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March 16, 2026

SB 2517 SD1: RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **respectfully opposes SB 2517, SD 1** which seeks to amend Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), section 134-7 (Ownership, possession or control prohibited) subsections (j) and (f).

Currently, a violation of HRS 134-7 (j) and (f) is a misdemeanor. SB 2517, SD 1 seeks to change said violation to a class C felony. Therefore, if a respondent to a TRO or a gun violence protective order as defined under subsection (f), violates said subsection by being in possession, control of or transfers ownership of any firearm or ammunition during the duration of said court order they would be guilty of a class C felony offense regardless of whether possession or ownership of said firearm or ammunition is legal. This proposed change in the law is based upon the false premise that a tougher penalty would serve as a deterrent to a situation that is usually highly emotional and involves different types of relationships that are under stress. It should be noted that the granting of a TRO only requires that a request be made to a judge, and that a hearing with all involved parties is usually done after said order is issued.

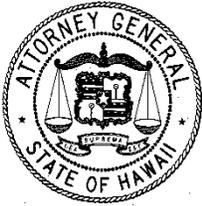
The OPD is concerned that an individual who legally possesses or owns a firearm, who then becomes the respondent in a TRO or protective order can be subject to a misdemeanor offense for violating said order, and at the same time now be subject to a class C felony for merely possessing their legally owned firearm, and not relinquishing it to the police in a timely manner. It should be

noted that the term “possess” is not defined within the statute and thus can also mean constructive possession (non-physical possession). The preamble to SB2517, SD 1 states that a person who becomes a respondent to a TRO or court issued protective order presents an increased risk of lethality, and thus must relinquish any firearm or ammunition regardless of legal ownership. The OPD feels that labeling all said individuals as having an increased lethality to justify increasing the penalty for a violation of HRS section 134-7 (j) does not correlate, but instead places a heavy burden on those that have sought to legally possess their firearms.

It should be noted that a conviction of 134-7 (f), and subjecting said person to the proposed felony penalties of an amended subsection (j) would then disqualify said individual from legally possessing a firearm even after the termination of the TRO. The OPD has concerns that this would also be true if the TRO is later found to be faulty or is stricken due to illegitimacy. When a defendant is charged with a violation of a TRO or protective order it is presumed that said order is legitimate. Thus, it is possible, that a respondent could be found guilty of a violation of a TRO or protective order regardless of the legitimacy of said order, and thus it is likely that the same could happen under a violation of HRS 134-7 (f) and (j).

Furthermore, with such strict penalties and constitutional rights at stake the OPD anticipates that any person so charged would seek to litigate said cases. This increase in litigation would place an increased burden on the judiciary, prosecutors, public defenders, court appointed counsel and Dept. of Public Safety resulting in added costs and use of resources which would require increased legislative allotments. The current statutory language which carries a misdemeanor penalty is an adequate means to protect the public. However, if the concern is that a respondent to a TRO has access to firearms, then the disarming of said respondent should be paramount. Thus, perhaps a better way of handling said perceived danger is to require that the police seek, and the court issue a search warrant, based upon probable cause, to take possession of said firearm(s) upon the issuance of the TRO. Thus, compliance with HRS 134-7(f) would become moot.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2517, S.D. 1, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Mark S. Tom, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) strongly supports this bill.

This bill amends section 134-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to increase the penalty from a misdemeanor to a class C felony for the unlawful possession, control, or transfer of a firearm or ammunition in violation of a judicially issued protective order or restraining order.

This bill was submitted by unanimous agreement of the Hawaii Law Enforcement Coalition, whose membership includes the Attorney General, the Chief of Police and Prosecutor of each county, and the Director of Law Enforcement.

The Department respectfully requests the passage of this bill.

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **SENATE BILL 2517, SENATE DRAFT 1**

A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
State Capitol Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs. The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2517, Senate Draft 1.

SB 2517, SD 1 was drafted with the intent to establish a class C felony penalty for the unlawful possession, control, or transfer of a firearm or ammunition in violation of a valid judicial protective order or restraining order.

SB 2517, SD 1 seeks to strengthen public safety and enhance accountability for individuals who violate judicial protective orders or restraining orders by unlawfully possessing, controlling, or transferring firearms or ammunition. The proposed amendments to HRS 134-7 are essential in addressing a critical gap in the existing law regarding firearm possession under court-ordered protection. Currently, individuals subject to protective or restraining orders are prohibited from possessing firearms and or ammunition. The penalty for violating this prohibition is limited to a misdemeanor offense. This penalty fails to reflect the significant public safety risks posed by such violations, particularly in cases where there is a heightened potential for violence and lethality.

Violating a protective order, particularly in situations involving the unlawful possession of firearms, is a serious offense that poses a direct and increased threat to the safety of the protected individuals, their families, and the broader community. Protective orders are typically issued in circumstances of domestic violence, stalking, or harassment, where there is already an elevated risk of harm. Allowing a violation of such an order to be classified as a misdemeanor significantly undermines the intent of these legal protections and fails to adequately address the severity of the offense. This bill's proposed penalty of a Class C felony for unlawful firearm possession or transfer under these circumstances is a much-needed step toward ensuring that

those who violate these orders are held accountable in a manner that reflects the seriousness of the violation. This approach aligns with the state's broader goal of reducing violence and preventing harm to individuals caught in dangerous situations.

This bill is an important step in ensuring that our laws keep pace with the evolving understanding of the connection between firearms and domestic violence. States across the country are increasingly recognizing the need to impose stronger penalties for violations of protective orders that involve firearms. By taking this step, Hawai'i will join other jurisdictions in promoting public safety and ensuring that individuals who violate protective orders are subject to meaningful penalties that reflect the potential danger their actions pose to others.

SB 2517, SD 1 is a crucial piece of legislation that will better protect the citizens of Hawai'i by ensuring that individuals who violate court-ordered protective measures involving firearms face appropriate penalties. The bill's proposed changes will help safeguard individuals at heightened risk of harm and strengthen our criminal justice system's ability to deter and address violations of judicial orders. We humbly ask this committee to pass this bill and to support stronger safeguards for victims of domestic violence, stalking, and other forms of harassment. For the foregoing reasons, the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 2517, Senate Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:17:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Namiki Roberts	Hawaii Firearms Coalition	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

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

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition respectfully submits testimony in **opposition** to SB2517 SD1.

Our organization supports policies that promote public safety, responsible firearm ownership, and accountability for those who commit violent or dangerous acts. We are **not opposed to strong penalties for individuals who misuse firearms or threaten others**. If a person under a restraining order uses a firearm to commit a crime or make a credible threat, we fully support severe criminal penalties.

However, SB2517 SD1 goes far beyond that standard and creates **serious due process and proportionality concerns**.

Concerns with SB2517 SD1

1. Felony Penalties for Non-Violent Conduct

This measure elevates simple possession of a firearm or ammunition—without any accompanying violent act—to a **Class C felony**. This represents a significant escalation in criminal liability for conduct that may involve no threat, harm, or intent to harm.

2. Reliance on Temporary and Often One-Sided Orders

Temporary restraining orders (TROs) and protective orders are frequently issued **out of an abundance of caution**, often based on one-sided allegations prior to a full evidentiary hearing. In some cases, these orders may be granted without clear evidence of violence or credible threats.

Despite this, the bill imposes **permanent, life-altering felony consequences** based on these temporary and preliminary determinations.

3. Lack of Proportionality

A felony conviction carries severe and lifelong consequences, including loss of civil rights, employment barriers, and reputational harm. Imposing such penalties for mere possession—without any demonstrated danger—**lacks proportionality** and risks undermining confidence in the justice system.

4. No Lawful Path to Compliance (Transfer Issue)

Because the bill includes “possession, control, or transfer,” individuals subject to an order may be **unable to lawfully transfer or sell their firearms or ammunition** to a qualified third party. This creates a situation where individuals are exposed to felony liability **even when attempting to comply responsibly with the law**.

Suggested Amendments

If the Legislature chooses to move forward with this measure, we respectfully recommend the following changes to address these concerns:

- **Limit felony penalties to cases involving dangerous conduct**

Restrict Class C felony charges to situations where a person:

- Uses or attempts to use a firearm to threaten or harm another person; or
- Possesses a firearm in conjunction with other criminal or violent conduct

- **Maintain misdemeanor treatment for simple possession**

Retain misdemeanor penalties for non-violent, technical violations of possession restrictions.

- **Provide a clear and lawful transfer process**

Explicitly allow individuals subject to restraining orders to:

- Transfer or sell firearms and ammunition to a licensed dealer or qualified individual
- Store firearms with a licensed third party without risk of prosecution

- **Strengthen due process protections**

Ensure felony liability is not imposed based solely on temporary or ex parte orders by:

- Requiring a full hearing and judicial finding of dangerousness before felony penalties apply
-

Conclusion

Public safety is best served by laws that are **targeted, proportional, and focused on dangerous behavior**. SB2517 SD1, as currently written, risks imposing severe felony penalties on individuals who have not committed violent acts and may be subject to temporary orders issued without full due process.

We respectfully urge the Committee to **defer this measure** or adopt the recommended amendments to ensure that Hawaii’s laws remain both effective and just.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Namiki Roberts
Hawaii Firearms Coalition, Inc.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:04:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mery Ann Luna	SDM Training Group/Bows N Bullets	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mery Ann, founder of SDM Training Group and Bows N Bullets. We provide safety education and responsible firearm training for women and families. We respectfully oppose SB 2517 SD1.

Concerns with Felony Expansion

This bill elevates violations of protective-order-related firearm restrictions to a Class C felony, even when the underlying order may be temporary, contested, or issued without a full hearing. Felony penalties applied before full due process can permanently impact individuals who have not been convicted of any crime.

Impact on Domestic Violence Survivors

In our work with women navigating domestic violence and custody disputes, we frequently see protective orders used in complex, high-conflict situations. Increasing penalties without safeguards risks misuse and may discourage survivors from seeking help, reporting threats, or engaging in safety training.

Lack of Prevention or Compliance Support

The measure focuses solely on punishment. It does not provide education, voluntary compliance pathways, or community-based safety resources—tools that are proven to reduce violence and improve public safety.

Request

We urge the Legislature to consider balanced approaches that strengthen due process, support survivors, and invest in education-based safety programs rather than expanding felony exposure.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:30:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clay Kimberling	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Bill 2517 would negatively affect Hawaii's already unconstitutional red flag laws, raising serious due process concerns by imposing automatic felony penalties without full evidentiary hearings for Gun Violence Protection Orders.

GVPOs are issued through a civil judicial process, not a criminal prosecution. While civil protective mechanisms may serve a policy objective, they are not accompanied by the full range of procedural safeguards that attach in criminal proceedings, where the potential deprivation of liberty demands the highest constitutional protections.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to reject Senate Bill 2517.



IN OPPOSITION TO SB2517/HB2075

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is in strong opposition to SB2517/HB2075, which would establish a class C felony penalty for the unlawful possession, control, or transfer of a firearm or ammunition in violation of a valid judicial protective order or restraining order.

This bill represents yet another incremental but significant infringement on the fundamental right to keep and bear arms as protected under both the U.S. Constitution (Second Amendment) and the Hawaii State Constitution (Article I, Section 17). This measure would be elevating what is currently a misdemeanor-level violation to a class C felony, carrying up to 5 years imprisonment and permanent loss of firearm rights. This creates disproportionate punishment and risks sweeping in non-violent, technical, or contested violations.

Our key concerns include:

Due Process and Presumption of Innocence

Protective orders and restraining orders in Hawaii can be issued ex parte (without the accused present) based on allegations alone, often with a low evidentiary threshold. A person may face felony charges and lifelong disarmament for possessing a lawfully owned firearm even before a full hearing determines the validity of the underlying claims. Turning a civil protection mechanism into a de facto criminal disarmament tool bypasses due process. Constitutional rights should not be stripped based on unproven allegations. Felony-level penalties should require criminal conviction after full trial, not mere violation of a civil order.

Overbreadth and Potential for Abuse

Protective orders can arise in contentious family, divorce, or neighbor disputes where accusations are frequently exaggerated or used strategically. Making firearm possession a felony in these scenarios creates powerful incentives for misuse of the system. This would disarm law-abiding individuals without proving violent or criminal intent. Layering felony consequences on top of Hawaii's existing outlandish prohibitions risks turning minor and disputed infractions into life-altering punishments.

Ineffectiveness at Enhancing Safety

Criminals do not comply with protective orders or firearm laws. That is what defines them as criminals. This bill primarily disarms law-abiding gun owners while dangerous individuals ignore restrictions entirely. True public safety comes from enforcing laws against violence, not preemptive punishment.



Second Amendment Infringement

Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions affirm that firearm regulations must be consistent with historical tradition and respect individual rights. Converting protective-order violations into automatic felonies without criminal conviction strays far from constitutional bounds and erases the right to self-defense.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii supports measures that genuinely protect victims through due process and accountability for violent acts only. We do not support bills that expand felony-level disarmament on the innocent.

We urge the committee to defer or **defeat SB2517/HB2075**.

For Freedom,

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | LibertarianHawaii.com | (808)824-LPHI

March 18, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Support for SB2517, SD1 – Relating to Public Safety



Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The **State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO)** supports **SB 2517, SD1**, which, among other things, increases the penalty for the unlawful possession, control, or transfer of a firearm or ammunition in violation of a judicially issued protective order or restraining order from a misdemeanor to a class C felony. This measure was introduced by the Hawai'i Law Enforcement Coalition, and SHOPO joins our law enforcement partners in supporting this important change to strengthen existing firearm safety laws.

Protective orders and restraining orders are issued by the courts to prevent violence and protect individuals who have been identified as being at heightened risk of harm. When a person knowingly possesses or transfers a firearm in violation of such an order, the danger to victims, responding officers, and the community increases significantly. Elevating this offense to a felony appropriately reflects the seriousness of the violation and provides law enforcement with stronger tools to deter dangerous conduct, hold offenders accountable, and ensure the intent of court-ordered protections is fully enforced.

The more than 2,700 law enforcement officers who are members of SHOPO risk their lives every day to keep our islands safe. SHOPO is dedicated to protecting public safety. We strive to work in partnership with community members because, together, we can build stronger and safer neighborhoods. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO)

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:20:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I stand OPPOSED this bill as it is simply not needed. TROs can be placed upon someone for any reason whatsoever and does not need violence behind it. If I get into a heated verbal argument with a neighbor, and my neighbor places a TRO against me and now I'm an automatic felon because I own firearms and ammo.

I can't put those guns or ammo into storage or hand them off to a trusted party until the TRO can be resolved. So if I try to sell my guns, which I can no longer use, that'd make me a felon.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:55:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This law isn't needed because anyone with a firearm charge is automatically banned from owning a gun for 20 yrs in HI.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:36:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB2517 SD1.

SB2517 SD1 would make it a felony to transfer ammunition or arms while under a temporary restraining order (TRO). Meaning, if you want to be sell your gun or have a third party hold onto it while you resolve the TRO, or do anything other than hand it over to the government law enforcement police it would be a felony. This is tyrannical government overreach.

Why can't the individual sell or have a third party hold the ammunition or arm(s) until the TRO is resolved?

Wouldn't this mean anyone can submit a TRO on anyone and have their 2nd amendment right taken away?

There are too many loopholes for this to end up where the government can approve TROs on all ammunition and arms for the entirety of the state.

Stop with the gun control and stop trying to criminalize the citizens. You are wasting valuable time, money, and energy with unconstitutional laws much like the current unconstitutional gun registration and current vampire law that is with the Supreme Court.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:34:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this measure to increase penalties for transferring firearms when under a restraining order. This will not make people safer and could lead to people going to jail for an indeterminate or undefined time. Just leave this alone and focus on housing.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:47:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am writing in **strong support** of SB2517, a bill that establishes a class C felony penalty for the unlawful possession, control, or transfer of a firearm or ammunition in violation of a valid judicial protective order or restraining order. This measure closes a critical gap in Hawai‘i's domestic violence laws and provides law enforcement with the tools necessary to hold accountable those who disregard court orders designed to protect victims from lethal harm.

Current Law Lacks Sufficient Deterrence for Violations Involving Firearms

Under existing Hawai‘i law, when a protective order is issued that prohibits an abuser from contacting, threatening, or physically abusing a protected person, the order must clearly state that the abuser cannot possess firearms or ammunition while the order is in effect. Law enforcement officers serving such orders may take custody of any firearms in plain sight, discovered through consensual search, or voluntarily surrendered. If officers cannot locate firearms known to be registered to the abuser, they must obtain a search warrant.

However, if an abuser knows the location of a registered firearm and refuses to surrender it or disclose its location, the current penalty is **only a misdemeanor**. This penalty structure fails to reflect the deadly seriousness of firearm possession by individuals already determined by a court to pose a threat to another person's safety. A misdemeanor penalty does not adequately deter conduct that so often escalates to lethal violence.

Firearms Dramatically Increase the Lethality of Domestic Violence

The connection between firearms and domestic violence fatalities is well-documented. In Hawai‘i, firearms were used in nearly one-third of all domestic violence cases that resulted in a homicide from 2000 to 2009. Nationally, research consistently demonstrates that the presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide for the victim by approximately 500%.

When a court issues a protective order, it has already determined that the respondent poses a threat requiring legal intervention. Allowing that individual to retain access to firearms—or to face only a misdemeanor penalty for refusing to surrender them—places victims in grave and

ongoing danger. SB2517 recognizes that the unlawful possession of a firearm in violation of a protective order is not a minor infraction but a serious felony offense.

The Felony Penalty Provides Law Enforcement with a Critical Tool

SB2517 elevates this offense to a class C felony, providing prosecutors and law enforcement with meaningful leverage to ensure compliance with court orders. The current misdemeanor penalty does not reflect the severity of the conduct and does not adequately deter abusers who may already be inclined to disregard judicial authority.

The bill has already received bipartisan support in committee. This demonstrates a recognition across party lines that strengthening penalties for firearm violations under protective orders is a commonsense public safety measure.

Addressing Due Process Concerns

Opponents of this measure have raised concerns about due process and have characterized it as an expansion of "unconstitutional red flag laws." These concerns are unfounded. SB2517 does not create a new mechanism for removing firearms or issuing orders. It simply enhances the penalty for violating an existing court order that has already been issued following established judicial proceedings. The protective order itself has been subject to notice and hearing requirements; the felony penalty attaches only when an individual knowingly violates that order by possessing a firearm.

Protecting Victims and Sending a Clear Message

Ultimately, SB2517 sends a clear message: when a court determines that an individual poses a threat sufficient to warrant a protective order, and when that order explicitly prohibits firearm possession, violation of that prohibition will be treated with the seriousness it deserves. For victims of domestic violence, the difference between a misdemeanor and a felony may be the difference between life and death.

I urge this Committee to pass SB2517 and ensure that Hawai'i's laws provide meaningful protection for those at greatest risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:50:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please oppose this bill. HPD was proven after court and Internal investigation that my misdemeanor charge was unlawful. I had my CCW license at the time and would definitely have been affected negatively if this Bill was in place. I would be charged as a felon!! The misdemeanor charge or TRO can be abused and should not be stacked up as a felony just because I am a LEGAL firearm owner.

I am NOT against punishing serious criminals.

If someone under a TRO uses a firearm to threaten someone, then absolutely — throw the book at them.

But simply possessing a firearm in violation of a temporary court order should NOT destroy someone's life with a felony conviction.

✗ What this bill really does:

- Turns possession into a felony — even without any threat, violence, or harmful action
- Destroys lives over a temporary order — TROs are often short-term and issued early in a case
- Granted with minimal evidence — TROs can be issued out of an “abundance of caution,” sometimes based on one-sided claims, exaggerations, or outright false statements
- No requirement of violent conduct — a person can be subject to a TRO without any actual threat or violence
- No lawful way to comply — the bill blocks the ability to sell or transfer legally owned firearms or ammunition to someone who can legally possess them

This means someone can lose their rights, face a felony charge, and have their life permanently altered — all without ever committing a violent act.

That's not public safety. That's overreach.

- ➔ Punish real threats and violence — not mere possession
- ➔ Protect due process
- ➔ Stop turning temporary orders into permanent consequences

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:37:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It can be misconstrued in many ways. It violates due process. Vote no in this terrible bill.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:16:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am opposed to SB2517, I am a retired Sgt. with the Hawaii State Sheriff's Office, and I have assisted the process of obtaining a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), I have served TRO's and have sat in TRO hearing. Simply put a TRO is only one side of the story and often Judges will approve them, even ones that of face value appear to be questionable, simply because what if it's not.

Upon service the Defendant must surrender all firearms and ammunition to the County Police. This alone is a violation of my 5th Amendment rights as stated "tonor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

Prior to the TRO hearing, the Defendant has not received due process and yet the Defendant has been deprived of their person property. They are unable to transfer or sell their firearms and ammunition while under a TRO or Order of Protection.

A felon in possession of a firearm is already a felony, possession of a "ghost gun" is already a felony.

The penalty under the current law is a misdminor and is subject to a year in prison, which is longer than the length of the majority of Order for Protection and the Judge can sentence the defendant to a year in prison if the situation warrants it.

I oppose SB2517 as written and ask you vote no.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:49:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I *oppose* this measure.

I support holding people accountable when there is an actual threat or violence. If a firearm is used to harm or intimidate, prosecute to the fullest extent.

This bill goes too far.

It makes simple possession a felony, even when no threat or violence has occurred. Temporary restraining orders are often issued early, sometimes based on one-sided claims, without a full hearing — yet this creates permanent consequences.

That raises serious due process concerns.

Someone could face a felony, lose their rights, and have their future impacted without ever committing a violent act. That is not balanced public safety.

It also removes any reasonable way to comply by limiting lawful transfer or sale.

We should focus on real threats — not expand felony penalties for mere possession tied to temporary orders.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO.

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

Wai‘anae resident

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:00:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mr. & Mrs. O'Neill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly oppose SB 2517. This is very poor legislation that includes " Red Flag " laws, which are completely unconstitutional.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:13:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Red Flag laws are constitutionally suspect due to the lack of due process and this bill allows for automatic penalties without due process, and is hence unconstitutional.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:51:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am opposed to the expansion of unconstitutional red flag laws, which infringe on both the right to bear arms and constitutional due process requirements as the state seeks to infringe on the right to life, via suppressing the right to defend oneself.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:52:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
scott shimoda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Again red flag laws raise serious due process concerns this also imposes an automatic felony penalties without a full evidentiary hearing. Enforce the laws that we already have in place.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:25:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2517

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:56:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Baltazar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2517.

SB-2517-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 1:26:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE: this bill encourages even more flagrant abuse of due process and violation of Bill of Rights. Goes direct to Felony, without even a courtesy hearing. Blatant abuse of law-abiding citizens by fear-mongering. So much for "Spirit of Aloha".