. I propose a revision of this bill making note of the exemptions to the legal registered hunters of Hawai'i and a serious look back on previous bills you the governing party pushed and eventually have passed already. I do believe this latest bill to be contradictory to bills already passed just 2 years ago. I urge you revisit and emand or abilisish the senate bill accordingly.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:12:41 AM

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

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

Comments:

Vote NO on SB433.

This bill is another attempt at restricting the rights of law abiding Hawaii individuals.

Expanding weapon classifications without clear standards creates confusion, risks inconsistent enforcement, and further erodes personal freedoms.

Support the constitutional Second Amendment. Vote no on SB433. Hawaii is currently awaiting a Supreme Court ruling which Hawaii will likely lose which means all these overreaching gun requirements will be null and void. Stop wasting tax payer money on fighting against constitutional rights. Enough already.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:12:47 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Atasha sandoval	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name Atasha sandoval,

I was born and raised in Maui, Lahaina. I have moved over to Oahu this past year due to the Maui wild fire, I am here as a citizen and resident. I want to appose due to the fact that I used to hunt in Maui and using a knife or bow was no problem and it was a necessity so to hear that you guys are going to try to take away our right to hold a knife or bow is mind blowing.

I do get that there are people who have been using knives in fight or just randomly hurting people. But For Hunters that is a vital tool for many reasons, and on a side note a small knife being carried while out is also a tool needed nowadays cause you never know especially for self defense IF NEEDED! Yes we are coming into a new world where we don't know for sure if we are safe on the streets or even in front of your own home. it sadly gets worse everyday so please don't take away a vital tool from the community.

mahalo for reading my reason to oppose and much mahalo for your time!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:17:51 AM

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

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong **opposition** to SB433 in its current form. As written, this bill creates significant legal ambiguity that threatens the livelihoods and traditions of Hawaii's hunting community.

Many families across our islands, including mine, rely on **subsistence hunting** as a primary source of food. With the rising cost of living in Hawaii, providing organic, locally sourced protein through hunting is not a hobby—it is a necessity.

My specific concerns are as follows:

- **Impact on Subsistence Hunters:** By expanding restrictions on "deadly or dangerous weapons" without explicit exemptions for lawful hunting, this bill puts law-abiding citizens at risk of criminalization while they are simply trying to feed their families.
- **Inclusion of Bowhunting & Traditional Tools:** Bowhunters and those using traditional methods like spears or knives for humane dispatch are vital to our conservation and food-gathering efforts. This bill lacks the clear protections needed to ensure these tools can be carried and used on public and government lands.
- **Lack of Legal Defense:** The current focus on "self-defense" as a legal justification does not adequately protect a hunter engaged in lawful activity. We need explicit language that protects the possession and transport of hunting tools for the purpose of harvesting game.

I urge the committee to defer this measure or amend it to include clear, robust protections for Hawaii's lawful hunters and those who rely on the land for subsistence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:22:23 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Instead of dreaming up new ways to assault the law abiding citizens of this state with more absurd laws, how about you get more strict on punishing and locking up violent offenders. Native Hawaiians and American citizens have the right to bear arms and weapons to defend themselves and hunt.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:23:40 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 express my respectful but firm opposition to SB 433.

While the stated intent of this bill may be public safety, its practical effect is to impose yet another layer of restriction on law-abiding individuals. Expanding the definition of “deadly or dangerous weapons” to broadly include bladed weapons, without clear and objective standards, creates confusion for both citizens and law enforcement. Laws that are vague or overly expansive invite inconsistent enforcement and undermine public confidence in the justice system.

Although SB 433 includes a limited affirmative defense for lawful self-defense and transport, relying on affirmative defenses places the burden on otherwise lawful individuals to justify themselves after the fact. Responsible citizens should not be put at risk of arrest or prosecution simply for possessing common tools or arms that have lawful, everyday purposes.

Public safety is best served by laws that are narrowly tailored, clearly defined, and focused on criminal misuse rather than lawful possession. SB 433 does not meet that standard and instead further erodes personal freedoms without clear evidence of benefit.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 433.

Sincerely,  
Wayne Asam

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:37:32 AM

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

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

Comments:

PLease follow the constitution.You have sworn an oath to support and defend the constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:43:24 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 433.

I understand that public safety matters, but this bill expands the definition of “deadly or dangerous weapons” in a way that feels too broad and unclear. Including bladed weapons without clear definitions makes it hard for people to know what is allowed and what is not.

Even though the bill includes a defense for lawful self-defense and transport, that still means someone could get in trouble first and have to explain themselves later. I believe laws should be written clearly enough that responsible people don't have to worry about accidentally breaking them.

As a student learning about civics and the law, I think rules should be simple, fair, and focused on people who actually commit crimes. For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you oppose SB 433.

Sincerely,

**Xander**

Age 16, Sophomore

Hawai'i

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:46:05 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 433.

While I understand the goal of improving public safety, SB 433 expands the definition of “deadly or dangerous weapons” in a way that is overly broad and lacks clear standards. Including bladed weapons without precise definitions creates confusion for law-abiding individuals and increases the likelihood of inconsistent enforcement.

The bill’s reliance on affirmative defenses for lawful self-defense and transport is also concerning. Citizens should not be placed in a position where they must defend themselves legally after the fact for conduct that is otherwise lawful. Laws should be clear, predictable, and focused on preventing criminal misuse—not on creating uncertainty for responsible people.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 433.

Sincerely,  
**Kai Asam**

## **SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:49:31 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 SB433**.

This bill is legally flawed, constitutionally suspect, and poorly drafted. While framed as a public safety measure, SB433 instead expands criminal liability onto ordinary, lawful behavior and grants excessive discretion to law enforcement without clear standards. This approach violates basic principles of due process, self-defense, and legislative responsibility.

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### **1. SB433 Is Vague and Legally Dangerous**

SB433 broadly criminalizes the open carry of “deadly or dangerous weapons,” including “bladed weapons,” without providing clear, objective definitions.

This is a serious legal defect.

Under long-standing constitutional law, criminal statutes **must be clear enough that an ordinary person can understand what is prohibited**. SB433 fails this test. It does not meaningfully distinguish between:

- common pocketknives
- fishing and hunting knives
- work tools
- camping and outdoor equipment

When laws rely on subjective interpretation instead of clear definitions, enforcement becomes arbitrary. Citizens should not have to guess whether a tool they lawfully carry today will make them a criminal tomorrow.

This is exactly the type of statute courts routinely strike down as **unconstitutionally vague**.

---

## 2. Criminalizing Possession Instead of Criminal Conduct

SB433 does not target violent behavior.  
It targets **mere possession**.

That is a fundamental policy error.

Public safety laws should focus on **intent, threat, or misuse** — not the simple act of carrying an item that has lawful, everyday purposes. Hawaii residents fish, hunt, camp, farm, work trades, and live outdoor lifestyles where knives are normal tools.

SB433 flips the burden onto the citizen to prove innocence *after* being criminally charged, instead of requiring the state to prove criminal intent. That is not how fair lawmaking works.

---

## 3. “Affirmative Defenses” Do Not Fix an Unconstitutional Law

Supporters may argue that SB433 allows “affirmative defenses” for lawful use. That argument fails legally and practically.

An affirmative defense means:

- the citizen is **already charged**,
- must **hire legal counsel**,
- and must **prove innocence in court**.

Rights are not protected when they only exist as defenses *after arrest*.

A law that requires citizens to risk arrest first and vindication later is not a safeguard — it is coercive.

---

## 4. SB433 Undermines the Right to Self-Defense

The right to self-defense is fundamental and well-established in American and Hawaiian law.

While recent Supreme Court cases focus on firearms, the underlying principle is broader: **law-abiding citizens have the right to possess and carry commonly used tools for lawful self-defense.**

SB433 undermines that right by criminalizing common defensive tools without evidence that such bans reduce violence. There is no demonstrated public safety benefit that justifies this level of intrusion.

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## 5. No Evidence of Public Safety Benefit

There is **no credible data** showing that broad bans on carrying bladed tools reduce violent crime.

Criminal actors do not follow carry laws.  
Law-abiding residents do.

This bill will not deter crime — it will only expand the number of ordinary people exposed to arrest, prosecution, and legal uncertainty.

---

## 6. This Is Poor Governance, Not Public Safety

SB433 reflects a troubling pattern: expanding criminal law through vague language while avoiding measurable outcomes, accountability, or constitutional analysis.

Good legislation is:

- precise
- evidence-based
- narrowly tailored

SB433 is none of these.

---

## Conclusion

SB433 is legally unsound, constitutionally questionable, and practically harmful. It criminalizes ordinary conduct, relies on vague definitions, shifts burdens onto citizens, and offers no proven public safety benefit.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **REJECT SB433**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:16:44 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to oppose SB433. This bill, as written, is vague, unconstitutional, unnecessary, and would have profound unintended consequences.

In an effort to legislate safety at the expense of freedom, this bill seeks to criminalize possession of anything that could be a dangerous weapon. Without clear definitions, that could include possession of a screw driver outside of the home.

It is already illegal to stab someone. You don't need to outlaw the possession of knives. That would be like banning cars because someone might speed. Or banning slippers because someone might J-walk.

This bill does not take into account the hunters, farmers, and fishermen who still utilize the tools that humans have used for thousands of years to feed their families and feed their communities.

mahalo

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:18:30 AM

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

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

## Comments:

My name is Raymond Ishii and I strongly oppose SB433 simply because it does not define what is considered a "bladed weapon". Among the simple examples of everyday items that according to this bill will subject the law abiding citizen of the state to a misdemeanor charge subject to a year in jail and a \$2000 fine include:

Box cutters that are carried thousands of workers every single day

Pocket knives, including Swiss army knives, and multitools that are legally carried by thousands of law abiding citizens in their pockets, purses and packs.

lawn equipment such as chain saws, machetes and other tools that a citizen may step onto a public sidewalk to trim a tree on their property or simply transporting them to a job site.

While all of the above could be used as a weapon, so can baseball bats, metal chains and pipes. All of which are already subject to B and C felony charges if used in a commission of a crime.

Under the United States Supreme Court ruling under Bruen, the 2nd Amendment covers all arms, not just firearms. The carrying of arms are protected by the 2nd Amendment, however the use of arms in the commission of a crime is not. So rather than trying to punish the law abiding by creating unreasonable laws, the State should concentrate on the criminals who break the law.

I strongly oppose SB433 and thank you to allowing my testimony.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:43:03 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nolan Odachi	Testifying for Odachi Forge	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This is Nolan Odachi. I am a small business owner and hunter on Hawaii island. This bill would directly affect my livelihood as I am a knife maker, and I regularly transport "Bladed Weapons" such as handmade kitchen knives, hunting knives, and other sharp objects that could be seen as "Bladed Weapons", to and from local craft fairs and events. I also know many people that carry a pocket knife or a fixed blade knife for everyday uses such as opening boxes, cutting rope, or a thousand other little tasks that you might need a blade for. Under the current wordage of the bill, they could be charged with a misdemeanor.

As the bill is written, it would criminalize many local hunters unless we transport all our normal hunting gear to and from the hunting area in a hard sided, locked case. This would be a real pain to transport, especially if there are several hunters in a vehicle going bow hunting.

Please do not pass this Bill. From what I have seen online it is extremely unpopular, and would get many well meaning citizens, just going about their day into trouble.

Thank you for your time,

Nolan Odachi



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:06:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valdeane U Odachi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposed to SB433, as the language is too vague in regards to bladed weapons, and does not account for those who carry bladed tools for work, recreation, or daily use. Additionally, the semantics of the wording allows me to conclude that the focus of the bill was instended to prevent the use of items as weapons that could be used to cause harm to individuals, living animals, and/or property. However, this bill lacks specificity, resulting in an overarching that could greatly impact makers, distributors, professionals, and the general public who carry bladed items on a daily, or even occasional basis.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:31:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Greenwellt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose sb433

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:49:13 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:

This is just another layer of restriction on law-abiding individuals. Weapon classifications without clear standards creates confusion, risks inconsistent enforcement

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:49:37 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 SB433 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-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:50:26 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-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:54:12 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-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:57:10 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-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:09:17 PM

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

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

## Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lando , and I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to SB433.

For many families in Hawai‘i, including mine, tools such as bows and knives are not weapons — they are essential tools used to clean, prepare, and catch food that we eat and provide for our families. These practices are tied to subsistence living, cultural traditions, and self-reliance, especially in rural communities where access to affordable food is already limited.

Hunting, fishing, and gathering are part of how many local families survive. After harvesting food, knives are necessary to properly clean and prepare what we catch, and bows are a traditional, non-industrial method of harvesting food responsibly. Limiting or criminalizing these tools would directly harm law-abiding residents who are simply trying to feed their families.

SB433 would place an unfair burden on people who rely on these tools for everyday survival, not harm. It does not address criminal behavior, but instead risks punishing cultural practitioners, hunters, fishermen, and families who live sustainably and respectfully off the land.

In a time when food costs are rising and many families are struggling, Hawai‘i should be protecting subsistence practices, not making them harder or illegal. Our traditions, food security, and way of life deserve respect.

I urge you to vote NO on SB433 and consider the real impact this bill would have on local families and communities across Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Landon





**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:30:22 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-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:32:16 PM

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

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

## Comments:

I oppose the bill the because Hawaii already has restrictive laws in place for weapons. It's already a pain trying to get guns. Don't do this for bladed weapons. How much knife related crime happens yearly? Don't blame the knife, blame the person with it. I know a lot of good people who carry knives as tools, for hunting, etc. Not once did I ever think they would use it with malicious intent. This bill is dumb and so is the individual proposing it. Let this bill die.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:43:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toshio Toguchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to Whom it may Concern,

I very strongly oppose bill SB433 as it puts non firearm hunting in Hawai'i at serious risk. As written, SB433 expands restrictions on carrying what it defines "deadly or dangerous weapons." This language may include knives commonly used to humanely dispatch pigs, as well as, bow and spears used in traditional and lawful hunting.

While the bill is intended to regulate the carrying of weapons in the public spaces, its broad wording has a serious byproduct: it would effectively ban knives, bows, and spears in parks and on government property including public hunting areas across the state. The bill's exemptions focus on self defense and not lawful hunting, leaving hunters no clear legal protection while engaged in permitted activities.

As a hunter I provide food for my family and also help keep the invasive species population down. My weapons of choice are bow and arrow and knife. These weapons allow me to humanely put down pigs and deer as I need to be closer to the animal which means a better placed shot. If SB433 is passed and bans the use of knives and bows, I won't be able to put food on the table and also with a decrease of Hunters, the invasive species populations will bloom which would have devastating impacts on the ecosystem and our local farmers.

I respectfully urge you to oppose SB433 or amend it to clearly protect lawful hunting. Hunting in Hawai'i is not just recreation—it is a responsibility to care for the 'āina, provide for our families, and pass down knowledge that has sustained these islands for generations. Policies that unintentionally criminalize traditional and responsible practices harm not only hunters, but the balance of our ecosystems and the well-being of our local communities. Please ensure our laws reflect Hawai'i's values of mālama 'āina and respect for those who steward it.

Mahalo nui for your time,

Toshio Toguchi

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:49:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
onipaa alu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose

SB433. This bill, as written, is vague, unconstitutional, unnecessary, and would have profound unintended consequences.

In an effort to legislate safety at the expense of freedom, this bill seeks to criminalize possession of anything that could be a dangerous weapon.

Without clear definitions, that could include possession of a screw driver outside of the home.

It is already illegal to stab someone. You don't need to outlaw the possession of knives. That would be like banning cars because someone might speed. Or banning slippers because someone might J-walk.

This bill does not take into

- account the hunters, farmers, and fishermen who still utilize the tools that humans have used for thousands of years to feed their families and feed their communities.

mahalo

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:54:22 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:

The Second Amendment states, "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."

Legal scholars and courts (including the Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*) have interpreted "Arms" to include weapons that are not specifically firearms. Historically, at the time of the framing of the Constitution, knives, swords, and dirks were standard "arms" used for personal defense and militia service. Therefore, knives fall under the textual protection of the Second Amendment.

**2. The "Text, History, and Tradition" Standard (*NYSRPA v. Bruen*)** In the 2022 Supreme Court case *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, the Court established a strict test for gun control laws. The government must demonstrate that a regulation is consistent with the nation's "historical tradition of firearm regulation."

Applied to knives, the argument is as follows:

- **Text:** The Second Amendment protects the right to "bear" (carry) "arms" (which includes knives) for self-defense.
- **History:** While there are historical statutes regulating *specific types* of knives (such as Bowie knives or concealed dirks) in certain contexts, there is little historical precedent for a total ban on the carrying of all knives for self-defense.
- **Conclusion:** Because a total ban lacks a historical analogue in the American tradition of regulating arms, it would fail the *Bruen* test and be deemed unconstitutional.

**3. The Right to Self-Defense** The core right protected by the Second Amendment is the individual right to self-defense. For many citizens, a knife is a preferred or necessary tool for self-defense (due to cost, ease of use, or legal restrictions on firearms). A blanket ban on carrying knives would effectively strip individuals of a common, accessible means of exercising their constitutional right to defend themselves outside their homes.

Knives constitute "Arms" under the Second Amendment, and because the Constitution protects the right to "bear" (carry) such arms for self-defense, a government ban on carrying knives infringes upon a fundamental constitutional right without sufficient historical justification.

In closing if Rep. Rhoades put as much effort into taking care of hawaii as he does trying to violate law abiding citizens rights, Hawaii would have no homeless and have the #1 educatino system in the country.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:01:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
austin nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it directly affects individuals who use bladed knives for work and recreational purposes.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:02:19 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:

Great Britain has been banning offensive and defensive weapons possession for year with an attendant rise in crime against persons and property. Criminals face few obstructions when citizens cannot defend themselves and crime will rise. Do not keep citizens from defending themselves as they see best - prosecute criminal behaviour instead.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:20:44 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-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:24:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariane Woodward-Carter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The wording on this bill is too broad and has the potential to limit Hunters and use of knives.

Without clarification this bill can prevent people that sustainably gather food on public lands to use bows (with razor broadheads) and knives to process meat and animals.

Knives are not only used as self defense they are an everyday item that is used daily.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:33:42 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It will further restrict people's rights to defend themselves if they are not allowed to own firearms

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:42:44 PM

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 433

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:47:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carly Powell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill due the effect it will have on hunters putting themselves in situations where these "weapons" are actually used as tools to help provide for our community and families. It will also pose a risk to hunters who might need these tools in dangerous situations.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:50:41 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 433**

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB 433.

SB 433 would prohibit the open carry of items broadly classified as “deadly or dangerous weapons,” expanding that definition to include bladed weapons. While the bill provides limited allowances for lawful self-defense and transport, its broader effect would be to impose additional restrictions on law-abiding citizens.

From a constitutional and historical perspective, this approach raises significant concerns. The right to keep and bear arms has long been understood to extend beyond firearms to include the ordinary weapons historically possessed by citizens for lawful purposes, including personal defense. Throughout American history, knives and bladed tools have been commonly carried as everyday implements and as means of protection.

This understanding is also deeply rooted in Hawaiian history and culture. Prior to Western contact, Native Hawaiians used a variety of tools and weapons—such as clubs, spears, daggers, and bladed implements—not only for warfare, but for protection, hunting, fishing, and daily survival. These items were integral to Hawaiian society and craftsmanship, often carrying cultural, practical, and spiritual significance. Even after contact, edged tools and bladed implements remained essential to life in the islands, serving as tools of work as much as tools of defense.

Treating bladed instruments as inherently suspect or broadly prohibiting their lawful carry disregards both constitutional tradition and Hawai‘i’s own historical experience. Such an approach risks severing modern law from the cultural realities and practical necessities that have shaped life in these islands for generations.

Additionally, SB 433 relies on expanded and ambiguous classifications without clear, objective standards. Vague definitions make it difficult for citizens to know what conduct is lawful and increase the likelihood of inconsistent or arbitrary enforcement. Laws that affect fundamental rights should be narrowly tailored and clearly defined so that law-abiding individuals are not placed at risk of unintended legal consequences.

Public safety is best served by focusing on criminal misuse and dangerous behavior, not by imposing broad restrictions on responsible citizens. Policies that limit lawful carry without a

clear and demonstrable public safety benefit risk diminishing personal freedoms while offering little practical gain.

For these reasons, I respectfully oppose SB 433 and urge lawmakers to carefully consider its constitutional implications, its alignment with Hawai'i's history and cultural traditions, and the unintended consequences it may impose on law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

John Terry



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:55:58 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:

Hello my name is Charles Wei. Current Resident of Kalihi. I oppose this measure as it leaves a significant amount of subjective discretion in the courts and also puts un-necessary burden on our officers to have to make a decision on what is a weapon.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:05:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GENER MACARAEG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB433.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:23:49 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:

Oppose.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:50:31 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-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:12:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose non-sense new laws. It is already illegal to cause harm to someone. How is anyone who hunts with knife and dogs about to legally go hunting? How can we go fishing and diving with no knife on our belts? This doesn't match up with our culture here in Hawaii.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:12:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac Moon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Please oppose non-sense new laws. It is already illegal to cause harm to someone. How is anyone who hunts with knife and dogs about to legally go hunting? How can we go fishing and diving with no knife on our belts? This doesn't match up with our culture here in Hawaii.

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION

TO SB433 (2026 REGULAR SESSION)

### RELATING TO WEAPONS

**Submitted by:** Concerned citizen advocating for self-defense, family protection, and constitutional rights

I respectfully submit this written testimony in **opposition to Senate Bill 433 (SB433)**. While public safety is a legitimate governmental interest, SB433 is constitutionally incompatible, historically unsupported, and practically dangerous. The bill would criminalize currently lawful conduct, shift the burden of proof onto ordinary, innocent citizens, and invite arbitrary enforcement devoid of due process—without any demonstrable public safety benefit.

The United States Supreme Court has made clear that the Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes, primarily among them self-defense. In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Court ruled that arms “in common use for lawful purposes” are constitutionally protected and may not be broadly prohibited. Items proposed to be banned **MUST** meet the conjunctive condition of being BOTH dangerous AND unusual. Bladed items such as the knives and other bladed objects in question are not unusual and therefore under the *Heller* methodology **CANNOT** be banned.

More recently, *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* reaffirmed and strengthened this principle by holding that when a law restricts conduct is implicated by the Second Amendment’s plain text, **the burden shifts to the government** to demonstrate that the restriction is consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of arms regulation (due process).

SB433 conflicts with this framework in multiple ways. The bill criminalizes the carry of broadly defined “bladed weapons,” many of which are indisputably in common lawful use for work, utility, and self-defense. The bill provides no historical analog from the Founding Era or early Republic supporting such a sweeping prohibition. Rather than requiring the State to justify the restriction, SB433 places the burden on the citizen to raise an affirmative defense *after arrest* and thereby infringing on their constitutional right to due process.

Under the *Bruen* decision, this inverted, unlawful burden of proof is constitutionally suspect.

At the time of the Founding, Americans routinely carried knives, daggers, and other edged tools for daily life, work, hunting, and personal defense. There is **no historical tradition** of criminalizing the ordinary carry of bladed implements outside of malicious intent.

Courts applying *Bruen* have repeatedly emphasized that modern regulations must be justified by **well-established historical analogs**, not generalized public safety claims. SB433 offers no

such analog and instead represents a modern policy preference untethered from constitutional history and attempts to justify such by using defunct Kingdom of Hawai'i laws which have been overridden by the 14th Amendment's supremacy clause.

SB433 creates a legal structure in which mere possession or carry is a misdemeanor offense lawful intent (such as self-defense) must be proven later as an affirmative defense.

This framework effectively presumes guilt and shifts legal risk to the individual, contrary to fundamental due-process principles protected by the 5th Amendment. Citizens may be arrested, booked, forced to post bail, and incur legal expenses for conduct that is currently lawful and non-problematic.

Due process states that criminal statutes must give fair notice and not criminalize innocent conduct by default. SB433 fails this test miserably.

SB433 does not clearly define what constitutes a "bladed weapon" or establish objective criteria distinguishing a prohibited weapon from an ordinary tool. As a result, law enforcement officers (who are not lawyers or judges) are left to make subjective, on-the-spot determinations.

Ordinary items such as folding pocketknives, multi-tools, fishing knives, or utility blades may be treated as criminal contraband. This ambiguity invites pretextual stops, searches, and seizures, undermining Fourth Amendment protections.

Vague statutes are constitutionally disfavored because they encourage arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement again, lacking due process.

Hawaii Revised Statutes §134-51 historically targeted specific weapons and conduct, with courts distinguishing between tools and weapons based on context and intent. SB433 dramatically expands criminal liability without reconciling this expansion with existing statutory language or judicial interpretation, creating confusion for both citizens and law enforcement. This once more, subjects the everyday innocent citizen to the potential depravity of their right to due process.

Available FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data demonstrate that knives and cutting instruments account for a relatively small percentage of homicides nationwide. Use of "personal weapons" such as hands, fists, feet, etc. consistently account for more homicides than knives AND firearms.

Hawaii's violent crime rate is comparatively low, and there is no evidence of a bladed-weapon crime crisis warranting such sweeping legislation.



SB433 would therefore primarily increase **arrests and prosecutions**, not reduce violent crime. Law enforcement resources would be diverted from serious offenders toward otherwise law-abiding citizens who carry tools for lawful purposes.

For families focused on self-defense and personal safety, SB433 creates unacceptable risk.

Parents, workers, hunters, fishermen, and hikers may face criminal liability for carrying tools that are in common use. Lawful defensive everyday carry becomes a legal gamble rather than a protected right. Communities experience increased criminalization without increased safety.

This approach undermines trust in the legal system and erodes respect for the law and potentially law enforcement.

SB433 raises serious constitutional concerns under the **Second, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments**, lacks historical justification as required by *Heller* and *Bruen*, and imposes a “guilty until proven innocent” framework that deprives law-abiding citizens of their constitutionally protected right to due process. The bill does not meaningfully address violent crime and instead risks expanding arrests, prosecutions, and incarceration for conduct that has long been lawful.

**For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Legislature to indefinitely defer or reject SB433.**

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Tysen Kapākauakamehameha Burdett,

Native Sen. District 23 resident

### **Works Cited**

1. *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/554/570/>
2. *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2022), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/597/20-843/>
3. *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n v. Bruen*, slip op. at 15–20
4. *Kolender v. Lawson*, 461 U.S. 352 (1983), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/461/352/>
5. U.S. Const. amend. IV; see also *Terry v. Ohio*, 392 U.S. 1 (1968)
6. Hawaii Revised Statutes §134-51, <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrsall/>
7. FBI, Expanded Homicide Data Table 8, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s>
8. Hawaii Crime Data, Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, <https://ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/rs/cih/>

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 4:42:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Walls	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 433, SB 2575, SB 2517, SB 2503, and SB 2720

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Walls, and I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to the firearm-related bills currently before you. I am not a typical gun owner, and I did not come to this issue lightly. I came to it through lived experience, trauma, and the hard reality of trying to keep myself and my children alive.

In 2013, I was going through a dangerous divorce. My then-husband was diagnosed with late-onset bipolar disorder and became increasingly violent during the final years of our marriage. At one point, I removed all firearms from our home after he attempted to take his own life with a shotgun. When I asked for a divorce, I also sought a protective order.

What I quickly learned is that protective orders are not a shield. They require disclosure of one's location and do not stop harassment or violence in real time. As his behavior escalated, he stalked and harassed me relentlessly.

One night, he repeatedly called my home, threatening to "come get me." He was incoherent, enraged, and undeterred even when police were present. He would hang up and call back

repeatedly, speaking directly to officers, then hanging up and calling again. I was terrified. It was late at night, I had children with me, and leaving was not an option.

The police helped me barricade my home and explained that even with an immediate 911 call, response time would be several minutes. An officer told me plainly that I needed to protect myself — and suggested I purchase a firearm that night.

At that time, I lived in Texas. I had never owned a gun in my life, and given my experiences, I was deeply hesitant. Nevertheless, I followed the law, passed a federal background check, and legally purchased a 9mm handgun. I received education, training, and support, joined a women's shooting group, and committed myself to being a responsible firearm owner.

Despite all precautions, my ex-husband continued stalking and harassment. Months later, while walking in my neighborhood, I was shot in a drive-by attack. I felt a pop, then intense pain. I lost my leg below the knee. Because there was insufficient evidence to identify the shooter, no one was held accountable. I bore the medical, financial, and lifelong physical consequences myself.

I obtained a concealed carry permit, completed additional education, practiced regularly, and carried responsibly. Meanwhile, despite prior arrests and documented mental health issues, my ex-husband was able to obtain another firearm without apparent barriers. The system failed to stop the person who posed the real danger.

Eventually, after continued instability, he took his own life. I learned the hard truth that you cannot save someone who refuses help — but you can take reasonable steps to protect yourself.

I am not asking for reckless access to firearms. I support education, training, and responsible ownership. I support keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and individuals who pose a genuine risk. I strongly believe mental health considerations must be addressed meaningfully and proactively.

What I oppose are policies that:

- expand criminal classifications without clear standards,
- impose automatic penalties without due process,
- reduce judicial discretion,
- and make lawful, trained, responsible individuals less able to protect themselves when seconds matter.

Here in Hawai‘i, I have found that despite my history, training, and record, I may face lengthy delays and potential denial simply to exercise a right I once relied on to survive. For someone with my history, being told to “wait” is not an abstract inconvenience — it is a matter of personal safety.

Those who do not want firearms should never be required to own one. But those who have demonstrated responsibility, training, and lawful intent should not be treated as threats. Broad restrictions aimed at lawful ownership do not stop violence — they often leave the most vulnerable with fewer options.

I urge you to consider the real-world consequences of these bills and to focus on solutions that target violent offenders, respect due process, and preserve the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my experience and perspective.

Respectfully,

Linda Walls

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:15:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosetta Souza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to SB433

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rosetta Souza from Oahu, and I strongly oppose SB433 as currently written.

While I do understand the goal of public safety, this bill uses broad and unclear language about “bladed weapons” that could unintentionally criminalize ordinary knives that people across Hawai‘i use every day for lawful purposes.

In Hawai‘i, knives are essential tools. Hunters use them to field dress game and humanely process animals. Fishermen use them to clean fish and cut bait. Many residents carry knives for work in ranching, farming, construction, and other trades.

I am a preschool teacher as well as an avid hunter and use knives for many aspects of hunting. I teach the skills of hunting and gathering to my children to stay connected to their Hawaiian culture.

SB433 provides no clear exemption for lawful hunting, fishing, work, for native hawaiian gathering rights, or emergency use, creating unnecessary legal risk and uncertainty for responsible residents.

I urge you to oppose SB433 and to protect lawful and traditional tool use in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,  
Rosetta Souza  
O‘ahu

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:22:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominic Souza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to SB433

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dominic Souza from Oahu, and I strongly oppose SB433 as currently written.

While I understand the goal of public safety, this bill uses broad and unclear language about “bladed weapons” that could unintentionally criminalize ordinary knives that people across Hawai‘i use every day for lawful purposes.

In Hawai‘i, knives are essential tools. Hunters use them to field dress game and humanely process animals. Fishermen use them to clean fish and cut bait. Many residents carry knives for work in ranching, farming, construction, and other trades.

Knives also serve important emergency purposes. I have personally used one to cut someone free during a car accident on multiple occasions. These are practical tools, not weapons intended for harm.

SB433 provides no clear exemption for lawful hunting, fishing, work, or emergency use, creating unnecessary legal risk and uncertainty for responsible residents.

I urge you to strongly oppose SB433 and to protect lawful and traditional tool use in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Dominic Souza

Aiea, O‘ahu

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:23:54 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-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:36:09 PM

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

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

Comments:

**Aloha,****My name is Eric Hammond, and I live in Laie, born and raised.****I OPPOSE this bill.****This bill expands weapon classifications without clear standards. This can cause confusion, risks inconsistent enforcement, and most importantly, erodes personal freedoms. Freedoms that our nation was founded on and built on.****Many I know often carry bladed “weapons” on their body as they are very useful as a utility tool. Over-legislating our people is not the answer to better behaviour.****If you want to reduce violence and crime, start in the home. Focus on keeping families strong. Help people thrive in this economy instead of barely surviving.****If people are doing well, there is no need for stealing. Drug use goes down, leading to safer streets. Work on programs to rehabilitate instead of recycling people in and out of jail. A firearm is just a tool. It does not cause people to use it. As the saying goes, Hurt people hurt people (those who are hurt do the hurting).**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 5:41:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DONALD KANOELANI SOUZA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In complete opposition of Bill 433 SB RELATING TO WEAPONS!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 6:16:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RICHARD HOLIBAUGH	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. As a current Pearl City home owner and resident of Hawaii for over 26 years, I urge you to oppose SB433 (Relating to Weapons). This law is broad in scope and will negatively impact law abiding citizens who regularly carry knives as a compliment to pocket tools such as a leatherman. The carrying of a baton, which was prohibited under state law and now legal due to lawsuits, is again under attack from the same legislators who seem to be consistent in their fight to deny law abiding citizens the fundamental right of self defense. As stated earlier, I reside in Pearl City, very close to the rail station. The turnstiles are approximately a 7 minute walk from my front door. Do you know what and who else resides nearby? A rapidly expanding homeless camp, with transient foot traffic passing day and night. This camp has multiple abandoned vehicles, trash, and constant cooking fires. Now I rarely use the rail, but I do walk to the local shops. If this law is enacted, it will prohibit me from carrying my expandable baton--for my personal self defense. In addition, if enacted, this law will prohibit me from carrying one of my most cherished tools, my hip knife. If legislators are truly concerned about crime, then it is time to end the revolving door of our criminal justice system. A very small percentage of the population commits violent crimes in our community. The police have their hands tied when prosecutors don't charge or plea out, judges don't give the appropriate sentence, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority--just needs to be abolished. As a corrections professional for over 19 years in our great state, at the officer, receiving and discharge, and now supervisory level, I truly do have firsthand experience with our criminal justice system. I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 6:18:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheslei Akima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My name is Cheslei Akima. I'm born and raised here in Mau'i and I oppose this bill. Growing up in Hawai'i we were taught to fish and hunt for food and only kill what we're gonna eat. We use these things to feed our ohana. If it becomes banned, how will we continue to eat? How will we continue to teach our children what we were taught? Keep Hawai'i, Hawai'i.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 6:51:06 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 433. This bill would allow further restrictions on law abiding citizens and does nothing to prevent crime or address criminal activity.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 6:56:22 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 do not support this legislation because it erodes personal freedoms of law abiding citizens.

Respectfully,

Bradford Davis

# WRITTEN TESTIMONY

## In Opposition to SB 433

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to **SB 433**. I respectfully urge the Committee to carefully consider the serious constitutional defects of this measure and the substantial legal risk it presents to the State of Hawai‘i.

SB 433 is constitutionally infirm because it directly conflicts with binding United States Supreme Court precedent, most notably **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen (2022)**. In *Bruen*, the Court held unequivocally that the public carry of arms for self-defense is a core Second Amendment right and that governments bear the burden of demonstrating that any restriction on that right is consistent with this Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation. SB 433 does not meet that burden.

Rather than narrowly regulating conduct in a historically supported manner, SB 433 criminalizes the ordinary carrying of arms that are commonly possessed for lawful purposes, including firearms and other bearable arms such as knives. These are precisely the types of arms the Supreme Court has recognized as protected by the Second Amendment. The bill presumes constitutionally protected conduct to be unlawful and relegates the exercise of fundamental rights to narrow affirmative defenses raised only after arrest. The Supreme Court has expressly rejected this framework. Constitutional rights cannot hinge on post-hoc justifications or be conditioned on an individual’s ability to defend themselves after being subjected to criminal prosecution.

SB 433 further expands the concept of “sensitive places” in a manner that effectively nullifies the right to bear arms in public. The Supreme Court has made clear that sensitive-place restrictions must be grounded in historical analogues from the founding era and cannot be so expansive as to render a constitutional right meaningless in practice. Hawai‘i has identified no founding-era tradition that supports the sweeping prohibitions contemplated by this bill.

The timing and structure of SB 433 also raise significant concerns. The bill appears designed to operate as a contingency measure should the State not prevail in **Wolford v. Lopez**, which challenges Hawai‘i’s post-*Bruen* public carry restrictions. Rather than aligning state law with constitutional limits articulated by the Supreme Court, SB 433 restructures substantially similar prohibitions as criminal offenses coupled with limited affirmative defenses. Courts have repeatedly cautioned that constitutional compliance cannot be achieved through reclassification or procedural reframing when the practical effect remains the suppression of protected conduct. Advancing SB 433 while *Wolford v. Lopez* remains pending risks prolonging legal uncertainty, inviting additional injunctions, increasing litigation costs, and undermining public confidence that legislative action is grounded in settled constitutional law rather than anticipatory workarounds.

In addition to its Second Amendment defects, SB 433 raises serious **First Amendment concerns**. The bill ties criminal liability to subjective judgments about whether lawful conduct may cause “alarm” or convey an unacceptable intent. This framework effectively pressures individuals to alter their lawful behavior or engage in expressive conduct to reassure others or

avoid adverse reactions. The government may not compel individuals to engage in speech, suppress expressive conduct, or tailor their behavior as a condition of exercising constitutional rights. Conditioning the lawful carry of arms on compliance with subjective audience perceptions functions as compelled speech and chills both protected expression and the exercise of Second Amendment rights.

For these reasons, SB 433 exposes the State of Hawai‘i to costly and avoidable litigation, places state law in direct conflict with binding Supreme Court precedent, and infringes upon fundamental civil liberties protected by the United States Constitution. I respectfully urge the Legislature to decline to advance this measure and instead await final judicial guidance or pursue narrowly tailored, historically grounded approaches that comply with constitutional requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at this email address or Cell: 808-870-1796

Mahalo,

**Jason T Wolford**



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:04:34 PM

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

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

Comments:

Criminalizing hunting is wrong

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:18:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maui Napoleon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My name is Maui Napoleon, and I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed ban on bow, knife, and spear hunting.

For many of us, these methods are not simply “weapons” or tools — they represent tradition, culture, skill, and a deeply rooted connection to the land. Bow, knife, and spear hunting are some of the most ethical, sustainable, and selective forms of hunting practiced today. Removing these methods would not only harm hunters, but would also disrupt wildlife management practices and cultural traditions that have existed for generations.

For many families, these practices are not recreational — they are a way of providing food, passing down knowledge, and honoring ancestral practices. A ban would erase cultural heritage and penalize responsible hunters who use these tools in the most sustainable way possible.

This proposal would unfairly target law-abiding, responsible hunters while doing little to address any real issues of misuse. Education, training, and enforcement are far more effective solutions than broad prohibitions that remove valuable tools from ethical hunters.

I respectfully ask you to oppose this ban and instead support responsible hunting practices that preserve tradition, culture, and effective wildlife management.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:24:54 PM

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

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

## Comments:

My name is Tekahi Napoleon, and I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed ban on bow, knife, and spear hunting.

For many of us, these methods are not simply “weapons” or tools — they represent tradition, culture, skill, and a deeply rooted connection to the land. Bow, knife, and spear hunting are some of the most ethical, sustainable, and selective forms of hunting practiced today. Removing these methods would not only harm hunters, but would also disrupt wildlife management practices and cultural traditions that have existed for generations.

For many families, these practices are not recreational — they are a way of providing food, passing down knowledge, and honoring ancestral practices. A ban would erase cultural heritage and penalize responsible hunters who use these tools in the most sustainable way possible.

This proposal would unfairly target law-abiding, responsible hunters while doing little to address any real issues of misuse. Education, training, and enforcement are far more effective solutions than broad prohibitions that remove valuable tools from ethical hunters.

I respectfully ask you to oppose this ban and instead support responsible hunting practices that preserve tradition, culture, and effective wildlife management.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:35:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anona Napoleon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My name is Anona Napoleon, and I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed ban on bow, knife, and spear hunting.

For many of us, these methods are not simply “weapons” or tools — they represent tradition, culture, skill, and a deeply rooted connection to the land. Bow, knife, and spear hunting are some of the most ethical, sustainable, and selective forms of hunting practiced today. Removing these methods would not only harm hunters, but would also disrupt wildlife management practices and cultural traditions that have existed for generations.

For many families, these practices are not recreational — they are a way of providing food, passing down knowledge, and honoring ancestral practices. A ban would erase cultural heritage and penalize responsible hunters who use these tools in the most sustainable way possible.

This proposal would unfairly target law-abiding, responsible hunters while doing little to address any real issues of misuse. Education, training, and enforcement are far more effective solutions than broad prohibitions that remove valuable tools from ethical hunters.

I respectfully ask you to oppose this ban and instead support responsible hunting practices that preserve tradition, culture, and effective wildlife management.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:36:54 PM

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

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

## Comments:

I Mike Kanada a licensed and responsible natural and local food gatherer is in opposition of Bill SB433 as it goes may against my right as a Kanaka to gather local food sources from public hunting lands! This bill seems to have hidden agendas as to oppress and restrict hunter/gather folk from providing food on there table in which this the land provides! It directly impacts our right as Native Hawaiians to gather food sources by restricting us in using so called "dangerous weapons" on public lands to retrieve our food source. As a licensed and responsible hunter gather my critical tools needed such as knives, and bow which are currently allowed will be restricted if this bill is passed. Which is very unethical and unfair to us peoples who choose to gather food sources from the land and not depend so much on grocery stores! So as a Native Hawaiian who needs his tools to gather food sources in public areas I highly oppose this bill SB433 as it goes against my right to gather natural and local food source! Mahalo for understanding!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:55:31 PM

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

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

## Comments:

I am Kanaka. Born and raised on the island of Molokai and for many many generations we have survived off of the land. From Mauka to makai. We use weapons to gather food and to provide for our ohana. Why are you making us suffer more? We've suffered enough. Give us a break. Times is hard to live in this economy because of these outsiders coming to Hawaii buying up our land trying to take over everything. This is what we get left to survive because you all want to take away everything from us. Hawaiians is what makes Hawaii unique. And look at everything now. Should of left our lands in Hawaiian hands. We Malama. You only take take take. Prices going up. It's getting harder to find homes, or even buy a house. All of you outsiders taking over and running up our economy. STOP! We hunt, fish, and dive to survive and take care of families. We need weapons. Why do this to us? You here for the people of Hawaii (actually born and raised) then think for the people, what we need. Not everything is about MONEY. What happen to ALOHA!! We need kanakas running hawaii. Take care of us and we take care of you.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:03:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Luke-Boe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I oppose this bill 433, in that any person who engages in hunting, fishing or diving will be committing a crime when they use implements that are normally used to carry out these activities in food procurement. My son & grandchildren hunt deer to feed out family. They hunt w bow and arrow & need to use knives to strip the meat. Hunters help keep feral pig population and on Maui, the deer population under control. Please do not take this right to hunt and fish away. This bill needs more clarification and protection for hunter/gatherers in Hawaii.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:16:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Lough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB433 as it limits my ability to protect myself if necessary. Also the vague language around the weapon makes it very subjective.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:24:55 PM

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

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to bill SB433. Because the bill's legal defenses focus on self defense rather than lawful hunting there is no clear protection for hunters carrying these tools while engaged in legal activities. These tools: knives, bows, spears, etc.. are used to humanely dispatch animals that are legally hunted and in most cases considered a nuisance. Please protect the rights of hunters and VOTE NO.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:25:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael A. Cobb Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure because it will not make our community safer. It creates an undue burden for people who carry for self-defense. Criminals will not follow the law anyway.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:33:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayrica Cecil	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree to or support the passing of this bill. This bill will hurt a lot of small businesses on the islands, people with hobbies that require weapons on their person, and indigenous peoples practices and traditions. Block this bill.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:35:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Schattauer Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern; I am writing opose Bill SB433. As written, this bill would have serious consequences for all of the legal hunters who go out in the field for recreation, adventure and to feed their families. This Bill needs to be re-written or illimated entirely. This Bill is very vague and not specific enough, it should not target legal and traditional hunting practices.

Mahalo, George

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:35:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cecilia Donaghy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

As a concerned citizen I oppose SB433 because it is NOT about safety! It is about compliance and public signaling. This will NOT deter any crimes from taking place. In fact the opposite seems to play out with more regulatory laws and restrictions that go into affect the more the criminals seem to show their ugly faces and commit more crimes, platenly and with out any concern to the well being of anyone that gets in their way. Further more this measure would tie the hands of the Law abiding citizens rendering "us" defenseless when it comes to protecting our families and friends in the event of an emergency. Law abiding citizens will be stigmatized. Businesses will be compelled to speak on behalf of the government. Lawful firearm carry will become a hazard and require warning labels. This is unconstitutional, totally dismissive of our personal rights as lawful citizens of the United States of America. These measures are tearing into the fabric of our freedoms. They are trying to impose government controled speach and signaling with corrupting ideologies. Do not pass this corruption.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:56:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Proctor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the changes to this bill.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 8:58:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Muh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB433. SB433 is redundant and far too broad. It would, for example, ban hunting with a knife, bow, spear and other weapons. I suggest we strictly enforce the laws already on the books and severely punish people who use weapons to attack people illegally.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:06:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taysen Wong Chong	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I Taysen Wong Chong ,

I'm Representing not only as myself but as my Kuleana to my community as Chair to Hawaii Island County as the Game Management Advisory Commissioner. I oppose bill SB433 in all means do to many facts . This doesn't only take away freedom once again , this will strip away apart of our Culture here in Hawaii . As stating this there are many reasons . From taking away food from people's tables to cultural practices that are protected in the HRS Hawaii Constitution that our Customary and spiritual and cultural practices be our god given rights on both constitutions rather it be US or HRS. I humbly ask that all representatives not only follow these rights and protect these rights for you all such as myself took an oath to protect these rights . Let's not forget when Covid and the Lahaina Firew hit . Who was one of the main ones if not first ones who responded? The Hunter Gatheres also known as fellow community members. I myself had donated over 1,000lbs of personally harvested wild meat from myself to the cause. Self sustainability is key . It's a way of life . When the stores and barges shut down, these are of many people the gatherers who step up. Thanks for your time .

Mahalo,

Taysen Wong Chong



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:25:31 PM

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:

State law made it legal to carry edged weapons in public.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:15:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN RELATION TO SB433****Relating to Weapons**

I submit this testimony with concerns regarding SB433, specifically its potential unintended impacts on lawful hunters, gatherers, and subsistence practitioners.

While SB433 appears focused on regulating the public carry of weapons and does not explicitly address hunting or subsistence practices, its inclusion of broadly defined terms such as “dagger” and “bladed weapon” raises practical enforcement concerns. Many lawful hunting tools - such as field knives used for dispatching game or processing harvested animals - could be construed as “bladed weapons” depending on blade design and discretionary interpretation.

Of particular concern is the transportation of such tools. Hunters and gatherers traveling to or from lawful activities may necessarily pass through public spaces or use vehicles or public transportation. Without plain-language statutory clarification or exemption, individuals engaged in lawful hunting or subsistence practices could be subject to unnecessary stops, citations, or compelled to assert affirmative defenses despite no unlawful intent.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to consider clarifying language that explicitly protects the lawful possession and transport of knives, blades, and traditional tools used for hunting, gathering, fishing, and subsistence purposes, including travel to and from lawful activities. Clear statutory direction would prevent inconsistent or discretionary enforcement and ensure that this measure does not unintentionally burden lawful activities that are longstanding, culturally significant, and widely practiced in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:16:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent Tibbles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This violates the second amendment of the United States constitution.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:53:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Uchiyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 10:59:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall Lockwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB433. This bill aims to further impede the rights of law abiding citizens. I urge a vote to oppose.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:53:44 PM

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

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

Comments:

I oppose SB433!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:38:52 AM

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:

First, prohibiting open carry does not prevent violent crime. Individuals intent on committing harm already ignore weapons laws. This bill instead burdens law-abiding citizens who carry openly for lawful purposes such as self-defense, work, recreation, or personal security. By criminalizing otherwise peaceful behavior, the bill risks turning ordinary people into criminals without making our communities safer.

Second, the inclusion of “bladed weapons” is especially concerning. This term could reasonably encompass common tools and everyday items such as pocket knives, multi-tools, or work equipment used by tradespeople, outdoors enthusiasts, and rural residents. Such vague language invites inconsistent enforcement and places citizens at risk of arrest based on subjective interpretation rather than clear standards.

Third, relying on an *affirmative defense* is not an adequate safeguard. An affirmative defense requires a person to be arrested, charged, and potentially prosecuted before they can prove their innocence. This shifts the burden onto lawful individuals and exposes them to legal costs, loss of liberty, and lasting consequences—even when their conduct was lawful and non-threatening. Rights should not depend on one’s ability to later defend oneself in court.

Additionally, open carry can actually promote transparency and de-escalation. When a weapon is openly carried, there is no concealment, no deception, and no surprise. Criminalizing open carry may encourage concealment instead, making encounters more uncertain for both the public and law enforcement.

Finally, this bill raises serious civil liberties concerns. The right to self-defense is fundamental, and laws regulating it must be narrowly tailored, clearly defined, and focused on criminal misuse not broad prohibitions on peaceful conduct.

For these reasons, I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and instead focus on policies that address violent crime directly, respect constitutional rights, and avoid unnecessary criminalization of responsible, law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:00:07 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aris Miliareses-Costes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

As a hunter, and as a person who's lived and grown up in Hawai'i, this law would make it extremely hard, difficult and dangerous for hunters across Hawai'i, many hunters including myself in Hawai'i mainly use bow, this law would prevent hunters from being able to use bows, knives and any weapon that could be used to dispatch an animal, the exclusive use of firearms would become an increasingly dangerous problem for hunters because often in Hawai'i we are hunting in thick jungle, those of us who use dogs would be put at risk of shooting their own dog if forced to use gun-only. Not to mention that the other ways of hunting keep hunting a respectful and allows conservation over longer periods of time, it is important that hunters are able to use bows and knives as many of us don't have access or the ability to use firearms, hunting is a very important part of Hawai'i culture especially bow hunting and hunting with dogs. My hope is that this law would not effect areas in which hunters are.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:10:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makane Black	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I oppose bill SB433. Stop making stupid laws and bills. Hawaii is a gathering state. Everyone lives off the land here. You people in office only creat more problems then you do solving problems. Fix our roads, take care the homeless problems, fix the drug problem and child abusing. There's more important things you people need to focus on other then making it harder for locals to gather food and live off the land. Our king would be mad at you people for trying to take away our way of living. First you people like kill every hoofed mammal. So we have nothing to gather and now you like take away our weapons to humanly dispatch our catches!?

A'ole. You guys is pilau.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:26:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph P Vesperas Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

The term "bladed weapon" is too vague and could criminalize someone carrying a tool like a pocket knife. It is also a fundamental violation of our right to defend ourselves and would potentially criminalize someone for using something like a pocket knife in defense of one's life and safety. It could also criminalize anyone using a knife as a tool or a life saving measure during an emergency.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:56:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Ainoa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB433. If this bill passes it will affect our hunting community by no longer being able to use our hunting tools to gather meat from game animals. I ask law makers to please protect our hunting practices lawfully and to do not use this bill against our hunters and future generations.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 4:16:28 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ford potter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Ford Potter of Kauai, strongly oppose Bill SB433 as a hunter who provides food for my family with these tools

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 4:33:47 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:

SB 433 seeks to expand the definition of what constitutes prohibited “deadly or dangerous weapons” to include bladed weapons. Expanding weapon classifications without a clear standard will inevitably create confusion and lead to inconsistent enforcement, as well as further erosion of personal freedoms. This bill will also affect non-firearm hunting involving the use of knives, spears, and bows. Traditional Hawaiian pig hunting comes to mind, which involves dogs cornering wild boar and using spears and knives to dispatch a pua‘a. They are essential tools used for the humane dispatching of hunted animals; they are not defensive nor novel. The current language of the bill treats simply carrying a knife(s) outside your home, even if it's necessary for hunting, as a criminal offense.

Because the legal defenses in the bill are tied to self-defense first and foremost rather than lawful hunting practices, there is no clear protection for tools that are used strictly for hunting. Which can lead to legal hunters being cited for possessing these items on their person. And having hunting tools on you also extends to bows and spears.

Another major issue with this bill: Location restrictions. SB433 places additional limits on carrying weapons in “sensitive places,” which may include parks and other publicly open government land. And since Hawai‘i’s legal hunting grounds take place on this public government land and state-managed areas, it creates concern whether hunters can legally carry the tools necessary to participate in these legal hunting activities.

Even if the intent of the bill isn't targeting hunters, the wording leaves too much open to interpretation. That uncertainty alone could discourage participation in traditional hunting practices and expose responsible hunters to unnecessary legal risk. As is, it threatens the hobby and tradition of hunting.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 4:34:14 AM

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

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

Comments:

I Jerry Makana Jossy oppose bill SB433 we do not need more rights taken away from law abiding citizens. This is a waste of time that should be used for real issues in our state. Aloha

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 4:57:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shon Van Zandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose bill

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:02:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Te Benioni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. On the grounds that it is unconstitutional and goes against the second amendment.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:06:13 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moti Green	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to comment the bill as written.

The current wording of the bill as proposed is vague and ambiguous, and there is concern that it could create an unsafe and hostile environment for people who are trying to hunt, spear fish, and dive- all things which necessitate carrying bladed weapons on your person. As well as “other dangerous or deadly weapons” such as bows.

While this bill is likely targeted at addressing the recent machete crime on Oahu, it’s important that the language of bills such as these consider the cultural practices of hundreds of people who could be impacted by it. There is already concern within these communities that this bill seeks to limit or remove their ability to provide for themselves. Please address this.

Mahalo for your time and attention.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:11:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb433. Stop taking our rights away

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:23:18 AM

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

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

## Comments:

I think SB433 is a preposterous idea since it consequently affects the ranching community in Hawaii as many ranchers require their knife be affixed to their belt and if this law passes the they would no longer be able to do so. This is clearly an attempt at banning things people find fearful and yet you do not realise that these things are tools and tools that are important in some professions and could hinder those professions if that right was taken away.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:24:57 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chase Leialoha, and I am a resident of Hawai‘i. I am writing to respectfully submit testimony in opposition to SB433.

I oppose SB433 because I believe it does not adequately serve the best interests of Hawai‘i’s people or communities. As written, this bill raises serious concerns regarding its long-term impacts, unintended consequences, and the lack of sufficient safeguards to protect those who may be negatively affected.

Hawai‘i already faces significant challenges, including cost of living pressures, strain on local families, and the need to preserve local values and decision-making. SB433 appears to add additional burdens without clearly demonstrating that the benefits outweigh the risks. I am particularly concerned that the bill may [increase costs / reduce individual freedoms / create enforcement issues / negatively affect local residents or small communities — choose what fits your concern].

Additionally, I believe more public input, clearer language, and alternative solutions should be explored before advancing legislation of this scope. Rushing or passing a bill without addressing these concerns could lead to outcomes that are difficult to reverse.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to defer or reject SB433 and instead consider approaches that more directly reflect the needs, voices, and well-being of Hawai‘i’s residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Chase Leialoha

Hilo, Big Island, HI

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:29:31 AM

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

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

## Comments:

I'm so disappointed to have to submit testimony to this ridiculous bill. My family and I are allowed to hunt and gather and we do so in many different fashions. Bow hunting, rifle hunting, knife and spear hunting. Whether it's in the ocean or on land.

it's is our right to provide for our selves and our family.

carry knives on daily basis shoild not be a crime. Let's me realistic about what type of bills we are trying to pass.

we also have to do our part in controlling the population of ungulates wheather its pigs, deer, sheep. We can't do that with our bare hands.

the cave man didn't kill animals with his bare hands. He used weapons and that's what we need to survive.

I oppose this bill 100 percent

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:30:36 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neil Wehrsigg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! As a law abiding citizen you giving the power to criminals

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:40:00 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 SB433

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:00:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NOAH DRAZKOWSKI	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a horrible bill and ruins the culture and traditions in Hawaii.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:06:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwayne Kobatake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this action to make it illegal to carry bladed knives! What's wrong with you people?  
Permit to carry a knife? Ridiculous!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:08:31 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. Restrictions on tools do not stop criminals and create confusion on regulation and enforcement. Are we China? Please do not pass this bill.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:25:35 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. Let's make violent criminals think twice before attacking innocent people.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:30:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren kulberg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is another attempt in the further limiting of our rights and abilities to properly

I oppose!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:42:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chasity Subia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This goes against our second amendment to defend and protect ourselves from any harm that may come to my or my family.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:50:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tavite Talasinga Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha, my name is Tavite and I am a Hunter, fisherman and gatherer. I also work in construction operating heavy equipment and fixing equipment. I use knives and other tools daily that could be considered by this bill to be a "dangerous weapon". It seems insane to prohibit the "open carry" of tools such as knives. When Im working on my uncles ranch and need to run to the store for a few things what happens if I forget my knife on my belt that I have been using all day? I am not a criminal and I do not appreciate being treated like one. There is no reason to limit when and where I can have my tools on my person. It has nothing to do with self defense or anything like that. I use these kinds of tools daily and I can't imagine getting arrested for a tool that I use many times daily because someone may consider it a "deadly weapon" .

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:59:47 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Ritualo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB433. Verbiage is broad and unspecific.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:00:23 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 SB433,

Prohibiting the open carry of so called "deadly or dangerous weapons," expanding the definition to include bladed weapons. While it includes a limited affirmative defense for lawful self-defense and transport, the broader effect is another layer of restriction on law-abiding individuals. Expanding weapon classifications without clear standards creates confusion, risks inconsistent enforcement, and further erodes personal freedoms.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:03:19 AM

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

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

Comments:

I oppose SB433. This bill is another overstep by the government. Law abiding blue collar citizens who carry knives for work would suddenly become criminals with this bill. This is preposterous and an embarrassment by our representatives and should be shot down immediately.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:06:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kale Makaneole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands this is our traditional practice our life you are trying to take away. Pushing us out won't work thank you for doing the right thing and leaving us hunt and provide for our families

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:13:38 AM

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

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill, this is the way of life for me as a gatherer. I withhold and maintained my hunting licenses and rifle permits with no issues and or problems.

## **SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:17:03 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:

### **1. SB433 Creates a Near-Total Ban on Carrying Common Self-Defense Tools**

The bill criminalizes carrying:

- Dirks
- Daggers
- Bladed weapons
- Metal knuckles
- Blackjacks
- “Other deadly or dangerous weapons” (an extremely broad category)

This applies to:

- Open carry
- Concealed carry
- Carrying in a bag

This is a **sweeping prohibition** on nearly every non-firearm self-defense tool.

Under *Bruen*, the government must show a **historical tradition** of banning the public carry of common defensive weapons. There is no such tradition. In fact:

- Historical laws protected the right to carry knives, clubs, and other arms.
- Many of these items are explicitly recognized as “arms” under the Second Amendment.
- Courts have already struck down knife bans post-Bruen.

SB433 is **not historically supported**, making it constitutionally vulnerable.

### **2. The Bill Creates a Presumption of Criminality for Carrying Arms**

Instead of recognizing the right to bear arms, SB433:

- Makes carrying almost any defensive tool a **crime by default**

- Forces citizens to rely on **affirmative defenses** after arrest
- Shifts the burden onto the citizen to prove innocence

This flips the Second Amendment on its head.

The right to bear arms cannot be conditioned on:

- Arrest first
- Prove your right later

That is the opposite of what *Bruen* requires.

### 3. The “Common Use” Affirmative Defense Is a Constitutional Trap

The bill says you can defend yourself in court by proving:

The weapon is “in common use in this country for lawful self-defense purposes.”

This is deeply flawed:

- Citizens cannot be expected to litigate national weapons-use statistics.
- Police can still arrest you even if the weapon *is* in common use.
- The burden of proof is on the citizen, not the State.
- The defense does not apply in “sensitive places,” which Hawaii defines extremely broadly.

This is a **post-arrest defense**, not a protection of rights.

The Second Amendment protects **pre-arrest carry**, not courtroom defenses after the fact.

### 4. Hawaii’s “Sensitive Places” List Is Already Overbroad

SB433 ties its affirmative defense to §134-9.1(a), which includes:

- Parks
- Beaches
- Restaurants
- Parking lots
- Public transit
- Most public buildings

- Most private businesses unless they post signs

Because the defense disappears in these areas, SB433 effectively bans carrying defensive tools **almost everywhere**.

This is a **functional ban**, not a regulation.

## 5. The Bill Criminalizes Carrying Arms in a Bag

Subsection (a)(3) makes it a crime to carry a defensive tool:

“Concealed in a bag or other container carried by the person.”

This is unprecedented.

Even states with strict gun laws do not criminalize carrying a pocketknife or defensive tool in a backpack, purse, or work bag.

This is a **direct attack on the right to bear arms in any practical manner**.

## 6. The Bill Expands the Definition of “Deadly or Dangerous Weapon” Without Limits

The phrase “other deadly or dangerous weapon” is:

- Undefined
- Subjective
- Open to interpretation by police and prosecutors

This could include:

- Multi-tools
- Utility knives
- Work knives
- Martial-arts tools
- Hiking gear
- Tools carried by tradespeople

A constitutional right cannot depend on a police officer’s personal interpretation.

## 7. The Bill Creates Criminal Penalties for Mere Possession

Under subsection (b), possessing a “deadly or dangerous weapon” during *any* misdemeanor or felony — even unrelated — becomes a **Class C felony**.

This means:

- A pocketknife in your pocket during a minor offense becomes a felony.
- A tradesman with tools could be charged with a felony if stopped for a traffic-related misdemeanor.
- A hiker with a fixed-blade knife could face felony charges if cited for a minor infraction.

This is **disproportionate, punitive, and constitutionally excessive**.

## 8. The Bill Mandates Destruction of Property Without Due Process

Subsection (d) requires:

“The deadly or dangerous weapon shall be summarily destroyed.”

No:

- Appeal
- Return process
- Hearing
- Valuation
- Compensation

This raises **Fifth Amendment takings issues** and **due-process violations**, especially when the item is a lawful tool or expensive piece of equipment.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:18:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allan Leite	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill , in my everyday life I carry a knife in my pocket and it's used for various tasks throughout my day. It is unacceptable to try and ban this.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:37:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Oppose

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:42:41 AM

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

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

## Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 433. Brian Ley county GMAC, district 4. the state needs to stop attacking the citizens, from protecting themselves. you made open carry of all knives and spears legal several years ago. this bill is extremely vague. does it include bows and arrows at the community centers? farm workers, with machetes?. Please just enforce the existing laws and remove the existing criminals, instead of trying to create new ones. once again strongly oppose SB 433

Brian Ley, county GMAC Commissioner district 4

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:43:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Boyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this proposed legislation of the banning of open carrying weapons. This is an attempt at a blatant overreach of power. Thank you for your time.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:47:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Kauhane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB433, because knives everywhere are an everyday tool, everyone in construction uses knives that could be seen as "Bladed Weapons" that's electricians, plumbers, roofers, framers, carpenters, and so on. So depending on who's defining "Bladed Weapons" people everywhere at some point, could be breaking the law without even knowing it, if SB433 is enacted

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:49:12 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tad Sumida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly disagree with this proposed bill.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:52:06 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dubin Whitaker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB433. This would make people that carry a knife, pocket knife or a utility knife a criminal. That is ridiculous. Please kill SB433 before it has a chance move to forward.

Thank you, Dubin Whitaker

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:55:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Woodward	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

There are residents in Hawaii who do not own a firearm or can't, so their only means of defense is to a blunt or bladed weapon. Citizens are allowed to defend themselves against any person who is a serious threat of serious bodily harm or death. Disarming those who are law-abiding because some choose to break the law is foolish and will only put them in harm's way because we all know that the police try their best but they are understaffed and underfunded. So they can't not instantly teleport to a person's need when the need arises.

Again we shouldn't punish those willing to safely carry a blunt or bladed weapon because criminals choose to use those same tools for crime.

Thank you,

Craig

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:17:06 AM

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

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

Comments:

I oppose



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:29:40 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan Chamberlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! This is hawaii every culture in hawaii uses a pocket knife for everyday use. I use one for work to cut open boxes. If this bill hoes through i wont beable to do my job efficiently at all.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:34:44 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan K Baldado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I, Jan Baldado, OPPOSE SB433 as it is currently written.

The wording is too broad and will have negative affects on Hunters and Gatherers whom provide for their families.

Mahalo nui.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:37:36 AM

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

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

Comments:

I oppose to sb433

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:42:48 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-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:43:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonny DaSilva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I oppose SB433 for several reason. I am a retired federal law enforcement officer and I believe this violates the 2nd amendment of the United States and takes away a persons ability to defend themselves, therefore it will turn into a giant waste of vital tax payer funds to defend what is a losing battle. Why spend money to violate your citizens rights, knowing you are wasting all of our money? Its not why you were elected. Fix the problems. Spend that money on mental health access and fighting the drug scourge. Not taking it out on the good citizens who make a living, pay taxes, and want to enjoy the benefit of our rights. As a hunter this would impose restrictions that would prohibt my ability to provide food for my family. I am always ready to hunt and fish, because I dont know when my schedule is going to free up. This is overstepping and a clear fraud waste and abuse of tax payer funds.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:53:57 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 433 moves to disarm lawful citizens of reasonable forms of self-defense, by means of vague terminology, and deaming several objects as "dangerous weapons" which are most commonly used as tools by the big island community. This remains to be true despite the affirmative defense to prosecution, since the conditions of the defense are too vague and could easily be interpreted in an number of ways.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:56:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Doucette	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Maui resident for nearly 60 years, a parent, grandmother and teacher, I have read and oppose bills SB 433, SB 2575, SB 2517, SB 2503, and SB 2720.

I support our 2nd Amendment and our civil liberties. Enforcement should be aimed at violent offenders, not firearms ownership.

Thank you

Judy Doucette

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:00:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pearson Ahuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:07:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB433

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:17:04 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 it is a violation of my civil liberties and the State of Hawaii Constitution, as well as the US Constitution. I urge my representatives to OPPOSE SB433.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:18:38 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:

SB433 creates an overly broad and unconstitutional restriction on the right to bear arms by criminalizing the open or concealed carry of nearly all common selfdefense tools, including knives, bladed weapons, and other arms historically protected under the Second Amendment. Instead of recognizing the right to carry arms for lawful purposes, the bill makes carrying these items a criminal offense by default and forces citizens to rely on narrow affirmative defenses only after arrest. This structure flips the constitutional burden of proof, contradicts the Supreme Court’s requirements in Bruen, and imposes a presumption of guilt on individuals exercising a protected right.

The bill’s vague and expansive definition of “deadly or dangerous weapon” invites arbitrary enforcement and exposes ordinary residents—workers, hikers, tradespeople, and lawabiding citizens—to criminal penalties for possessing tools that are part of daily life. By tying its limited affirmative defense to Hawaii’s already overbroad “sensitive places” statute, SB433 effectively eliminates the ability to carry defensive tools in most public areas, creating a functional statewide ban. The mandatory destruction of property without meaningful due process further raises serious constitutional concerns under the Fifth Amendment.

SB433 is not a targeted publicsafety measure; it is a sweeping prohibition that criminalizes ordinary conduct, undermines the right to selfdefense, and conflicts with the historical tradition of carrying arms recognized by the Constitution. For these reasons, SB433 should not advance.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:28:02 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanu Shimaoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The wording is far too vague and does not provide any criteria for what would be considered a "bladed weapon." It could be potentially argued that knives designed for the purpose of hunting and/or camping could be subject to the ill-defined addition.

Thank you

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:29:13 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:

I Vehemently oppose this bill, it is too broad and has room for interpretation. The Constitution was clear in the 2nd Amendment, the right to keep and bear arms (all arms) is not to be infringed.

Is this even a reoccurring issue that needs to be addressed? Because I have not heard of this as a theme.

Please stop wasting my time and my and other tax payers moneys with legislation like this that we oppose. As representatives, you are supposed to be our voice, yet, I dont recall any of us requesting this. So, please stop **all infringing** of our constitutionally protected rights. Mahalo.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:30:59 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, I'm Randy Gomes from HPP big island

Me and my ohana oppose bill SB433, we hunt with bow and arrows to supplement the protein we eat, we shoot pigs, goats, and sheep and occasionally off island deer. It's some of the healthiest proteins we consume. This bill would jeopardize the lifestyle and well being of my family, so we **STRONGLY DISAGREE** with this bill SB433

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:31:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona Schimmelfennig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I oppose this bill. Here in Hawaii, many people hunt and fish using spears, bows, and knives. This bill would make it illegal to continue doing hobbies that so many people love. Including my son and other family members. My son regularly spear fishes. This is a healthy hobby for him and his friends to do. Taking this away could lead to drug use and other non healthy habits. He and a group of teens his age also go with other parents to hunt boars using dogs and knives. I would much rather have them hunting that way rather than running around with guns. They are knowledgeable and safe and I think doing these sort of hobbies are apart of our culture here in Hawaii.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:38:08 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bills. It is putting restrictions that are not necessary or logical on the citizen of hawaii.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:41:10 AM

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

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

Comments:

As a legal gun owner, i not only oppose this bill. Rather then restating what others have said, this bill is "defective." Please review and don't forward a very defective bill. Do your research!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:45:37 AM

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

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

## Comments:

I oppose this bill because it restricts the ability of law-abiding citizens to exercise their constitutional right to bear arms. Open carry, when practiced responsibly, has long been legal in many jurisdictions without increasing crime, and existing laws already address misuse of weapons. This bill places unnecessary limits on personal freedom while failing to address the root causes of violence, and it risks penalizing responsible individuals rather than criminals who ignore the law.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:46:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cade Aihara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my absolute opposition to **S.B. 433**. While this bill is framed as a public safety measure, its actual text creates a dangerous environment where criminals have a field day and law-abiding citizens are treated like criminals.

This bill is logically and constitutionally flawed for the following reasons:

- **The "Affirmative Defense":** Section 1(h) makes self-defense an "affirmative defense." This means a mother protecting her Keiki at a park can be arrested, handcuffed, and charged first. She then has to spend tens of thousands of dollars on a private attorney to prove her innocence. This bill makes the right to self-defense a "luxury" that only the wealthy can afford. For the working-class families of Hawaii, this is a "guilty until proven rich" law.
- **Locked Boxes:** Section 1(i) requires tools to be in a "**locked hard-sided container**" while in a vehicle. Violence happens in seconds; police arrive in minutes. If a parent is faced with a carjacking or a roadside threat while their children are in the backseat, a defensive tool locked in a box in the trunk is a death sentence. This provision ensures that only the criminal has an accessible weapon, while the victim is left fumbling with keys.
- **Bladed Weapons:** The bill prohibits a "bladed weapon" but never defines it. This is a textbook constitutional violation. Without a definition, every tradesman with a box cutter or hiker with a multi-tool is at the mercy of an officer's subjective interpretation. Laws this vague are designed to be struck down in court at the taxpayers' expense.
- **A Criminal's Green Light:** Criminals do not follow these laws. SB 433 only ensures that while the predator is armed and ready, the law-abiding citizen is left defenseless or fumbling with a "locked box" in a crisis.

We all want a safer Hawaii, but we cannot achieve it by limiting our citizens' options for protecting themselves. Please remember that criminals **DO NOT** follow these same laws being imposed on us. This bill ignores the reality of self-defense, and replaces it with a legal minefield.

Please **VOTE NO on S.B. 433**.

Mahalo,



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:48:01 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:

SB 433 is an over broad and vague bill that would criminalize constitutionally protected activities. Targeting the most vulnerable in the community and making self defense illegal. Futhermore this bill will be challenged in court and be struck down as unconstitutional, costing taxpayers millions. The issue here is legislating morals and avoiding enforcing the crimes that are already illegal.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:50:25 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Rowe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

in brief review of sb433 I strongly oppose this bill as worded. It is clear that this bill was done without input of the hunting community

this bill as written would hamper hunters effort for safe sustainability of food source and will also reduce the eradication of invasive pigs

the bill appears to be intended to have a hidden agenda towards other efforts that are currently before the Supreme Court. Instead of trying to make bills that are flawed or with hidden agenda. Work with the hunting community to draft bills and more importantly educate all hunters so that the safety can start from inception of the hunting process rather than as an after thought. Please scrap this bill in its current form. Use your resources and time to engage this community which has a large number of positive and responsible persons including law enforcements and first responders and find language and guidelines that will effectively produce the "safety" you claim to strive for. EDUCATE DONT DICTATE

Mahalo

Ben Rowe

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:53:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamuela Chandler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kamuela Chandler, and I am a Hawaii resident and an independent filmmaker. I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to SB 433.

I believe deeply in the importance of public safety and responsible gun ownership. These values do not exist in opposition to one another. However, I am concerned that SB 433, as written, compromises the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens under the Second Amendment without clearly demonstrating that it will meaningfully improve public safety outcomes.

As a resident of Hawaii, I value both personal responsibility and civil liberties. I believe our laws should focus on addressing criminal behavior and violent misuse of firearms, rather than placing additional burdens or restrictions on individuals who follow the law, complete required training, and comply with existing regulations.

I also believe that effective public safety policy should be built on careful study, community input, and measurable results. When rights are limited, it is important that those limits are narrowly tailored, clearly justified, and proven to address the specific problems they are intended to solve.

I respectfully ask the committee to reconsider SB 433 and to seek solutions that balance safety, individual rights, and the constitutional principles that guide our state and nation.

Mahalo for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kamuela Chandler

Native Hawaiian Resident

Actor

Independent Filmmaker



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:02:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Otake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I oppose SB433. Our laws are strict as it is and from my stand point I've been taught to treat things such as knives and firearms as tools and give them their proper respect. I carry a pocket knife every where I go and it's something that I've carried for most of my life. An essential tool to my everyday life.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:02:58 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quintin Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to SB433

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Quintin Leong I reside on the Island of Kaua'i, and am writing in opposition of SB433 as currently written.

This bill uses broad and unclear language about "weapons" that could unintentionally criminalize ordinary people across Hawaii use every day for lawful purposes.

Under SB433, the open carrying of protected non-firearm arms is criminalized as a default rule.

Lawful conduct becomes presumptively illegal, and constitutional protection is relegated to a post hoc defense raised in court. This structure reverses the proper constitutional order. The Second Amendment limits the State's authority to criminalize protected conduct in the first instance; it does not permit the State to prohibit that conduct broadly and rely on courtroom defenses to justify enforcement.

In practice, these limitations ensure that lawful open carry will almost always result in detention or arrest. An officer need only conclude that a member of the public was alarmed, or that the carrier should have anticipated such a reaction, to negate the defense entirely. The individual is left to litigate intent, perception, and reasonableness after the fact, under threat of criminal penalty. This structure effectively collapses the defense into an after-the-arrest argument rather than a meaningful protection against enforcement.

In Hawaii, knives are essential tools. Hunters use them to field dress game and humanely process animals. Fishermen use them to clean fish and cut bait. Many residents carry knives for work in ranching, farming, construction, and other trades.

Knives also serve important emergency purposes. I have personally used one to cut someone free during a car accident. These are practical tools, not weapons intended for harm.

SB433 provides no clear exemption for lawful hunting, fishing, work, or emergency use, creating unnecessary legal risk and uncertainty for responsible residents.

The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, not merely the possession of firearms. Courts have consistently recognized that the term "arms" encompasses weapons commonly possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes. Those lawful purposes are not limited to self-defense, but include a range of ordinary and legitimate uses historically associated with civilian arms.

I urge you to oppose SB433 unless it is amended to clearly protect lawful and traditional tool use in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Quintin Leong

Kaua'i

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:08:02 PM

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

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

Comments:

i oppose this sb433 because it goes against my right as a hawaiian to practice my birthright to gather and goes against my 2nd amendment rights.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:08:58 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-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:09:18 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-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:09:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DAVE SMITH	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Dear Senators and Members of the PSM and JDC Committees,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Waimea, Hawaii Island to strongly oppose SB433, which amends HRS §134-51 to prohibit the open carry of deadly or dangerous weapons, including bladed weapons, while expanding restrictions in ways that disproportionately penalize law-abiding citizens.

This bill is fundamentally asinine and counterproductive. Hawaii already has some of the strictest weapons laws in the nation, yet violent crime persists because criminals—by definition—ignore laws. SB433 does nothing to disarm those intent on harm; instead, it further restricts peaceful, responsible individuals who might carry common tools or weapons for legitimate self-defense, work, or everyday lawful purposes.

## Key problems with the bill:

- It bans open carry of items like knives, tools, or other “bladed weapons” that many Hawaiians carry responsibly (e.g., for fishing, camping, utility work, or cultural/historical practices). This turns ordinary citizens into misdemeanants for behavior that poses no threat.
- The affirmative defense for “common use” weapons in lawful self-defense is narrow, subjective, and unreliable—it excludes “sensitive locations” (which are broadly defined elsewhere) and requires proving no intent to alarm, shifting the burden onto the defendant in court. This is not meaningful protection; it’s a trap for the unwary.
- The transport defense (locked hard-sided container) is limited to vehicles, airports, or public transit—leaving gaps for pedestrians, cyclists, or those without such options.
- It adds felony enhancements for possession during other offenses, but again targets the law-abiding who might otherwise comply, while criminals remain undeterred.

This legislation ignores U.S. Supreme Court precedents (e.g., Bruen) emphasizing that restrictions on arms in common use for self-defense must align with historical traditions—not invent new bans. Hawaii’s ongoing Second Amendment challenges underscore that overly broad prohibitions fail constitutional scrutiny.

Instead of piling restrictions on the compliant, focus enforcement on actual violent offenders. Criminals don't need permission to carry; law-abiding people do—and this bill strips even more of that away.

I urge you to reject SB433 in committee. Do not advance this misguided measure that only burdens honest residents while doing zero to enhance public safety.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I request it be entered into the official record for SB433.

Mahalo,

Dave Smith



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:13:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stafford Uemura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I dont support this bill. I am tired of having the government take away my rights fir something as simple as carrying a knife, or maybe my speargun. This only affects law-abiding people, people that dont care or are criminals will not follow this. If i come off the farm wearing my fixed blade on my belt I'd be in violation and could be legally charged. I wear a knife to help with farm work not to threaten or harm anyone. Did the writes of this SB think about the implications of enforcing this?

Its not a sumple bill, it has a wide range negatve effect.

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL. Most hunters do not support this bill. Please DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:22:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
davin asato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony: Hawaii Senate Bill 433 (2026)****RE: STRONGLY OPPOSE SB433** – Relating to Deadly Weapons; Open Carry

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**My name is Davin Asato and I am a resident of Kahului, Maui. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB433. While the stated goal of this bill may be public safety, its practical application creates significant legal risks for law-abiding citizens—specifically hunters and outdoor enthusiasts—while doing little to deter criminal activity.**

**As currently drafted, SB433’s broad prohibition on the "open carry" of "bladed weapons" and "deadly or dangerous weapons" fails to account for necessary and traditional hunting practices in Hawaii:**

- **Pig Hunting with Dogs and Knives:** This is a deeply rooted cultural practice and a critical tool for controlling invasive species. Hunters must carry specialized knives openly for safety and accessibility. SB433 would effectively criminalize a hunter for being in possession of their tools while traveling to or from the field.
- **Bow and Spear Hunting:** For many families in Hawaii, hunting is a matter of food security. Bows and spears are, by definition, "deadly weapons." Because these items cannot be easily concealed, this bill forces hunters into a legal "gray area" where they could face misdemeanor charges simply for moving through public areas to reach hunting grounds.
- **Traditional Practices:** Hawaii’s unique history of subsistence hunting should be protected, not hampered by vague legislation that treats a provider for a family the same as a criminal threat.

**There are many legal concerns due to the broadness and undefined terms in the bill:**

- **Broad Definitions:** The bill lacks a clear definition of what constitutes a "dangerous weapon" in the context of outdoor work or sport. This vagueness leaves law-abiding citizens at the mercy of individual officer interpretation.
- **Affirmative Defense is Not Enough:** While the bill mentions an "affirmative defense" for self-defense, this is insufficient. An affirmative defense only helps a citizen *after* they have been arrested, booked, and forced to hire an attorney. Law-abiding hunters should not have to face the threat of a criminal record for performing a legal and regulated activity.

SB433 is an overreach that threatens to dismantle centuries of hunting tradition and penalize local residents who are simply trying to feed their families and manage invasive species on our islands. I respectfully request that this committee **DEFER or VOTE NO** on SB433.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical issue.

**Sincerely,**

Davin Asato

136 West Hawaii Street

Kahului, HI, 96732

808-205-4616

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:43:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
peter alu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm against SB433 a knife can be used for many purposes including dangerous /emergency situations. It's common sense and it's overthinking on something so easy. What's next our hands and feet!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:51:41 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-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:53:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cread Mitsui Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this! Your bill is trying to take away hunters rights to gather our own resources!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:55:26 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 SB433.

We live on an isolated island where hunting is a means for survival. Restricting hunting will not only take away a form of putting food on the table but also restrict the culture of living.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:59:14 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 SB433: Relating to Weapons.**

**In the Supreme Court case Caetano v Massachusetts, bladed weapons for the purpose of self-protection are protected under the United States Constitution.**

**Mahalo for your time.**



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:00:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwayne Kojima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members.

As a father, son, husband, and citizen of Hawaii, I am in opposition of SB433 for several reason which I will point out below.

One of the most glaring flaws in SB433 is its unconstitutional vagueness. The bill failed to clearly define what constitutes a "bladed weapon," leaving residents, law enforcement, and prosecutors without a reliable way to determine what items would be banned. This ambiguity opens the door to arbitrary enforcement and prosecutorial abuse, violating due process under the 14th Amendment. For instance, would a simple kitchen knife carried for a picnic qualify? Or a utility blade in a toolbox? No one could know for sure, creating a chilling effect on lawful behavior.

Moreover, SB433 treads on Second Amendment protections. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that the right to bear arms extends beyond firearms to include bladed weapons like knives, which have long been considered common tools for self-defense. In a related case, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down Hawaii's ban on butterfly knives, ruling that such prohibitions lack historical analogs and infringe on the right to possess arms for self-defense.

SB433's broad restrictions on bladed weapons—banning open or concealed carry of most knives while oddly exempting switchblades and butterfly knives in some contexts—echo this overreach. It ignores the reality that knives are not "dangerous and unusual" but everyday items used responsibly by millions. Hawaii's history of aggressive weapon regulations has already drawn judicial rebuke, as seen in ongoing challenges to its gun-carry laws, where even conservative justices have expressed skepticism about the state's expansive bans.

Passing SB433 would likely invite costly lawsuits and further federal overrides, wasting taxpayer dollars on indefensible policies.

Practical Harms to Daily Life, Work, and Recreation.

Beyond legal issues, SB433 would have inflicted unnecessary hardship on ordinary Hawaiians by criminalizing the carry of tools essential for work, recreation, and survival. In a state where fishing, hunting, and outdoor activities are cultural staples, the bill could have banned fillet

knives for recreational or commercial fishing, dive knives for ocean activities, and hunting knives used to control feral boar populations—a practice that supports environmental management and even boosts tourism through guided hunts. Warehouse workers carrying box cutters to their jobs, or tradespeople with utility blades, could suddenly face misdemeanor charges (or class C felonies if linked to another crime), turning routine tasks into potential crimes.

The bill's restrictions on "sensitive locations" were equally draconian, broadly prohibiting knives in places like state parks (covering over 30,000 acres) or even during school pickups. Imagine a family barbecue in a park or a parent waiting outside a school—common scenarios where a pocket knife for practical use could lead to arrest. This isn't targeted safety; it's blanket prohibition that disproportionately affects rural and working-class residents who rely on these tools daily, without evidence that such bans reduce crime. Criminals intent on harm won't comply, leaving law-abiding citizens disarmed and vulnerable.

#### Ineffectiveness and Disproportionate Response to Perceived Threats

Proponents might claim SB433 enhances public safety, but there's scant evidence it would achieve that. Hawaii already has some of the nation's strictest weapon laws, yet the bill ignores data showing that knife-related violence is often tied to broader social issues, not lawful carry. Instead of addressing root causes like mental health or poverty, SB433 opts for feel-good restrictions that burden innocents. Similar bans elsewhere have been criticized for failing to curb crime while eroding freedoms. The bill's illogical exemptions—allowing switchblades but banning less "exotic" blades—highlights its poor design, prioritizing symbolism over substance.

In summary, SB433 represents government overreach at its worst: vague, unconstitutional, and harmful to Hawaii's residents, economy, and traditions. Its defeat was a victory for common sense, but vigilance is needed against similar future proposals that prioritize control over liberty.

Mahalo.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:03:55 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 strongly oppose sb 433. This bill restricts our 2nd amendment right to bear arms for lawful purposes, primarily self defense, as confirmed by the Supreme Court. This bill is way too broad with also banning bladed devises which also could be used as tools. I ask you to vore against this bill

Thank you

Lekeli Watanabe

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:04:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily McKinley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:06:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shepard Shill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:07:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misty Earnest	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I Oppose this as a Huntress /Gardner/Land-Yard Caretaker.

This Bill needs more specifics laid out if necessary rather than what reads.

I Oppose strongly as this affects all areas I listed in my livelihood and sustainability.

Mahalo

Misty Earnest

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:10:26 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-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:14:19 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	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We from For Liberty and Justice Oahu Chapter oppose this bill. Restrictions on tools do not stop criminals and create confusion about regulation and enforcement. Expanding weapon classifications without clear standards causes confusion, leads to inconsistent enforcement, and further erodes personal freedoms. Please do not pass this bill.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:26:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romy Polinar-Pascua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hunting with a knife is a sustainable way to provide food for our communities. If this becomes illegal there is no limit to what the government can regulate in the way that locals and natives gather food.

SB 433 Relating to Weapons  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Monday February 2, 2026 — Conference Room 016 / Videoconference

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition of SB433.

My name is Jamie Detwiler, a lifelong Hawaii resident and retired federal healthcare professional with over 33 years of service. I am also a wife, mother, and grandmother.

The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, which includes weapons commonly owned for lawful purposes.

SB 433's "affirmative defenses" and proposals undermine the Rule of Law and do not belong in our Constitutional Republic. Furthermore, the impact on our law-abiding hunting community would be severe under this bill.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee vote NO on SB 433.

Respectfully,

Jamie Detwiler

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:35:12 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 433 literally criminalizes any item that can be used as a weapon, as a branch or stick can be considered a cudgel. Furthermore, any person with a sheathed knife for cleaning fish or butchering livestock can be charged with a misdemeanor. A lot of hawaii residents fish, many for subsistence; does this mean that they are supposed to figure out how clean a fish without a knife for fear of having a criminal record. As a living historian who dons accurate uniforms from the past to teach people about American Military heritage, I would run the risk of gaining a criminal record if I happened to wear a kit that contained a bayonet from the Korean War or a Marine's Ka-bar from World War II. This bill will not only criminalize everyday citizens for having common tools that are being used in benign activities, it will also strip citizens of any means of defending themselves from any group of people who don't follow any law when they assault and rob them. Disarming citizens because they were political opponents was used in Germany in the 1928, ensuring that there would be no way for citizens to stand up to a tyrannical government (**Law Library of Congress.** (2009). *Germany: Gun control legislation*. Library of Congress. p. 2, para. 1)

<https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/service/l1/lglrd/2019669438/2019669438.pdf>

This tactic was used again in in 1938, specifically against Germany's Jewish population (**Law Library of Congress.** (1994). *Gun control in the Federal Republic of Germany*. Library of Congress. p. 2, para. 3)

<https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/service/l1/lglrd/2021699922/2021699922.pdf>

SB 433 does not present any hard data or rationale showing how this will be effective in protecting citizens, but it definitely shows how it will criminalize citizens for having everyday items on their person. SB433 should be voted against.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:38:56 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 433 because it is very vague and would criminalize anyone who has a knife on their person or in a bag regardless of what they are doing. The bill has no definition for a "bladed weapon" so it could mean anything from a sword to a butter knife and does not mention who is authorized by law to carry the items listed in the bill. How this bill is written would criminalize carrying a knife while doing legal activities such as hunting, hiking, fishing, camping, or even walking down the road minding your own business. For example, my sister works in a restaurant and if the chefs put their knives in a bag to take them to get sharpened, they would be guilty according to this bill. The mere possession of any of the objects listed in this bill should be legal, everyday millions of people across the nation carry the items listed in the bill and do not harm anyone. For the reasons listed above and many more that I won't list for the sake of brevity I strongly oppose SB 433.

Thank you

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:40:58 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-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:42:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Iobst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against sb433. A knife is a tool that many hard working people of Hawaii need to have available. A knife on a person's belt is no different than a pen in an office workers breast pocket. Stop trying to push laws that make law abiding citizens criminals.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:46:26 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-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:46:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB433 you should be ashamed to go after law abiding citizens and turn us into criminals pass laws that go after the bad people.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:49:45 PM

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

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

Comments:

This bill is a clear infringement on my right to protect myself and my family. It is also poorly written and does not clearly state where and how these law would be enforced.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:50:09 PM

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

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

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB433

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB433.

I oppose SB433 as written because its broad and unclear language could unintentionally impact lawful bow hunting, which is a responsible, regulated, and beneficial activity in Hawai‘i. Bow hunters rely on blades such as broadheads and hunting knives for ethical harvesting, field dressing, and safety. These tools are essential—not weapons used for harm.

Hunting plays an important role in wildlife management, conservation, and food sustainability. It helps control invasive species, supports local food sources, and promotes respect for the land. Laws that are vague risk discouraging lawful hunters and creating confusion for both residents and enforcement.

Public safety is important, but legislation should focus on criminal misuse—not on responsible outdoor practices that already follow strict rules and permitting.

For these reasons, I respectfully oppose SB433 unless it is amended to clearly protect lawful hunting activities and equipment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A law abiding conservationist actively trying to provide for my family.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:51:21 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!

I strongly oppose this bill as this language is too broad. This will make Law-abiding citizens either refrain from exercising their protected rights out of fear of prosecution or will be subjected to arrest based on inconsistent and subjective enforcement. Criminals will already not listen to the law. Look at the string of crimes using deadly weapons machetes, and multiple armed robberies.

Thank you !

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:52:04 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 sb433 this bill will hurt law abiding citizens. a knife is a tool that every adult uses every day and can be a life saving tool in an emergency. as for self defence law abiding citizens will use them for self defence and criminals (don't follow laws) and may use them in crimes but a criminal will not follow any law or rules so law abiding citizens not to have the tools necessary to protect themselves and family . this is another bill that will hurt LAW ABIDING CITIZENS AND (HELP CRIMINALS)

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:52:39 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wallyn Christian	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I, Wallyn Christian, strongly oppose SB433.

Simply put this bill goes against the constitutional rights of the people, specially the 2nd amendment!

Again, I strongly oppose SB433!

Signed,

Wallyn Christian

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:55:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
taylor sumida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this Bill

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:57:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleb Takiue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kaleb. I don't support sb433 as U.S citizen. I feel that use citizens should be able to carry to protect ourselves from danger.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:57:18 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:

I oppose to the above mentioned bill. Since Cain first slew Abel in the Bible, we knew the problem was with his heart, and not the rock he used. As we know, criminals break laws and good citizens follow them. Creating a new law will do little to stop the sorts of crime we see, and only hinder law-abiding citizens who carry them for work.

Respectfully,  
--David Jones.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:00:33 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 strongly oppose this bill as written.

Regards,

Bunnie

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:07:16 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-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:10:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Greenwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support banning any weapons let alone knives, bows, or anything that has to do with hunting. People should have the right to carry whatever they want. Guns don't kill people people kill people. It's insane that you guys wanna take the weapons out of good peoples hands while criminals will always find a way to get them.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:11:56 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: People with bad/unlawful intentions will continue to do bad/unlawful acts. This does nothing to stop lawbreakers.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:14:11 PM

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

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

Comments:

I opposed SB433. Gathering for Ohana is what we do and how we do it is with bow and knife's so Please don't take that away from us.

**SB-433**

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

SB433: Oppose

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB433. I understand the intent is to keep people safe but the truth that is consistently ignored by Hawai'i lawmakers is that you actively punish law abiding citizens in order to hope criminals won't do harm. Truth is if a criminal brandishing a weapon, threatens or harms another, that is a crime. There is not a need for this law to prevent anything bad happening, it is only for after the fact. I am a rancher and wear openly displayed knives on my belt at work, on my way to work, at the grocery store, gas station, even when I go to church and many other public places. I have never and will never use a knife for harm. I believe a knife is an important tool and is improperly and aggressively termed in this bill, "a bladed weapon." Anything can be a weapon. The knife on my belt isn't a weapon as it is used daily, it is a tool. In fact it's a life saving tool for my work.

I oppose any bill that would make a criminal act out of something like me leaving work and forgetting to remove my belt knife or pocket knife that is currently allowed and legal for me to carry.

I think it is an unnecessary bill, and also a VERY unconstitutional bill if made law.

please do not allow this bill to go further.

Mahalo,

Jacob Rathje

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:21:12 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:

I oppose this bill.

Expanding weapon classifications without clear standards creates confusion, risks inconsistent enforcement and further erodes personal freedoms.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:23:14 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trevor Bowman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this. Criminals and people with mental issues should be addressed not making more laws that effect citizens and their protection. This violates the 2nd amendment and a persons right to defend themselves.

Respectfully Trevor



**SB-433**

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

We have too many laws already. The problem is the revolving door justice system and rampant political corruption that tears society apart.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:29:58 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justen Dang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB433

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Justen Dang, and I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB433.

While I appreciate the intent behind this measure, I have serious concerns about the unintended consequences of SB433 as it is currently written. In its present form, the bill risks creating new burdens without clearly demonstrating that it will effectively solve the problem it seeks to address.

First, SB433 appears to impose additional costs and administrative requirements that could disproportionately affect local residents, small businesses, and community organizations. At a time when many in Hawai‘i are already struggling with the high cost of living, policies that add complexity or expense should be carefully scrutinized.

Second, the bill lacks sufficient flexibility to account for Hawai‘i’s unique island communities. A one-size-fits-all approach may undermine local decision-making and lead to outcomes that do not reflect the needs or realities of different counties and neighborhoods.

Finally, I am concerned that SB433 moves forward without adequate evidence that it will achieve its stated goals. I urge the Legislature to slow down, seek broader community input, and consider alternative solutions that are more targeted, transparent, and effective.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you oppose SB433 or defer it for further consideration and revision. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your service to the people of Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,  
Justen Dang  
Kailua Kona, HI

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:30:27 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 hurts law abiding citizens by criminalizing them and does nothing to the actual criminals. Furthermore, this "Bill" will not scare off criminals in any manner. In conclusion, we have so many laws on the books that for one instance or another covers this "Bill". So, why create another law to further restrict law abiding citizens? Mahalo

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:31:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose SB433 as it will be a burden law abiding citizens, will not affect crime, and is an infringement on constitutional rights.

**The burden** - This law will burden the law-abiding having to prove their innocence if charged with this crime. A normal person could be arrested and charged with this crime, resulting in having to pay legal fees and going through the turmoil of the trial process. As an affirmative defense, the person has the burden of proving their innocence, rather than the Government proving their guilt.

It also discourages the carrying of knives for self-defense by victims. Pepper spray is a great defensive tool, but it's not always effective, and circumstances can prevent its use. Knives provide a backup option in this case, serving as a deterrent to criminals.

**Criminals not obeying** - Criminals will not be deterred by this law and they can simply avoid detection by concealing their knives even though this law says they cannot. They will not be deterred by a misdemeanor as many charges will simply be dropped or not charged.

**The Constitution** - Requiring an affirmative defense for keeping of weapons for self-defense is unconstitutional. The 2nd Amendment states "...the right to keep and bear arms...". This simply says arms can be possessed and carried with no stipulation that it must be for self-defense.

Please oppose SB433

Todd Yukutake  
toddyukutake@gmail.com

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:35:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:36:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoe Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:37:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Fogarty	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:37:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Connelly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

As an amateur farmer, hunter, and fisherman who has been carrying knives regularly for 30 years, I am strongly opposed to this bill. It is vaguely worded and insensitive to the realities of daily life for a vast number of Hawaii's law abiding residents.



**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:44:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian A	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this Bill!!! This takes our 2nd amendment rights away.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:45:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

I read the entire proposed bill. And I am astonished at how ridiculous this proposed bill is. It is extremely vague, and would ban any "bladed weapon" concealed or open carried in the state. With only very limited exceptions. Basically banning the carry of any type of knife, anywhere in the state concealed or open carried.

And the only affirmative defense is for "lawful self defense". There are many items with blades that can easily be used or determined to be weapons (especially TSA) but are used for everyday purposes, not self defense reasons.

This law would make it illegal to carry any knife open or concealed in Hawaii. Even a box cutter around in your pocket or in a tool bag while going to or from work. Or keeping a machete in the back seat of your truck for doing yard work.

It also has major implications for hunting because there is no exemption for hunters carrying "bladed weapons". Almost all hunting requires the carrying of a knife or blade. And many hunting areas in Hawaii could possibly also be sensitive places because they connect to parks.

This law is unconstitutional on so many grounds, I would like to think that even the State of Hawaii Attorney's would advise this legislature that this bill stands no chance of passing even the slightest constitutional scrutiny.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:45:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Stewart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it will be detrimental to hunters and women who carry objects for self defense.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:45:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREA DEMELLO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill as it violates my constitutional rights. Mahalo

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:51:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rozalynn Marae Erickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Public Safety \  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
State of Hawai‘i Legislature

**FROM:**

Rozalynn Erickson  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Opposition to **SB433 – Relating to Weapons**

**POSITION:** Strong Opposition

**Personal Testimony**

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rozalynn , and I respectfully submit this written testimony **in opposition to SB433**.

I am a law-abiding Hawai‘i resident who supports public safety and reasonable, constitutional laws. However, SB433, as currently written, raises **serious practical and constitutional concerns** that would negatively affect ordinary residents while failing to meet the legal standards required under the United States Constitution and Hawai‘i’s Constitution.

**1. SB433 Is Overly Broad and Lacks Clear Definitions**

SB433 expands the prohibition on openly carrying “deadly or dangerous weapons” to include **“bladed weapons”**, yet the bill **fails to clearly define what qualifies as a bladed weapon** or what distinguishes an everyday tool from a prohibited item.

This lack of clarity risks criminalizing ordinary, lawful conduct. Many residents routinely carry knives or bladed tools for legitimate purposes, including:

- Every day use of pocket knives for utility
- Fishing and subsistence activities
- Camping and outdoor recreation
- Work-related tasks (construction, agriculture, maintenance)
- Cultural and traditional practices

A criminal statute that does not clearly define prohibited conduct violates basic principles of **due process**, because ordinary people cannot reasonably know what behavior is lawful.

The U.S. Supreme Court has long held that vague laws are unconstitutional because they “fail to provide a person of ordinary intelligence fair notice of what is prohibited” and invite arbitrary enforcement.

(*Grayned v. City of Rockford*, 408 U.S. 104, 108–09 (1972)).

## 2. SB433 Conflicts with the Second Amendment Under *Bruen*

In **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen**, the U.S. Supreme Court made clear that when the government restricts the public carry of arms, it bears the burden of showing that the restriction is **consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of weapon regulation**.

“The government must demonstrate that the regulation is consistent with this Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.”

— *Bruen*, 142 S. Ct. 2111, 2126 (2022)

While *Bruen* addressed firearms, its framework applies broadly to **“arms” commonly possessed for lawful purposes**, which historically includes knives and bladed tools used for self-defense, work, and daily life.

There is **no historical tradition** in the United States of broadly banning the open carry of ordinary knives or bladed tools by law-abiding citizens. SB433’s near-categorical prohibition, coupled with only a limited affirmative defense after arrest, mirrors the type of discretionary carry ban that *Bruen* explicitly rejected.

The Supreme Court further warned against laws that convert a constitutional right into a mere defense raised after prosecution:

“The exercise of a constitutional right cannot be conditioned on demonstrating a special need.”

— *Bruen*, 142 S. Ct. at 2156

SB433 does exactly that by forcing individuals to justify their lawful conduct **after** enforcement action has already occurred.

### 3. SB433 Raises Due Process Concerns Under Federal and State Constitutions

Both the **Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution** and **Article I of the Hawai‘i Constitution** require laws to be written with sufficient clarity and fairness.

A statute that:

- Uses undefined terms
- Criminalizes common items
- Relies on post-hoc affirmative defenses

creates a serious risk of **arbitrary enforcement**, uneven application, and unjust criminal exposure for otherwise law-abiding residents.

Public safety laws should target **criminal misuse**, not peaceful possession or carry of everyday tools.

### 4. Hawai‘i Constitution – Article I, Section 17

Article I, Section 17 of the Hawai‘i Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms for security and defense. While this right may be regulated, those regulations must still be **reasonable, narrowly tailored, and constitutionally sound**.

SB433’s sweeping approach fails that standard and risks costly litigation that taxpayers will ultimately bear.

### Conclusion and Request

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **oppose SB433 in its current form and completely**.

Public safety and constitutional rights are not mutually exclusive — but SB433, as written, fails to adequately respect both. People who have intent to do harm are still going to not follow the law and carry whatever weapon they choose. This harms citizens that are law abiding and going along with activities of daily living.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your careful consideration.

Respectfully,  
**Rozalynn Erickson**





**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:53:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael A. Wee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stromgly oppose this legislation. It does nothing to affect criminal behavior. This is just another attempt to "hang the hardware." A nother waste of time!

**SB-433**

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

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

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

## Comments:

I oppose this bill. SB433 raises serious Second Amendment concerns and would undo reforms passed in 2024 to fix constitutional problems. The bill conflicts with established protections for firearms commonly used for lawful purposes, relies on criminal bans that are only softened by weak affirmative defenses, and expands “sensitive place” restrictions so broadly that lawful public carry would be effectively barred across much of the state.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:57:19 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this SB, I don't see how this will prevent criminals from doing bad things to law abiding citizens.

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)  
Hearing: Monday, February 01, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.  
Regarding: **SB433 (Relating to Weapons)**  
**Voter Position: OPPOSITION**

Senators of the PSM Committee,

I express my **opposition** to **SB433 (Relating to Weapons)**.

**Ambiguity of SB433**

The proposed **SB433** introduces an undefined term: bladed weapon. It does not expressly articulate what constitutes a weapon, thereby encompassing anything from actual knives to flathead screwdrivers. Although not expressly a weapon, the mere possibility that it may potentially be used as a weapon would technically fit the ambiguous umbrella of “bladed weapon.”

**Undue Harm and Unnecessary Penalties**

Lawful citizens who carry mere box cutters can be subject to enhanced penalties, depending on the judge prosecuting the case. This legislation, if passed, can cause just about anyone, from shipping couriers to hobbyists that use multitools, to be subject to penalties that don’t currently exist.

Common use isn’t expressly defined in the legislation, again, leaving common use up to the imagination of the prosecuting judge in a court of law.

**Focus on Stopping Enforcing Current Laws**

**SB 433** doesn’t effectively enhance HRS §134-51 – Deadly Weapons; Prohibitions; Penalty for the benefit of public safety. Reducing lawful carry of knives doesn’t magically stop unlawful carry and unlawful users of bladed weapons from using them. Enforcement of current laws do.

I urge the committee to vote no on this irrational bill and cease any attempts of passing ill-written legislation that is purposefully and consistently written to levy enhanced penalties based upon vague definitions of “weapons” that are all-encompassing.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony.

Respectfully,

Ryan C. Tinajero

Voting Constituent from **Senate District 23**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:59:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Tong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB433

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:00:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Barrett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

I read the entire proposed bill. And I am astonished at how ridiculous this proposed bill is. It is extremely vague, and would ban any "bladed weapon" concealed or open carried in the state. With only very limited exceptions. Basically banning the carry of any type of knife, anywhere in the state concealed or open carried.

And the only affirmative defense is for "lawful self defense". There are many items with blades that can easily be used or determined to be weapons (especially TSA) but are used for everyday purposes, not self defense reasons.

This law would make it illegal to carry any knife open or concealed in Hawai'i. Even a box cutter around in your pocket or a tool bag while going to or from work. Or keeping a machete in the back seat of your truck for doing yard work.

It also has major implications for hunting because there is no exemption for hunters carrying "bladed weapons". Almost all hunting requires the carrying of a knife or blade. And many hunting areas in Hawai'i could possibly also be sensitive places because they connect to parks.

This law is unconstitutional on so many grounds, I would like to think that even the State of Hawai'i Attorney's would advise this legislature that this bill stands no chance of passing even the slightest constitutional scrutiny.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:01:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Nakashima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong opposition to SB433, a measure that would prohibit the open carry of "deadly or dangerous weapons", expand the definition to include broad category of bladed tools, and impose criminal penalties on ordinary possession and transport.

**1. SB433 Sweeps Too Broadly and Criminalizes Ordinary, Lawful Conduct**

The bill's definition of "deadly or dangerous weapons" includes common bladed tools used daily by workers, outdoor enthusiasts, fisherman, farmers and residents across the islands. Under the Bill's language, a wide range of knives and tools could be treated as criminal weapons simply because they are carried openly or transported in a bag.

The broad scope risks turning law-abiding citizens into offenders for carrying tools essential to their work or lifestyle. Hawaii's laws should distinguish between malicious intent and ordinary, responsible use.

**2. The Bill Creates Enforcement Ambiguity and Discretion Problems**

The Bill's vague and expansive definitions invite inconsistent enforcement. What qualifies as a "bladed weapon" versus a tool? How will officers determine intent? Ambiguity increases the likelihood of uneven application, unnecessary confrontations and disproportionate impacts on certain communities.

Clear, narrowly tailored statutes are essential for fair and predictable enforcement. SB433 does not meet that standard.

**3. Existing Laws Already Address Misuse of Weapons**

Hawaii already prohibits the misuse of dangerous weapons and imposes enhanced penalties when they are used in the commission of a crime. SB433 duplicates existing protections while adding new restrictions that burden lawful conduct without improving public safety.

Criminal behavior should be the focus - not the mere possession of tools.

#### 4. The Bill Undermines Lawful Self-Defense and Safe Transport

Although SB433 includes an affirmative defense for lawful self-defense and transport, an affirmative defense still requires arrest, prosecution, and legal expense before a person can prove innocence.

I respectfully urge the committee to hold SB433.



**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:02:55 PM

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

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

Comments:

Violation to 2nd amendment.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:09:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gary cordery	Testifying for Aloha Freedom Coalition	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

On behalf of myself personally and the 20,000 followers of the Aloha Freedom Coalition. We strongly oppose this legislation limiting the lawful possession and right to carry hunting tools.

Recently, DLNR asked for the hunting community to assist with BOW to hunt and reduce the population of wild pig and goat.

Now, you want to limit and constrain law abiding citizens to carry their tools.

I/ We strongly oppose this legislation.

Mahalo,

Gary Cordery

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:16:54 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rory Yamasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In a state already known for some of the strictest weapon’s laws in the nation, Senate Bill 433 — introduced under the banner of “public safety” — represents a drastic overreach that demands serious scrutiny and, ultimately, rejection.

At its core, SB433 seeks to ban the open carry of so-called “deadly or dangerous weapons” and expressly categorizes bladed weapons alongside firearms as items whose possession in public would be prohibited without exception. The bill even attempts an “affirmative defense” for lawful self-defense or transport, but that nominal acknowledgment does little to address the deeper issues of constitutional rights and everyday practicality.

1. Lack of Clear Definitions Leaves Law-Abiding People in Legal Limbo

One of the gravest faults of SB433 is its vagueness. The term “bladed weapon” is not defined with clarity — meaning everyday tools like pocket knives, fishing knives used for sustenance, or tools carried for work could easily fall under the ban based on arbitrary enforcement. Who decides what qualifies as a “bladed weapon”? Under the bill’s language, an ordinary traveler, a worker in logistics, or a kama’āina preparing for a fishing trip could unwittingly find themselves on the wrong end of criminal charges.

A civilized society must ensure laws provide fair notice so that citizens and visitors alike can understand what is permitted. Vague legal terms invite inconsistent enforcement, invite prosecutorial discretion, and risk turning honest people into felons.

2. Expanding Weapon Prohibitions Doesn’t Necessarily Make Us Safer

Proponents will argue this bill is about public safety, but sweeping prohibitions on common tools do not correlate with lower crime rates. Instead, they criminalize normal behavior and reduce a person’s ability to defend themselves lawfully. Banning the open carry of knives means disarming people who may need simple, everyday tools for legitimate purposes — whether it’s cutting bait for fishing, opening boxes at work, or preparing food on a camping trip. SB433 casts too wide a net in pursuit of a narrow objective.

3. Constitutional Rights Must Be Respected

While Hawaii has autonomy in crafting its public safety laws, this bill raises serious questions about fundamental rights under both the U.S. and state constitutions. Broad bans on commonly used items without precise language or clear purpose risk violating rights to self-defense and due process. Regardless of one's stance on weapons, fundamental liberties should not be cast aside on the premise of "public safety" alone.

#### 4. The Bill is Already Facing Backlash

The very fact that SB433 failed to move forward in recent legislative sessions reflects widespread concerns from citizens, advocacy groups, and civil liberties defenders. Organized opposition from grassroots organizations warned that SB433 would set an extreme precedent — one that other states may look to emulate, eroding basic freedoms beyond Hawaii's shores.

#### Conclusion: A Better Path Exists

Public safety is an important discussion, and Hawaii deserves thoughtful, evidence-based policy — not expansive bans that fail to distinguish between dangerous conduct and lawful behavior. Sensationalist language that labels everyday tools as "weapons" does a disservice to residents, visitors, and law enforcement alike.

Lawmakers should pause, listen to their constituents, and craft legislation that upholds safety and constitutional protections. SB433, as written, misses that mark entirely.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 3:57:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wesley Acdal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I am a rancher and I always carry a knife, because my job requires lots of using my knife. Why would you introduce this bill. It's the person anything can be a weapon

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 4:24:19 PM

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

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Norman Akau Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I , Norman Akau Jr firmly oppose SB433 because this bill infringes on my constitutional rights as a citizen of the State of Hawai'i.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 5:16:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose SB433.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 5:48:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke malczon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Laws will not stop the criminals. This law will only further endanger the innocent.



Rae Ward, BA, CSAC, TTS  
Regarding Senate Bill #433  
2/1/26

**LATE**

Aloha, my name is Rae Ward. I am a Master's of Social Work candidate with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa who has been living in Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i Island for over 6 years. I am writing in opposition to SB433. As written, SB433 would make currently legal pig-hunting practices a misdemeanor. This legislation is important to me because people close to me rely on hunting for recreation and sustenance. Furthermore, the bill would also have negative impacts for those who carry knives as part of their employment, such as construction workers or emergency medical responders, or use knives in traditional Native Hawaiian practices including spear hunting and pig hunting.

SB433 would negatively impact all hunters in Hawai'i by:

- 1) Removing the current legal authorization that allows hunters to carry knives while engaged in authorized hunting activities.
- 2) Providing no hunting-specific defense, only an affirmative defense that does not apply to hunting knives.
- 3) Criminalizing standard hunting practices like field dressing and game dispatch.
- 4) Creating vague and arbitrary enforcement standards that threaten both traditional and modern hunting methods.
- 5) Expanding the prohibition to include both open and concealed carry, when the current law only bans concealed carry. If SB433 were passed, a hunting knife carried in an open belt sheath or a backpack could result in a misdemeanor violation.

The affirmative defense in SB433 includes an exception: the defense "shall not apply if the defendant... carries the weapon in any sensitive location or premises as defined in section 134-9.1(a)." Much of Hawaii's hunting occurs on public hunting areas (state game management areas), public lands managed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and parks open to the public where hunting is authorized. Without clarity about whether these hunting areas qualify as "sensitive locations," hunters face legal ambiguity.

Dispatching pigs, field dressing game, and traditional spear hunting, which are currently explicitly authorized via DLNR rules, would become misdemeanors. Under HAR §13-123-22, spears and knives are explicitly listed as legal hunting equipment. SB433 offers no hunting defence or clarification on what constitutes a "bladed weapon." Lack of this definition creates several problems for hunters: 1) no clear notice of what is prohibited, and 2) police and prosecutors could interpret "bladed weapon" or "sensitive locations" differently, creating arbitrary enforcement. The effect of SB433 would be that hunters would avoid carrying tools they currently use lawfully out of fear of arrest.

The vague language of SB433 doesn't clarify exceptions for employment (construction workers or emergency medical responders) and recreational reasons (hunting, fishing) for carrying knives. If SB433 were passed, and my partner were to go pig hunting, with a valid hunting license (in accordance with HRS §183D-21), while carrying a field-dressing knife, he could be charged with a misdemeanor with no clear legal defense. The fundamental problem is that SB433 treats hunting knives as weapons to be banned, rather than tools to be regulated. It removes explicit hunting authorization without creating a replacement hunting exception, leaving hunters in legal limbo.

Some suggestions I would offer for revising the bill would include:

- 1) Provide definitions for “sensitive locations” and “bladed weapon.”
- 2) Add language allowing for hunting and employment exceptions, in addition to the self-defense exception.

Thank you to the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs for reading my testimony. I appreciate your consideration of these matters and ask you to oppose SB433.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 5:55:55 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. We all took an oath to support and defend the US Constitution. Limiting our second amendment is not supporting it. Please do the right thing and defend and support the US Constitution.

Mahalo,

Ray Bragado

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 6:47:01 PM

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

**LATE**

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

Comments:

This goes against my 2nd amendment rights!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 6:54:21 PM

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

**LATE**

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

Comments:

I oppose this proposal.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:25:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerry Guillermo-Birchfield	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:37:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexa Helge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB433.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 8:53:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kristofor gellert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill hunting is a right not a privilege



**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:19:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully oppose SB433.

While I appreciate the Legislature’s intent to promote public safety and clarify weapon-related statutes in a post-Bruen legal environment, SB433 ultimately moves Hawai‘i in the wrong direction by criminalizing peaceful possession and carry of common tools and defensive implements without requiring any criminal intent, harm, or misuse.

From a civil liberties perspective, this bill punishes status and possession rather than conduct. A person may be arrested and convicted solely for carrying an everyday object, such as a bladed tool or baton, without threatening, harming, or intending to harm anyone. This approach conflicts with fundamental principles of due process and proportionality that many in this Legislature rightly champion in other criminal justice reforms.

From a public safety standpoint, SB433 risks misallocating law enforcement and judicial resources away from actual violent or coercive behavior. Hawai‘i already has robust statutes that punish assault, threats, robbery, and weapon use during the commission of crimes. Subsection (b) appropriately enhances penalties when a weapon is used in furtherance of criminal conduct, this is where the law should focus.

The bill’s reliance on affirmative defenses, rather than clear lawful carry standards, creates uncertainty for residents and visitors alike. Law-abiding individuals must now guess whether an object is “in common use,” whether a location is deemed “sensitive,” or whether a subjective claim of “alarm” could expose them to arrest. This ambiguity risks selective enforcement and

disproportionate impacts on working-class residents, rural communities, and cultural practitioners who rely on tools in daily life.

If the Legislature's goal is safety, a more effective and just approach would be to:

- Focus penalties on intentional misuse or threats, not peaceful possession;
- Narrow definitions to exclude ordinary tools and culturally significant implements;
- Provide clear, objective standards that residents can reasonably comply with.

Public safety and civil liberty are not competing values. Laws that respect peaceful conduct while holding genuine wrongdoing accountable strengthen both trust and safety in our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose SB433 or substantially amend it to target criminal behavior rather than lawful, nonviolent possession.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:46:32 PM

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

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

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB433 (Relating to Weapons)

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is James H. Smith. I am a Career and Technical Education teacher on O‘ahu and the owner of a licensed and insured landscaping and property services company. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB433.

As written, SB433 unintentionally criminalizes ordinary, law-abiding working citizens for carrying common tools necessary for our trade, daily responsibilities, and personal safety.

This bill prohibits both open carry and concealed carry of any “bladed weapon” on one’s person and further makes it unlawful to carry such tools in a bag or container unless they are locked in a hard-sided case strictly for transport. The term “bladed weapon” is overly broad and undefined. Under this language, a folding pocket knife, utility blade, or fixed blade commonly used by contractors, landscapers, electricians, mechanics, farmers, fishermen, and educators could subject a person to arrest simply for moving between job sites, visiting a hardware store, or stopping for fuel.

For those of us in the trades and in education, knives are not weapons — they are essential tools used dozens of times a day. SB433 does not distinguish between criminal misuse and lawful occupational carry.

This bill also creates practical enforcement problems. Although SB433 states it does not apply to firearms, lawful concealed carry permit holders who also carry a common pocket knife or utility blade for work or personal safety could be stopped, detained, or questioned over a tool while otherwise fully compliant with Hawai‘i firearm laws. This places law-abiding citizens in unnecessary legal jeopardy.

Beyond the practical concerns, SB433 conflicts directly with binding U.S. Supreme Court precedent interpreting the Second Amendment.

In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the Court defined “arms” as weapons that can be carried for offense or defense — not limited to firearms.

In *Caetano v. Massachusetts* (2016), the Court ruled that states cannot ban weapons simply because they are not firearms or because they are modern.

Most importantly, in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), the Court established that the government may not prohibit the public carry of arms that are in common use for lawful purposes unless there is a historical tradition of such a restriction from the founding era.

Knives and edged tools were universal daily items in the 1700s and 1800s. There is no historical tradition of banning the public carry of knives. In fact, they were essential tools carried by nearly every working person. SB433's broad prohibition on carrying "bladed weapons" in public conflicts directly with this constitutional standard and invites legal challenge.

SB433 also raises Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment concerns. The undefined term "bladed weapon" invites arbitrary enforcement and unequal application of the law, raising due process and equal protection issues. Additionally, the bill's reliance on an "affirmative defense" forces lawful citizens to defend themselves in court after arrest for possessing a common tool, reversing the presumption of innocence.

If enacted, this bill means:

- A landscaper with a work knife in his pocket commits a misdemeanor.
- A contractor with a utility blade in a tool pouch commits a misdemeanor.
- A teacher transporting tools for class commits a misdemeanor.
- A fisherman, hunter, or farmer carrying a knife for routine use commits a misdemeanor.

This does not improve public safety. It criminalizes ordinary work and lawful preparedness.

I respectfully ask the committee to remove or clearly define the term "bladed weapon," add explicit exemptions for occupational, agricultural, fishing, hunting, and educational tool use, or defer this bill for further revision due to its constitutional and practical concerns.

Public safety can be addressed without criminalizing the tools of lawful work and self-reliance.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

James H. Smith  
O'ahu, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:20:30 PM

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

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

Comments:

Committee Members,

My name is Richard Furst and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am writing to express my opposition to the current language in SB433, which I believe to be too broad and vague. The current language that prohibits any "bladed weapon" from being carried on one's person on in a bag could be interpreted to prohibit any sort of pocket knife. Further, the current bill's prohibition against transporting "bladed weapons" in one's vehicle seems to be a significant overreach. Both these provisions would also potentially make it illegal to hunt with dog and knife, a practice that has significant cultural roots in Hawaii and helps many local people feed their families. I am sure this is not the intent of the bill, so I respectfully request that the language of the bill is amended to clarify dangerous bladed weapons from typical pocket knives, and to specifically allow for hunters to transport their equipment and participate in legal hunting activities.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this input.

Best regards,

Richard Furst

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:03:28 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senators:

I respectfully oppose this bill SB433 because I have friends and sons who hunt the wild pigs on Oahu. By having this bill in its current statement, the government would restrict my friends and family from hunting in their traditional ways.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:12:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose this bill because I fish and hunt and this is absolutely ridiculous. Just prosecute the chronics woth other charges

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:27:45 PM

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

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

Comments:

This bill is too vague and also has the issue of outlawing possession or carrying in any form of any type of large or unique blades despite this being decided as unconstitutional



**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:38:55 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:

**SB433** creates an overly broad and unconstitutional restriction on the right to bear arms by criminalizing the open or concealed carry of nearly all common self-defense tools, including knives, bladed weapons, and other arms historically protected under the Second Amendment. Instead of recognizing the right to carry arms for lawful purposes, the bill makes carrying these items a criminal offense by default and forces citizens to rely on narrow affirmative defenses only after arrest. This structure flips the constitutional burden of proof, contradicts the Supreme Court’s requirements in *Bruen*, and imposes a presumption of guilt on individuals exercising a protected right.

The bill’s vague and expansive definition of “deadly or dangerous weapon” invites arbitrary enforcement and exposes ordinary residents—workers, hikers, tradespeople, and law-abiding citizens—to criminal penalties for possessing tools that are part of daily life. By tying its limited affirmative defense to Hawaii’s already overbroad “sensitive places” statute, SB433 effectively eliminates the ability to carry defensive tools in most public areas, creating a functional statewide ban. The mandatory destruction of property without meaningful due process further raises serious constitutional concerns under the Fifth Amendment.

SB433 is not a targeted public-safety measure; it is a sweeping prohibition that criminalizes ordinary conduct, undermines the right to self-defense, and conflicts with the historical tradition of carrying arms recognized by the Constitution. For these reasons, SB433 should not advance.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:41:45 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Senators and Members of the PSM and JDC Committees,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Puna, Hawaii Island to strongly oppose SB433, which amends HRS §134-51 to prohibit the open carry of deadly or dangerous weapons, including bladed weapons, while expanding restrictions in ways that disproportionately penalize law-abiding citizens.

This bill is fundamentally asinine and counterproductive. Hawaii already has some of the strictest weapons laws in the nation, yet violent crime persists because criminals—by definition—ignore laws. SB433 does nothing to disarm those intent on harm; instead, it further restricts peaceful, responsible individuals who might carry common tools or weapons for legitimate self-defense, work, or everyday lawful purposes.

Key problems with the bill:

- It bans open carry of items like knives, tools, or other “bladed weapons” that many Hawaiians carry responsibly (e.g., for fishing, camping, utility work, or cultural/historical practices). This turns ordinary citizens into misdemeanants for behavior that poses no threat.
- The affirmative defense for “common use” weapons in lawful self-defense is narrow, subjective, and unreliable—it excludes “sensitive locations” (which are broadly defined elsewhere) and requires proving no intent to alarm, shifting the burden onto the defendant in court. This is not meaningful protection; it’s a trap for the unwary.
- The transport defense (locked hard-sided container) is limited to vehicles, airports, or public transit—leaving gaps for pedestrians, cyclists, or those without such options.
- It adds felony enhancements for possession during other offenses, but again targets the law-abiding who might otherwise comply, while criminals remain undeterred.

This legislation ignores U.S. Supreme Court precedents (e.g., Bruen) emphasizing that restrictions on arms in common use for self-defense must align with historical traditions—not invent new bans. Hawaii’s ongoing Second Amendment challenges underscore that overly broad prohibitions fail constitutional scrutiny.

Instead of piling restrictions on the compliant, focus enforcement on actual violent offenders. Criminals don't need permission to carry; law-abiding people do—and this bill strips even more of that away.

I urge you to reject SB433 in committee. Do not advance this misguided measure that only burdens honest residents while doing zero to enhance public safety.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I request it be entered into the official record for SB433.

Mahalo,

Joshua Masi

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:48:09 AM

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

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

Comments:

I oppose,

I oppose every bill you make against the 2nd amendment. It's out right to bear arms. To protect ourselves and those around us.

You think criminals are going to follow these laws you make. No! I dont think so, your gonna make it easier for them to harm and hurt us. Rob our mom and pop stores, rob our kapunas. We the people have every right to bear arms because we are United States and it's out right to

I oppose your bill!!

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 7:41:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE this bill. The ability to carry said weapons for self defense was legalized last year.

I can always count on Comrade RHOADES and Comrade CHANG to be FRONT and center and leading the charge to draft bills taking away peoples right to protect themselves.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:51:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas M Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How absolutely ridiculous - the lack of clearly defined terms, along with missing any context or other concrete evidence, the legitimacy of this proposal is totally in question. The language of this bill is inartfully articulated, and without meaning. I vehemently oppose this bill

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:07:03 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christyn	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose this. The ratio of hunters helping the land is very high, including those that prefer not to use guns.

And it is low to no ratio of hunters misusing their license of having these weapons an need using it for harm to society.

So it's hard to understand why this is being banned.

also less violence rate in areas where hunters live.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:11:06 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:

This is just ridiculous overreach under the guise of public safety. Realistically, this who mean to do harm will not follow this law and it just leaves law abiding citizens defenseless. Stop impeding on people's freedom and right to defend themselves. Murder and Assault is still illegal. Do you really believe that outlawing the tool which they intend to carry out this crime will do anything?



**LATE**

**SB-433**

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

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

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill on the grounds that recent Supreme Court legislation, most notably Bruen vs NYRPA, has already established a frame work for determining whether an particular firearm or other implement is considered a 2nd Amendment protected arm based on text, history and tradition.

Dangerous and unusual is clearly not causal in this instance because there are 100s of thousands of people that have these types of tools in common use for lawful purposes. Hunting, working cultivating harvesting and self defense.

There is a historical precedent which allows for the open carry of these items in public places and anecdotal evidence from our local traditions as hunters using such items legally to harvest game from the wild to feed our families and communities.

Kingdom of Hawaii was established by use of firearms and other such implements to defend against opposing army's and other outside forces from coming in to take what was not theirs.

We have a right to carry such protected arms in public places and will soon have a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court which will further expand the established right we have to keep and bear arms on all private property that allows public access. The second amendment is not a second class right. It is every bit as important as the 1st amendment, 4th amendment and the 14th amendment.

Please kill this bill that has no merit and do what is pono. Quit wasting our tax payer dollars by putting forth such unnecessary and illegal legislation.

FOCUS on real problems like stopping criminal activity like gang violence, drug and human trafficking, and illegal gambling. We don't need another law that gives criminals the upper hand.

mahalo!

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:47:12 AM

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

**LATE**

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

**Comments:**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I strongly oppose SB2575 because it imposes Class A felony penalties and mandatory minimum sentences on non-violent, technical firearm violations. This bill does not target violent criminals — it targets ordinary residents who are already doing their best to follow Hawai‘i’s extremely complex firearm laws.

**Practical Real-World Example**

To understand the real impact of SB2575, consider a very common situation:

A law-abiding resident takes their unloaded, locked firearm to the range. On the way home, they stop to pick up their child from school or grab groceries — something many families do every day. Under Hawai‘i’s transport laws, this could be interpreted as a violation of the “direct route” requirement.

Under SB2575, this harmless, non-violent, everyday mistake could be charged as a Class A felony — the same category as kidnapping, first-degree robbery, and major sexual assault. That means:

- Up to 20 years in prison
- Mandatory minimum sentencing
- Permanent loss of civil rights
- Lifetime firearm prohibition
- Devastating consequences for employment, housing, and family stability

This is not a hypothetical. These are the kinds of technical violations that already confuse lawful owners, and SB2575 would turn them into life-altering crimes.

No one is made safer by treating a parent picking up their child as a Class A felon.

**Constitutional Concerns**

SB2575 also raises serious constitutional issues.

### 1. Disproportionate punishment violates due process and proportionality principles

The Constitution requires that penalties be proportionate to the offense. Class A felonies are reserved for the most serious violent crimes. SB2575 applies them to non-violent, administrative errors that harm no one. That is not consistent with constitutional standards of fairness or proportionality.

### 2. Criminalizing technical mistakes burdens the core of the Second Amendment

The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Second Amendment protects the right of ordinary citizens to keep and bear arms for lawful self-defense. When a state creates a system where any technical mistake — even one with no malicious intent — can result in decades of imprisonment, that is a direct burden on the exercise of a constitutional right.

A right that can be lost due to a paperwork error or an unclear transport rule is not a meaningful right.

### 3. SB2575 is inconsistent with the historical tradition required under Bruen

Under the Bruen decision, modern firearm regulations must be consistent with the nation's historical tradition. There is no historical tradition of imposing the harshest felony penalties for non-violent administrative violations. If enacted, SB2575 would be vulnerable to constitutional challenge.

### Conclusion

Hawai'i already has some of the strictest firearm regulations in the country, and lawful owners comply with them because they believe in safety and responsibility. SB2575 does not target violent criminals. It targets the very people who are already following the law.

Punishing harmless mistakes as Class A felonies does not reflect pono, does not improve public safety, and does not align with constitutional protections.

I respectfully urge the committee to reject SB2575.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:24:40 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill seeks to criminalize the open carry of bladed weapons—a right that was recently clarified and restored to Hawaii residents following significant federal litigation.

In 2024, the Hawaii Legislature passed Act 21 in response to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Teter v. Lopez*. That ruling affirmed that bladed instruments are "arms" protected by the Second Amendment. By legalizing the possession and open carry of items like butterfly knives and other bladed tools, the State correctly aligned itself with constitutional requirements. SB 433 represents a step backward that risks further costly litigation for the State.

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:09:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benel Piros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose due to the fact that WE as LAW ABIDING citizens are subjected to more infringement on our rights to protect ourselves and also gather food via hunting as well. Where criminals DON'T follow any Laws period.

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:37:15 PM

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

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Alejandro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha members of the Senate,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB433. I respectfully oppose this bill and urge you not to enact it, as it would have unintended consequences for law-abiding members of our community and raises serious constitutional concerns.

Hawai‘i is a place where people from many backgrounds live, work, and care for one another. Many residents—particularly those in rural areas, working trades, cultural practitioners, and subsistence communities—carry tools such as knives or other implements as part of daily life. SB433’s broad prohibition on openly carrying “deadly or dangerous weapons,” including bladed weapons, risks turning ordinary, peaceful activity into a criminal offense.

Of particular concern is that SB433 does not clearly distinguish between threatening behavior and non-threatening possession. Instead, it places the burden on individuals to assert an affirmative defense after being stopped, cited, or arrested. This approach means that people who pose no danger—people simply going about their day—could still face law enforcement action, legal costs, and stress before being able to prove they were acting lawfully. That outcome undermines trust between the community and the justice system.

Hawai‘i’s Constitution, like the United States Constitution, recognizes the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Regardless of one’s personal views on weapons, constitutional rights are meant to protect ordinary people from being treated as criminals for exercising lawful conduct. A system where peaceful behavior is presumed illegal unless defended later in court does not align with the values of fairness and due process that our communities depend on.

I also worry that SB433 may be enforced unevenly. Vague and expansive definitions of “deadly or dangerous weapons” can lead to inconsistent application, increasing the risk of selective or discriminatory enforcement. Laws should be clear, predictable, and focused on genuinely dangerous behavior—not on the mere presence of commonly owned tools or arms carried without malicious intent.

I fully support efforts to reduce violence and keep our communities safe. However, public safety is best served by laws that focus on harmful actions, not by broadly criminalizing possession and relying on affirmative defenses to correct overreach. We can protect our neighborhoods while still respecting the rights and realities of the people who live here.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you reconsider SB433 and choose not to move this bill forward. Thoughtful, narrowly tailored policy will better serve Hawai'i's diverse communities and uphold the constitutional principles that protect us all.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and dedication to the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph D. Alejandro, Pearl City, HI

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:38:23 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 is unconstitutional.



**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:18:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy K Gusman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE this bill.

SB433 is poorly written and does not define the conduct it criminalizes. There is an existing law that already addresses the issues of dangerous threatening and unwanted conduct involving arms.

This will affect not just hunters but other law abiding citizens who are blue collar workers that use things like machettes and knives on a daily basis to do their jobs and carry such to and from work in their vehicles.

I Oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Christy K Gusman

**LATE**

**SB-433**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:44:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Domenick Taylan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to recent events in my community (Ewa beach) there was a shooting at Ewa beach community park near my house as a law-abiding citizen, I would like to have the right to bear arms to practice my second amendment as well as not to feel vulnerable of criminal misuse of a firearm and or other open carry weapons that is legally allowed.