

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIREARMS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawai'i has some of  
2 the strongest gun safety laws in the nation and for many years  
3 has received an A or A-minus rating from the Giffords Law Center  
4 to Prevent Gun Violence. Additionally, Hawai'i had the lowest  
5 number of gun deaths per capita among the states in 2020 and  
6 continues to have one of the lowest rates according to the  
7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The legislature is  
8 committed to protecting the safety and well-being of residents  
9 of the State.

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



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

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

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

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



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

10 For the purposes of this subsection:

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

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

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

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



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

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INTRODUCED BY: Karl Rhoads



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**Report Title:**

Firearms; Gun Safety; .50 Caliber Firearms; Prohibitions

**Description:**

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

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

