



**WRITTEN 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, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

**BEFORE THE:**  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026      **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016

**TESTIFIER(S):**      **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**  
(For more information, contact Mark S. Tom,  
Deputy Attorney General, at (808) 586-1160)

---

Chair Rhoads 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.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUA'I



**DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI**, MAYOR  
**REIKO MATSUYAMA**, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**ELLIOTT K. KE**, CHIEF OF POLICE  
**MARK T. OZAKI**, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 19, 2026

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
And Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2517, Relating to Public Safety**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kaua'i Police Department, I am submitting testimony in **support of SB 2517**, which proposes to amend Hawai'i law 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.

Under current law, such conduct is treated as a misdemeanor, despite the clear heightened risk of lethality when an active protective order or restraining order is in place. SB 2517 appropriately recognizes this increased risk and enhances statutory penalties to reflect the serious threat posed when firearms or ammunition are unlawfully possessed or transferred in violation of protective orders.

Protective orders and restraining orders are issued to safeguard individuals who are at increased risk of harm, including domestic violence survivors and others under court-ordered protection. Allowing firearm possession in violation of these orders undermines the intent of the protective measure and jeopardizes public safety. By elevating the penalty to a felony, this bill strengthens enforcement tools for law enforcement and aligns the statute with public safety objectives.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Committee to pass SB 2517. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Elliott K. Ke  
Chief of Police  
Kaua'i Police Department

**KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**SHANNON M. KAGAWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KILAUEA AVENUE  
HILO, HAWAII 96720  
PH: (808) 961-0466  
FAX: (808) 961-8908

74-675 KEALAKEHE PARKWAY  
KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII 96740  
PH: (808) 322-2552  
FAX: (808) 322-6584

64-1067 MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY, C-3  
KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743  
PH: (808) 887-3017  
FAX: (808) 887-3016

## OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2517

A BILL FOR AN ACT  
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference  
State Capitol Conference Room 016  
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Judiciary: The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony **in strong support** of Senate Bill 2517.

SB 2517 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 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.

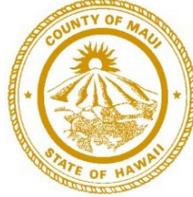
This bill is an important step in ensuring that our laws keep pace with the evolving understanding of the connection between firearms and domestic violence. States across the country are increasingly recognizing the need to impose stronger penalties for violations of protective orders that involve firearms. 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 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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**ANDREW H. MARTIN**  
Prosecuting Attorney

**SHELLY C. MIYASHIRO**  
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

TESTIMONY ON  
S.B. 2517  
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Chair  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard  
Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the following comments **in support of S.B. 2517, Relating to Public Safety**. This bill increases public safety by increasing the penalty for possession, control or transferring ownership of a firearm while prohibited by a lawful judicial restraining or protective order to a class C felony.

We support this bill because it recognizes the danger posed by offenders who possess, control or transfer firearms while a protective or restraining order is in effect. It also provides a deterrent for these offenses by increasing the penalty to a class C felony from a misdemeanor. We believe that this will help prevent future violent incidents from occurring, especially in domestic violence scenarios that often involve the granting of a protective order.

For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui **supports S.B. 2517**. Please feel free to contact our office at (808) 270-7777 if you have any questions or inquiries. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
*Mayor*



Reed K. Mahuna  
*Police Chief*

William V. Brilhante Jr.  
*Managing Director*

## County of Hawai`i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

February 23, 2026

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators Rhoads and Gabbard and Committee Members:

RE: SENATE BILL 2517 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY  
DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
TIME: 10:00 A.M.  
PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 016 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

The Hawai`i Police Department respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2517, which seeks 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.

Under current law, individuals subject to protective or restraining orders are prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. However, violations of this prohibition are classified only as misdemeanors. This penalty does not adequately reflect the serious public safety risks posed by such violations, particularly in cases involving domestic violence, stalking, or harassment—situations where there is already an elevated risk of harm and lethality.

Protective orders are issued to safeguard individuals from imminent threats. When these orders are violated through unlawful firearm possession, the danger to victims, their families, and the community increases significantly. Treating these violations as misdemeanors undermines the intent of these legal protections and fails to deter offenders effectively.

SENATE BILL 2517 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2026

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 016 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

Page 2

By elevating the penalty to a Class C felony, this bill strengthens accountability and aligns Hawai'i with national trends recognizing the link between firearms and domestic violence. Other states have adopted similar measures to reduce violence and protect vulnerable individuals. This legislation will help ensure that those who disregard court-ordered protections face consequences that reflect the severity of their actions.

The Hawai'i Police Department believes that SB 2517 is a critical step toward improving public safety, reducing violence, and safeguarding victims of domestic abuse and harassment. We urge this committee to pass this bill and support stronger protections for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,



SHERRY D. BIRD  
ACTING POLICE CHIEF

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 6:11:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael I Rice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

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**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 10:27:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB 2517

I oppose this measure. TRO's can be issued without hearing from both parties. A felony will also make individuals unemployable in by most companies.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 9:38:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Violation of court orders that prohibit firearm possession should invoke felony charges as a reasonable means of enforcing public safety.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 1:12:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michdelle Melendez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Each of you has taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution. This bill raises serious concerns because it creates felony penalties before a person has received a full and final hearing. Protective orders can be issued quickly and sometimes without complete evidence being examined. Attaching severe criminal consequences at that stage risks punishing someone before due process is fully provided.

The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments require fair procedure before liberty and rights are taken, and the Second Amendment requires careful limits when restricting lawful possession. We must protect victims while also protecting constitutional guarantees. Public safety cannot come at the expense of due process.

I ask you to uphold your oath and OPPOSE SB2517.

REMEMBER YOU'RE IN OFFICE TO PROTECT AND UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION  
NOT DEGRADE IT.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 2:23:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
George Chyz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill allows criminal penalties for firearm possession based only on a protective order, without a criminal conviction. Removing a constitutional right without full due process risks punishing people before they have had a fair chance to defend themselves.

Laws like this weaken trust in the justice system.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB2517.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 2:46:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amara Karuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Oppose SB2517.**

This bill allows criminal penalties for firearm possession based only on a protective order, without a criminal conviction. Removing a constitutional right without full due process risks punishing people before they have had a fair chance to defend themselves.

Public safety matters, but so do individual rights and fairness under the law. Laws like this can weaken trust in the justice system.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB2517.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:38:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
fred hofer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB2517.

This bill allows criminal penalties for firearm possession based only on a protective order, without a criminal conviction. Removing a constitutional right without full due process risks punishing people before they have had a fair chance to defend themselves.

Public safety matters, but so do individual rights and fairness under the law. Laws like this can weaken trust in the justice system.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB2517.

Fred Hofer

Hilo, 96720

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:38:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think you all need reminding of this very simple, easily read and understood founding document amendment. It goes:

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.

There is no grey area at all. This amendment was for the very purpose of what I oppose today. A tyrannical government chipping away at rights they have no authority to do. This amendment was 2nd for a reason, as the first is what I am engaging right now, a redress of grievances. My grievance is that slimy politicians get into office, swear to uphold the constitution and then create legislation violating that which they (i.e. you) swore to uphold. Legislators who propose such legislation, and the ones in support are in violation of the constitution. We the people will hold you accountable.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:26:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is an egregious abuse of power and is unconstitutional.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:27:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Celle Galarza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Opposition to SB2517**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully oppose SB2517.

This bill would impose criminal penalties for firearm possession based solely on the existence of a protective order, even when no criminal conviction has occurred. While protective orders serve an important role in addressing allegations of harm, they are civil proceedings and do not require the same level of proof or procedural safeguards as a criminal trial.

The right to keep and bear arms is protected under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. Removing a constitutional right without the full protections of due process raises serious concerns under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Individuals should not face criminal liability or loss of constitutional rights without a meaningful opportunity to defend themselves under the highest standards of fairness.

Public safety is critically important. However, safeguarding constitutional rights and ensuring fair process are also essential to maintaining public trust in our legal system. Policies that risk punishing individuals before a full adjudication on the merits may undermine confidence in the justice system and create unintended consequences.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB2517.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michelle Galarza

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:16:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2517. Look like they're trying hard to take our guns away like communists. Every year they get worse. It's like a child molester who's let out of jail and still hungers for going after children. In this case, it's government hungry to take away our guns. Go after criminals like the Epstein Files!!!!

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:26:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB2517. I appreciate the Legislature’s clear intent to protect victims of domestic violence and others who are subject to threats or intimidation. Violations of protective orders are serious matters, and courts must have meaningful tools to respond when individuals pose a genuine and demonstrable risk of harm.

However, SB2517 would automatically elevate any violation of a firearm prohibition tied to a protective or restraining order to a class C felony, without distinguishing between credible threats of violence and technical or inadvertent violations. This approach risks imposing life-altering felony consequences in cases where there has been no finding of violent conduct, no criminal conviction, and in some instances only a temporary order issued under a lower evidentiary standard.

Protective and restraining orders are often issued in civil proceedings and may be granted on an ex parte basis before a full hearing occurs. While these tools serve an important protective function, converting a violation of their firearm provisions into a felony offense raises significant due process concerns. A felony conviction carries permanent consequences: loss of civil rights, barriers to employment and housing, and long-term social and economic harm that may extend far beyond the facts of the underlying case.

If the concern is lethality risk, a more tailored policy would focus enhanced penalties on cases involving:

- Documented threats or acts of violence;

- Repeated, willful violations; or
- Clear evidence of intent to harm.

By contrast, a blanket felony penalty may discourage compliance and cooperation, strain prosecutorial resources, and reduce judicial discretion to calibrate penalties based on individual circumstances.

Public safety is best advanced by policies that are precise, proportionate, and constitutionally sound. Strengthening enforcement against actual violent conduct, improving victim services, and ensuring timely hearings may do more to reduce harm than expanding felony classifications.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider SB2517 in its current form and pursue a more narrowly tailored approach that protects victims while preserving proportionality and due process. Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:36:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
GENER MACARAEG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2517.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:36:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2517

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:39:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Revells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:11:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, the legislature needs to stop wasting valuable time looking for ridiculous ways to further restrict guns. You've already way overstepped your authority with all your previous unconstitutional infringements on our rights. Any legislator who supports or votes for this should be considered unfit for public office. Maybe I'm an idealist but I thought the legislature was supposed to be working for the people and not against us.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:42:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawaii State Legislature

We strongly oppose this very poor legislation.

Regards, Steve and Linda O'Neill

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:47:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chris Millen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this proposed bill. thank you

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:04:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keola T. Keahiolalo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Hawaii is becoming more violent with things happening in broad daylight nowadays. Once you start taking away gun rights you don't stop. You will blur the lines between criminals and regular citizens and take away rights from citizens whom should be allowed to carry legally. Why not actually have more police respond to actual tro violators and help the person rather than trying to do the take guns away measure which obviously don't work as tons of criminals have guns and also it's not just guns but knives and everything else. Stop taking gun rights away from legal citizens. Needs to be cleaner to ensure the second amendment right is never taken away from law abiding citizens

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:31:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote NO on SB2517, which would expand Hawaii's already unconstitutional "red-flag" law and raise serious due-process concerns by allowing automatic penalties without full evidentiary hearings for "Gun Violence Protection Orders."

No one should lose liberty or property without due process and this bill would strip further whatever little due process is left after the implementation of the red-flag law, against which no victim can defend, as the subject of the "protection" order is not allowed to testify in his or her own behalf at the evidentiary hearing.

This bill, if it becomes law, will be struck down in U.S. Federal court if it ever gets that far. Please, kokua, do the taxpayers a favor and vote NO on SB 2517.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:42:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ramiro Noguero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose!!

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 12:34:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank Schultz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[Senate Bill 2517](#) would expand Hawaii's already unconstitutional red flag law and raise serious due process concerns by allowing automatic penalties without full evidentiary hearings for "Gun Violence Protection Orders.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 4:27:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senators:

I respectfully oppose SB 2517. I do not believe this will curb violence in our state. Being that I worked as a Substance Abuse Specialist for the Department of Public Safety in the past, I am pretty sure the character of most of these criminal persons, do not care about the punishment they could receive for committing crimes with firearms. I believe we need to do more proactive work to prevent firearm use. Fix family issues and teaching young people about respect and honor of others. Repair the true Aloha spirit with the locals.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa, SAS-5 (Retired)

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 4:28:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Jeffrey A. White oppose SB2517.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:04:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brandon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Red flag laws are inherently unconstitutional as a violation of due process this bill makes this even worse as it allows penalties that strip foundational rights without even full evidentiary hearings, which already ought be insufficient to strip individuals of their 2nd amendment rights, the rights to defend one's own life and liberty.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:11:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna Marie Odom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I deeply oppose SB2517. Without just cause and due process, citizens should not lose their right to the 2nd AMENDMENT.

Especially in a state with a nearly 500 police officer shortage, crime on the rise and no accountability to the criminal.

Mahalo

Anna Odom

District 43

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 8:51:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:48:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ken Honma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional, the right to have and bear arms is a protected constitutional right. No caveat in the constitution; as it has been historically demonstrated that governments that turn into tyranny's need to slowly or not slowly eliminate thier inhabitants access to arms for self-defense. Our founders knew this well and so we have our 2nd amendment. The right to bear arms is not to go hunting but for defense against a tyrannical government. You have sworn to defend and uphold the Constitution of the United States. I hold you to your oath, you Must vote no.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 1:22:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB2517. This bill allows criminal penalties for firearm possession based only on a protective order, without a criminal conviction. Removing a constitutional right without full due process risks punishing people before they have had a fair chance to defend themselves. Public safety matters, but so do individual rights and fairness under the law. Laws like this can weaken trust in the justice system. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB2517.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 7:45:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Edward Codelia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2517.

I support the public-safety purpose of this measure. When a court issues a protective order, it has already determined that a credible risk of harm may exist. Preventing escalation to serious injury or death is a legitimate and important responsibility of the State, and limiting access to firearms in high-risk situations can be an appropriate preventative tool.

However, SB2517 attaches class C felony criminal liability to conduct that is triggered by a civil protective-order proceeding. Protective-order hearings serve a necessary emergency function, but they are expedited civil processes. They operate under lower evidentiary standards and are not designed to adjudicate criminal culpability.

Because a felony conviction carries permanent and serious consequences, the reliability of the underlying proceeding should be proportionate to the penalty imposed.

For this reason, I respectfully request the Committee consider clarifying amendments to strengthen the bill while preserving its safety objective:

1. Limit felony liability to violations occurring after a full evidentiary hearing, not during the temporary restraining order stage.
2. Require the issuing court to make explicit written findings that the respondent poses a credible threat of physical harm to another person.
3. Require clear documented notice to the respondent that firearm possession is prohibited and that violation constitutes a felony offense.

These adjustments would not weaken the protective purpose of SB2517. Instead, they would reinforce it by ensuring the law is fair, enforceable, and resilient to legal challenge. Public confidence in safety measures increases when people understand that serious criminal penalties follow a reliable and well-documented process.

Protective orders and constitutional protections are not opposing values. A narrowly tailored statute can preserve both safety and due process, and I believe SB2517 can accomplish that with careful drafting.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 5:43:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Stop trying to take away our 2nd ammendment rights. I am.a law abiding citizen so don't take away my freedom and rights. We are not the problem, neither are our guns. What's next ban on knives because of too many stabbings. Once again I oppose SB2517

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 1:16:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Ann Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2517

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 3:35:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Dufault	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*This bill potentially implicates: **2nd Amendment, 5th & 14th Amendments** (due process).*

As a full-time resident on the island of Hawaii the past 25 years, I write you today letting you know I **Oppose SB2517**.

This bill allows criminal penalties for firearm possession based only on a protective order, without a criminal conviction. Removing a constitutional right without full due process risks punishing people before they have had a fair chance to defend themselves.

Public safety matters, but so do individual rights and fairness under the law. Laws like this can weaken trust in the justice system.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB2517.

Donna "Davina" Dufault

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 3:06:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brad Pocock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill we already have a red flag law we don't need to improve it anymore.  
Remember elections are coming up you were voted in and you can be voted out

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 10:45:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Gibson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb2517

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 11:55:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paula Blum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not constitutional

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 5:07:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CARLA SUE JENKINS	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Oppose SB2517.**

This bill allows criminal penalties for firearm possession based only on a protective order, without a criminal conviction. Removing a constitutional right without full due process risks punishing people before they have had a fair chance to defend themselves.

Public safety matters, but so do individual rights and fairness under the law. Laws like this can weaken trust in the justice system.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB2517.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chairman  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairman  
Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairman Rhoads; Vice Chairman Gabbard,

I am writing to register my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to Bill SB2517 (all forms put forth to date), the proposed legislation on public carry of firearms.

I oppose this bill because it violates basic, essential protections guaranteed by the Bill of Rights:

1) This bill will do nothing to prevent a violent individual from committing acts of violence. Nothing. Such a person will always find a way to do violence, unless they are taken into custody. If someone is too dangerous to be entrusted with keeping arms, they are too dangerous to be out free in public.

2) This bill will make an already Unconstitutional law even worse, by increasing the severity of the crime. This despite the fact that accused has NOT been convicted of any crime by our legal system. It is heinously Unconstitutional.

3) The base "red flag" law strips a citizen of Constitutional rights based solely upon an accusation. It denies the accused the right to be informed of their transgression, the right to face their accuser, and the right to a speedy trial before a jury of peers before suffering the loss of rights (in blatant violation of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Amendments).

4) So-called "red flag" laws are easily abused, with no consequences accruing to those who falsely accuse another. The process is the punishment, making it a convenient instrument of revenge for petty grievances.

So. PLEASE vote AGAINST this bill. It is not only bad policy, imposing consequences of guilt by accusation, but it also blatantly violates the supreme law of the land, which is the Bill of Rights as enshrined in The Constitution of the United States.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell Price  
831 Lower Kimo Drive

Kula, Hawaii 96790  
808-763-9653  
rnfrmprice@gmail.com

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:08:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Picadura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair **Karl Rhoads**, Vice-Chair **Mike Gabbard**, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Joseph Picadura, and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2517.

SB 2517 strengthens public safety by establishing a Class C felony penalty for the unlawful possession, control, or transfer of a firearm or ammunition by a person who is subject to a valid judicial protective order or restraining order.

Currently, individuals under these court orders are prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition, but a violation is treated only as a misdemeanor. That penalty does not reflect the serious public safety risk involved. Protective orders are typically issued in cases of domestic violence, stalking, or harassment—situations where there is already a heightened risk of harm. When someone under such an order unlawfully possesses a firearm, the danger increases significantly.

Classifying this violation as a misdemeanor undermines the purpose of the protective order and fails to send a strong enough message. Elevating the offense to a Class C felony appropriately reflects the gravity of the violation and the potential for lethal consequences.

Across the country, states are strengthening laws addressing the connection between firearms and domestic violence. SB 2517 ensures that Hawai'i keeps pace and provides meaningful accountability for those who violate court-ordered protections.

This bill is an important step toward better protecting victims and enhancing community safety.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass Senate Bill 2517.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:55:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb 2517 every legal and lawful American citizen has a right to bare arms. This bill violates our 2nd and 14th amendments. This bill allows for no due process and punishes the innocent.

**LATE**

**SB-2517**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:04:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb2517. This bill violates our constitutional amendments #2 and #14. There must be due process.