

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
Director

ERNEST J. ROBELLO
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2575, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FIREARMS
Before the House Committee on
FINANCE
Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308
Testifiers: Mike Lambert

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law and Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 2575, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1. This bill enhances penalties for several serious firearm-related offenses. Specifically, it elevates the offense of possession or transfer of firearms by a restrained person from a misdemeanor to a class C felony, increases the penalty for carrying a firearm under the influence from a misdemeanor to a class B felony, and establishes the unlawful possession of methamphetamine while carrying a firearm as a new class B felony offense. The bill also establishes mandatory minimum prison terms for certain firearm-related class A felonies and creates new class A felony classifications for carrying firearms while under the influence of controlled substances.

The DLE supports these enhanced penalties as they reflect the serious threat to public safety posed by individuals who carry or possess firearms while under the influence of controlled substances or while subject to a restraining order. The combination of firearms and substance abuse, particularly methamphetamine, presents an elevated and immediate danger to communities, law enforcement officers, and the general

public. Elevating these offenses to felony classifications sends a clear and necessary message that such conduct will not be tolerated and provides law enforcement and prosecutors with appropriate tools to address these dangerous behaviors.

Additionally, the establishment of mandatory minimum prison terms for firearm-related class A felonies will serve as a meaningful deterrent and ensure that the most serious offenders face consistent and proportionate consequences. The DLE believes that stronger sentencing structures for firearm offenses are essential to reducing gun violence and protecting the safety of Hawaii's residents.

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

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

DEFENDER COUNCIL
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

HONOLULU OFFICE
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
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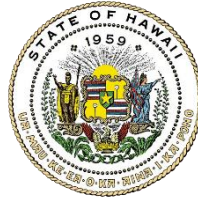
APPELLATE DIVISION
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FAMILY COURT DIVISION
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STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

HAYLEY Y. C. CHENG
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April 6, 2026

SB 2575, SD2, HD1: RELATING TO FIREARMS

Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi and Members of the House Committee on Finance

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **respectfully opposes SB 2575, SD2, HD1**, however the OPD greatly appreciates the amendments made to this bill from its original draft. The following are the current concerns of the OPD in relation to proposed changes to HRS section 134-9.4:

The proposed changes to HRS 134-9.4 contains language which would lead to inconsistent results. Amendments to (5)(b)(1)(2)(3) make it a class B felony to possess a firearm while under the influence of a controlled substance, which could include some prescribed medications taken properly. Subsection (2) would make it a class B felony to possess a firearm while at the same time possessing methamphetamine, which would have no nexus to dangerousness, as again the proposed language of this section does not require intoxication or use of methamphetamine. Lastly, subsection (3) makes it only a petty misdemeanor to be under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating liquor while in possession of a firearm. Thus, saying that one is perhaps less dangerous while drunk and in possession of a firearm. The OPD feels that the proposed language herein sends mixed messages to the community regarding the possession of firearms. However again, we do greatly appreciate these amendments from the original draft of the bill.

In conclusion, the OPD understands and respects the legislature's right to promulgate laws perceived to be necessary for the betterment of the public. However, in this instance we feel that the proposed changes to the law in

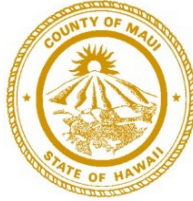
SB2575, SD2, HD1 are not necessary, and that current law is adequate for the proper adjudication of criminal defendants so situated.

Thank you for the ability to comment on this measure.

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
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TESTIMONY ON
S.B. 2575 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO FIREARMS

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Chris Todd
Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the following comments **in support of S.B. 2575 SD2 HD1, Relating to Firearms**. This bill would increase public safety by increasing the penalty for certain firearm possession offenses.

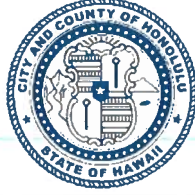
We support this bill because it provides an appropriate sentence for offenders who possess, control or transfer firearms while a protective or restraining order is in effect. It also recognizes the danger posed by offenders who consume or are under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances while possessing a firearm, as well as those who possess methamphetamine while carrying a firearm.

For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui **supports S.B. 2575 SD2 HD1**. 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.

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

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEI/A



RADE K. VANIC
INTERIM CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I KŪIKAWA

BRANDON NAKASATO
RAYNOR M. IKEHARA
INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEFS
NĀ HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I KŪIKAWA

OUR REFERENCE **AS-DNK**

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
and Members
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2575, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Firearms

I am Arnold Sagucio, Acting Major of the Records and Identification Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2575, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Firearms.

The HPD is in full support of the enhanced sentencing for felony firearm offenders. This will send a clear message to possible violators to abstain from such actions. Tougher penalties will reduce recidivism for past firearm offenders from committing the same crimes.

Another facet of the bill that is greatly appreciated is that it will help protect victims of domestic violence and harassment and the general public from individuals who are respondents of court orders of protection. The illegal ownership, transfer, possession, or control of firearms would become a Class A felony with maximum mandatory terms.

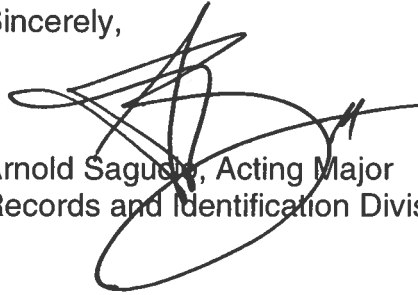
Finally, the depraved combination of guns and illicit narcotics, especially methamphetamines, is a mixture for disaster. We appreciate this legislative body taking the next step to protect the people of the state of Hawai'i and its keiki.

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
and Members
April 7, 2026
Page 2

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 2575, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Firearms.

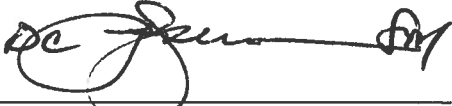
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Arnold Sagushi, Acting Major
Records and Identification Division

APPROVED:



Rade K. Vanic
Interim Chief of Police

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO HO'OPI'I
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
LOIO HO'OPI'I



THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
HOPE MUA LOIO HO'OPI'I

**THE HONORABLE CHRIS TODD, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawai'i**

April 07, 2026

RE: S.B. 2575, S.D.2, H.D.1; RELATING TO FIREARMS.

Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and members of the House Committees on Finance, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu (“Department”) submits the following testimony in **strong support** of S.B. 2575, S.D.2, H.D.1.

S.B. 2575, S.D.2, H.D.1 honors the memory of Officer Suzanne O., who was killed in the line of duty responding to a terroristic threatening call on Maui. Police officers face danger from armed criminals every day. This bill sends a clear message of deterrence and resolve.

This bill creates mandatory minimum sentences for felons in possession of firearms¹ and the use of a firearm in specified firearm-related offenses or circumstances. It also significantly elevates the penalties for violating a protective order through prohibited acquisition of a firearm. Finally, it creates a new offense for the possession of a firearm while in unlawful possession of methamphetamine—elevating this conduct to a Class A felony.

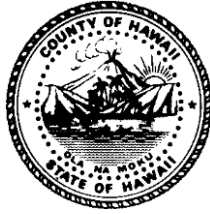
These provisions target highly dangerous conduct and the most egregious firearms crimes involving violent felonies, protective order violations, or drug use—all aggravated by the presence of a deadly weapon. Each class represents an immediate and serious threat to both police officers and the general public.

A mandatory minimum sentence creates certainty that the most dangerous firearm offenders will face serious consequences. This certainty provides meaningful deterrence for those who might otherwise engage in such conduct. For those who breach that warning, the bill provides sentencing that removes a proven danger from the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ HRS § 134-7.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



William V. Brillhante, Jr.
Managing Director

Merrick Nishimoto
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor

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Testimony of
C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Before the House Committee on
Finance
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
Senate Bill No. 2575 SD2, HD1
Relating to Firearms

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2575, SD2, HD1, which sets mandatory minimum prison sentences for certain serious crimes involving firearms.

This measure will help keep our island community safer by making sure that people who commit serious crimes with firearms face penalties that match the danger they pose. It especially targets those who have firearms while under a restraining order, protective order, or while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

These dangerous situations are ones our police officers deal with every day and can quickly become violent. This measure is affectionately known as "Officer O's Crime Bill" to honor fallen Maui Police Officer Suzanne O, who gave her life serving Maui nui.

Officer O's sacrifice reminds us of the risks our officers and their families face. Moving this measure forward would demonstrate our collective commitment to protecting the heroes who protect us.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 2575, SD2, HD1.

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

SHANNON M. KAGAWA
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2575, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO FIREARMS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
State Capitol Conference Room 308
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee on Finance: The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony **in support** of Senate Bill 2575, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1.

SB 2575, SD 2, HD 1 honors the memory of Maui Police Department Officer Suzanne O. who was killed in the line of duty while responding to a trespassing, terroristic threatening, and firearms complaint at approximately 8:30pm on August 15, 2025 near the Paia Sugar Mill. This measure addresses issues of firearms possession in relation to temporary restraining orders and/or protective orders. In addition, this bill addresses the unlawful conduct of carrying a firearm while being under the influence of alcohol, and/or controlled substances, and/or the possession of methamphetamine.

This bill recognizes the serious and immediate danger posed when individuals subject to court orders retain access to firearms. These situations often involve heightened emotional tension and risk of violence and ensuring compliance with firearm surrender laws can save lives. Clarifying that individuals must either surrender their firearms or disclose their location also closes a dangerous loophole that could otherwise be exploited.

This legislation is not only about accountability, but also prevention. By empowering law enforcement with clearer authority to recover firearms and by establishing stronger consequences for noncompliance, the bill reduces the likelihood of firearms being used in acts of domestic violence, self-harm, or other crimes.

Secondly, the bill appropriately enhances penalties for those who carry firearms while under the influence of drugs or in possession of dangerous substances like methamphetamine. The addition of methamphetamine acknowledges the well-documented connection between

substance abuse and unpredictable, high-risk behavior. Elevating these violations to felony-level offenses sends a clear message that combining firearms with methamphetamine will not be tolerated.

The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney is dedicated to pursuing justice with integrity and commitment. SB 2575, SD 2, HD 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, while honoring the memory of Officer Suzanne O. 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 these reasons, the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of Senate Bill 2575, Seante Draft 2, House Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



Reed K. Mahuna
Police Chief

William V. Brilhante Jr.
Managing Director

Sherry D. Bird
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai`i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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April 6, 2026

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
And Members
Committee on Finance
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representatives Todd and Takenouchi and Members:

RE: SENATE BILL 2575 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO FIREARMS
DATE: APRIL 7, 2026
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: VIDEOCONFERENCE
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2575 SD2 HD1, which strengthens Hawai`i's firearm-related statutes and enhances safeguards for victims, law enforcement officers, and the public.

This measure improves public safety by imposing more appropriate consequences for dangerous firearm-related behavior. Individuals who knowingly violate restraining or protective orders, who carry firearms while impaired by controlled substances, or who unlawfully possess methamphetamine while armed present elevated risks to the community and to responding officers. SB2575 SD2 HD1 acknowledges these risks by enhancing penalties for these high-risk actions and by clarifying procedures that help ensure compliance with court-ordered firearm restrictions.

SB2575 SD2 HD1 advances several important objectives:

- Strengthening penalties for serious, high-risk firearm offenses so consequences more closely reflect the danger posed when firearms are misused or carried in unlawful circumstances.
- Enhancing victim safety by reinforcing compliance with restraining and protective orders that are intended to prevent violence.

SENATE BILL 2575 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO FIREARMS

DATE: APRIL 7, 2026

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: VIDEOCONFERENCE

CONFERENCE ROOM 308

Page 2

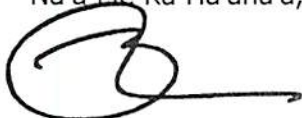
- Improving officer safety by addressing behaviors—such as drug impairment or unlawful methamphetamine possession while armed—that increase the volatility of law enforcement encounters.
- Clarifying firearm surrender procedures, supporting consistent enforcement and safer service of court orders involving weapons.

By better aligning penalties with the seriousness of dangerous firearm conduct, this measure promotes accountability, encourages compliance, and helps deter actions that threaten community safety.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Police Departments respectfully recommends that the Committee pass SB2575 SD2 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Na'u Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

REED K. MAHUNA
POLICE CHIEF



JOHN PELLETIER
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET
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WADE M. MAEDA
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

April 4, 2026

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
and Members
Finance Committee
The Thirty-Third Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of S.B. 2575 SD2 HD1, Relating to Firearms

Dear Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Finance Committee:

I write to express my unequivocal support for SB 2575 SD2 HD1.

This bill draws a clear line, if you are already breaking the law, or under a court order, you should not be allowed to carry a firearm in Hawaii. By requiring mandatory prison sentences for the most serious firearm offenses, it sends a strong message that Hawaii will not accept reckless or violent behavior involving firearms. It puts the safety of victims and our communities first, showing that accountability and protection are essential.

From a law enforcement perspective, the risks are clear. Officers responding to domestic violence, traffic stops, or disturbances often face very dangerous situations. Tougher penalties for unlawful firearm possession by high-risk offender's help reduce the chance of armed resistance, calm tense situations, and lower the risk of officer-involved shootings. Preventing these incidents is the best way to ensure accountability.

These tragedies often share the same warning signs, such as individuals already engaged in serious criminal conduct, individuals subject to court orders, or impaired by drugs or alcohol, and individuals armed with firearms they should never have possessed. These are not unforeseeable acts; they are predictable and preventable circumstances that demand decisive intervention. SB 2575 SD2 HD1 addresses these high-risk factors directly, strengthening protections for our communities, our officers, and victims of violence.

SB 2575 SD2 HD1 honors not only Officer Suzanne O, but all law enforcement officers in Hawaii who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, as well as the spouses, children, parents, and siblings whose lives have been forever changed by their loss. While we cannot undo past tragedies, we must take deliberate, concrete steps to prevent future ones.

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
and Members
Finance Committee
April 4, 2026
Page 2

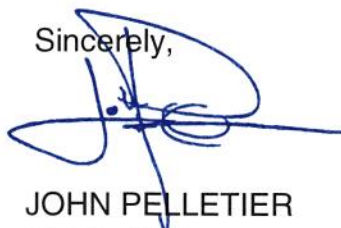
Hawaii cannot afford another preventable officer-involved shooting. Hawaii cannot afford another grieving family, whether that family is of a community member or an officer who did not return home.

Every resident, every family that relies on the rule of law, and every officer deserves our full, unwavering dedication to keeping them safe, a duty we owe to them and must honor without compromise.

Public safety demands action. Our communities deserve both prevention and protection. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB 2575 SD2 HD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Pelletier', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

JOHN PELLETIER
Chief of Police



April 7, 2026

House Committee on Finance

Support for SB 2575, SD2, HD1, Relating to Firearms

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The **State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO)** supports **SB 2575, SD2, HD1**. We strongly prefer the version of this measure which, among other things, would have established mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment for certain class A felonies involving firearms.

Restoring the earlier provisions in this measure would strengthen public safety protection by ensuring that serious firearm-related offenses carry penalties that reflect the level of risk posed to the community. In particular, the bill addresses situations in which an individual possesses, controls, or transfers a firearm while subject to a restraining order or protective order, as well as circumstances in which a person is in possession of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. These are high-risk scenarios that law enforcement officers regularly encounter and that have the potential to escalate quickly into violent incidents.

This measure is intended to be known as the Officer O Crime bill, in honor of Maui Police Officer Suzanne O, a dedicated five-year officer who died in the line of duty while serving our community. Officer O made the ultimate sacrifice in the protection of others, and her loss is a solemn reminder of the risks law enforcement officers face every day. Naming this measure in her memory reflects the Legislature's commitment to officer safety and to ensuring that laws provide meaningful

Respectfully submitted,

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



IN OPPOSITION TO SB2575 SD2

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is in strong opposition to SB2575 SD2. This bill would establish mandatory minimum sentences for certain class A felony firearms offenses, elevate several existing offenses to class A felonies, and create new criminal categories. While the bill is framed as a public safety measure, its approach is constitutionally troubling, demonstrably ineffective, and fundamentally unjust.

Mandatory minimum sentencing has been one of the most damaging policy experiments in modern American criminal justice. Decades of evidence from federal courts to state systems across the country demonstrate that mandatory minimums do not deter crime. Removing the ability of a court to weigh mitigating factors, context, or rehabilitation potential does not make communities safer. It makes the punishment rigid, but not necessarily proportionate or just.

This measure would elevate what are currently misdemeanor offenses to class A felonies. Class A felonies carry sentences of up to twenty years in prison. Turning misdemeanor conduct into **the most serious felony classification in Hawaii law** is a dramatic and disproportionate leap that this Legislature should reject. Hawaii's courts should retain the flexibility to match punishment to the individual facts of the case.

Creating a standalone class A felony for possession of methamphetamine while carrying a firearm compounds two failed policy frameworks: mandatory minimums and the War on Drugs. This provision will disproportionately impact low-income residents and people struggling with addiction. It cannot reduce the violent offenders it claims to be targeting. Criminalizing the simultaneous presence of a substance and a firearm, without any requirement of violent conduct or criminal intent beyond mere possession, will fill prisons but will not reduce harm.

The bill also escalates penalties for individuals who possess a firearm **while being prosecuted for** (not yet convicted of) a felony. This means that a person who is “presumed innocent” could face a class A felony based on charges that are not yet proven because of a constitutionally protected possession. This is a direct affront to the presumption of innocence.

The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that the Second Amendment protects the individual right to keep and bear arms. Piling class A felony enhancements onto conduct that may involve lawful firearm ownership, particularly in the context of active prosecutions or civil restraining orders that have not been fully adjudicated. This measure risks sweeping up law-abiding residents in a dragnet supposedly aimed at criminals.

Mandatory minimums have failed.



Penalty escalation without proportionality has failed.

Criminalizing poverty and addiction has failed.

The path to genuine public safety runs through effective policing of actual violent conduct, fair adjudication, and a justice system that treats individuals with dignity, not through blunt sentencing mandates that indiscriminately ruin lives. The Libertarian Party of Hawaii urges this Committee to kill SB2575 SD2.

For liberty,

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

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:05:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

While I agree in part with this bill, I must stand in **OPPOSITION** to it as currently worded. The wording is highly confusing in some portions and even contradictory at times. Within the same sentence the same offence is listed as both a Felony and a Misdemeanor with no distinction between the two.

The Federal minimum for such firearms related offenses are typically 5 years, not 20.

Some of the offenses listed are fairly minor on their own and are Malum Prohibitum crimes, not Malum in se crimes. This would elevate something as simple as being drunk while having a firearm to an offense Akin to Murder in the State of Hawaii, even if no other harm is done. Certain prescription medications also fall under this bill as ‘controlled substances’.

I must also point out that under current Hawaii law, any misdemeanors that occur when a firearm is present is elevated to a felony.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:30:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retired police officer, I very strongly support SB2575.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:48:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This will create more problems than it will solve.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:48:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Increasing/establishing penalties for unsafe firearm carry and possession, is key to increasing firearm safety. Firearms are the leading cause of death for keiki in the US. It's our responsibility to make sure that firearm owners are responsible and following the law.

Judith White, Kapaa

Member Hawaii MDA

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:27:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support all ways to strenghten gun control laws and enforcement.

Thank you, Gail Morrison, Honolulu

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:32:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 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 SB2575 as amended by the previous committee. This bill strengthens penalties for firearms offenses involving individuals who pose a danger to public safety, while striking a careful balance between accountability and proportionality.

The previous committee's amendments have made this a smarter, more effective bill—one that targets the most dangerous conduct without resorting to overly draconian policies that either infringe on rights or deliver excessive penalties.

The Need for Stronger Deterrence—With Balance

Hawai‘i has long had some of the strongest gun laws in the nation, contributing to one of the lowest rates of gun violence in the country. But we cannot afford complacency. The 2025 legislative session saw significant action on gun safety, including measures to ban assault weapons and large-capacity magazines. SB2575 complements those efforts by addressing the individuals who should not have access to firearms in the first place.

However, effective gun safety legislation must be carefully calibrated. Overly harsh penalties can be counterproductive, clogging prisons with low-level offenders while failing to address the most serious risks. The previous committee understood this and made thoughtful adjustments that preserve public safety while avoiding excessive punishment.

Strong Support for the Previous Committee's Amendments

I want to express my **strong support** for the changes made by the previous committee, which strike a better balance than the original version:

1. Removing mandatory minimum sentences. The committee deleted language that would have established mandatory minimum terms for certain class A felonies involving firearms. This was the right decision. Mandatory minimums strip judges of discretion and often produce unjust outcomes. They have been shown to disproportionately impact communities of color and fill prisons with non-violent offenders without corresponding public safety benefits. The original bill's mandatory minimums would have tied the hands of our judges; the amended version trusts them to impose appropriate sentences based on the facts of each case.

2. Scaling back the protective order offense. The committee changed the penalty for firearm possession by a person subject to a protective order from a class A felony to a **class C felony**. This is a measured and appropriate adjustment. A class A felony carries a potential life sentence—a draconian penalty for what is, at its core, a possession offense. A class C felony remains a serious crime with meaningful consequences, but it no longer equates possessing a firearm while subject to a protective order with the most serious violent crimes in our code. This strikes the right balance: serious consequences without excessive punishment.

3. Restoring discretion for prohibited persons. The committee deleted language that would have elevated firearm possession by a felon to a class A felony and reinstated existing law authorizing an indeterminate term of imprisonment if the prior felony conviction is a crime of violence. The original approach was a blunt instrument. The amended version recognizes that not all felony convictions are equal, and that prior convictions for non-violent offenses should not trigger the same enhanced penalties as prior violent crimes. This is fairer and more targeted.

4. Adjusting drug-and-firearms offenses to class B felonies. The committee changed the penalty for carrying a firearm while under the influence of a controlled substance, and for possessing methamphetamine while carrying a firearm, from class A to **class B felonies**. A class B felony carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison—a substantial consequence. The original class A designation, with its potential life sentence, was excessive for these offenses. The amended version ensures serious penalties for dangerous conduct without imposing life sentences for conduct that, while reckless, falls short of the most serious violent crimes.

What the Bill Still Does

Even with these thoughtful amendments, SB2575 remains a strong public safety measure:

- **Protective order violations** are now class C felonies—still a serious offense with meaningful consequences for individuals a court has determined pose a threat.
- **Drug-and-firearms combinations** are class B felonies—substantial penalties for a potentially lethal combination.
- **Prior violent felons** who possess firearms face appropriate enhanced penalties.
- **Prosecutors retain the tools** they need to hold dangerous individuals accountable.

Why Balance Matters

The previous committee's amendments reflect a sophisticated understanding of criminal justice policy. Overly harsh penalties do not necessarily increase public safety—they often produce diminishing returns while imposing enormous costs on taxpayers and human lives. A class A felony for a protective order violation would have been disproportionate. A class A felony for carrying a firearm while under the influence would have treated that conduct as equivalent to murder or rape. That is not justice; it is excess.

The amended SB2575 gets it right. It targets dangerous conduct, imposes meaningful consequences, but trusts our judges to exercise discretion and reserves the most severe penalties for the most severe conduct.

The previous committee struck a careful, thoughtful balance—preserving public safety without resorting to draconian policies. This is smart, effective legislation. I urge this committee to pass SB2575 as amended.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:30:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support. Thank you!

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:10:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 4:44:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 4:56:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john savino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2575

Changes from a misdemeanor to a class A felony the penalty for ownership, possession, control, or transfer of ownership of any firearms or ammunition by a person who a court order has restrained from contacting, threatening, or physically abusing any person.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 5:52:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Codelia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in opposition to the proposed legislation being advanced in response to the tragic death of a Maui police officer.

Let me be clear at the outset. The death of any officer in the line of duty is a tragedy. It affects families, fellow officers, and the entire community. That loss deserves respect and careful reflection.

What it does **not** deserve is a rushed legislative reaction that creates harsher criminal penalties while ignoring the operational, training, and policy failures that often lead to these confrontations.

This bill appears to follow a familiar pattern in government: when a tragedy occurs, lawmakers move quickly to pass a law named after the victim. The emotional momentum behind that effort can be powerful, but emotion is not a substitute for sound policy. When legislation is written under those circumstances, the result is often symbolic rather than effective.

The central premise of this proposal is that increasing penalties for firearm violations will prevent similar tragedies in the future. That assumption is flawed.

In the case that prompted this legislation, the fatal encounter occurred during a police response to a report involving a trespasser with a firearm. The outcome of that encounter was determined in seconds by tactical decisions, situational awareness, and operational conditions on the ground. It was not determined by the length of a potential prison sentence written in the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes.

Criminal penalties operate **after** an incident has occurred. They do not control how officers approach a potentially armed individual, how situations are assessed in the field, or whether de-escalation and containment tactics are used. Those outcomes are driven by training, leadership, and department policy.

If lawmakers are serious about preventing similar tragedies, the responsible questions are different ones:

- What tactical protocols guided the officers responding to that scene?
- What training exists in Hawai'i for responding to armed individuals in rural or remote environments?
- What policies govern containment, distance, and communication before officers close contact with a suspect?
- What oversight mechanisms exist to review high-risk encounters and adjust training accordingly?

None of those issues are addressed in this bill.

Instead, the Legislature is being asked to increase penalties that will have little to no effect on the operational realities faced by police officers in the field. This is not a strategy for preventing tragedy. It is a symbolic response that creates the appearance of action while avoiding the more difficult work of examining institutional practices.

There is also a broader concern with the growing pattern of “memorial legislation.” Laws named after victims often pass with overwhelming emotional support, but they can lead to poorly considered policy changes that accumulate over time without measurable public safety benefits.

Public safety policy should be built on analysis, data, and operational review—not grief-driven legislation.

If the Legislature truly wishes to honor the life of the officer who was lost, the most meaningful response would be to invest in:

- Improved tactical and de-escalation training for law enforcement
- Independent review of officer-involved shootings and high-risk encounters
- Modern response protocols for rural and remote incidents
- Clearer operational guidance for officers responding to armed individuals

These steps address the real factors that determine whether officers and residents return home safely.

Passing a bill that simply increases criminal penalties does not.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **defer or reject this legislation** and instead focus on the deeper structural issues that influence officer safety and public safety in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Edward Codelia

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:55:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Members of The State of Hawai'i House Committee On Finance,

The provisions put forth by this latest version of SB2575, SD2, HD1 much the same as the original extremist SB2575 SD1 version, then followed by the reshuffled to appear more complex and well written but still extreme SB2575, SD2 is ONCE AGAIN an exercise in State government overreach by YET AGAIN proposing to elevate possession, control, or transfer of a firearm or ammunition while subject to a red flag order (GVPO) from a MISDEMEANOR to this time a CLASS C FELONY. Again, as before, the problem is, no matter how many times this bill is repainted and re-presented, it carries a HIGH RISK OF ABUSE OF POWER by attempting to side step American citizens residing in the State of Hawai'i's right to DUE PROCESS under the 5th and 14th Amendments of the CONSTITUTION. It must be reminded that Hawai'i is a full fledged State of the United States of America and as such must fully abide by the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and ALL of it's Amendments in ALL CASES. Furthermore, and once again, the penalties associated with existing red flag orders (GVPO's) in the State of Hawai'i are already MORE THAN SUFFICIENT and questionably 2nd Amendment Civil Rights violating as it stands. Yet once again, pushing these boundaries even further will no doubt draw yet more attention and scrutiny from the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division in particular Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon's Second Amendment Section. Surely, we would assume, the Hawai'i State Legislature as a whole and the Hawai'i State House Committee On Finance do not want to be associated IN ANY WAY with passing through potentially Civil Rights violating legislation by any means. This bill SB2575 SD2 HD1 is merely another rehashed overtexted version of it's extreme predecessors, SB2575 SD1, SB2575 SD2 pushing the same potential Civil Rights violations attempting to deprive American citizens residing in the State of Hawai'i DUE PROCESS which is guaranteed under the 5th and 14th Amendments of the Constitution.

Once again in the case that it is unknown to any in attendance it must be reminded that under **TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTION 242, DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS UNDER COLOR OF LAW**, which can be confirmed at the official United States Department of Justice website, it a Felony crime for a person acting under color of any law to willfully deprive a person of a right or privilege protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

For the purpose of Section 242, acts under "color of law" include acts not only done by federal, state, or local officials within their lawful authority, but also acts done beyond the bounds of that

official's lawful authority, if the acts are done while the official is purporting to or pretending to act in the performance of his/her official duties.

My sincerest thanks for taking the time to read and recognize this testimony before the Committee as well as respecting my Constitutional 1st Amendment right to the freedom of speech and the press. I do greatly appreciate it and trust that you will make the correct decision to forgo advancing SB2575 SD2 HD1 in its present form, or altogether. Once again the penalties associated with existing red flag orders (GVPO's) in the State of Hawai'i are already MORE THAN SUFFICIENT and questionably 2nd Amendment Civil Rights violating as it stands. It has been admitted by the Hawai'i State Legislature that Hawai'i ALREADY has some of the strongest gun safety laws and lowest rates of gun deaths in the nation. Further measures such as this bill SD2575 SD2 HD1 are clearly unnecessary and continued attempts to push them through Committee are a WASTE of American citizens that reside in the State of Hawai'i's hard earned tax dollars which could be put to far more effective use addressing housing and climate change issues that we can all surely agree on.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 2:32:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzette Perreira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 2:41:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad Etherton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Police Officer and fully support this measure.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Via Videoconference and Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2575, SD2, HD1 - RELATING TO FIREARMS.

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Rep. Miyake for my Maui district, Rep. Yamashita of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years. I am writing today in **strong support of SB 2575, SD2, HD1**, Relating to Firearms, which changes from a misdemeanor to a class C felony the penalty for possessing, controlling, or transferring ownership of any firearm or ammunition by a person who is restrained by court order from contacting, threatening, or physically abusing any person; changes from a misdemeanor to a class B felony the penalty for carrying a firearm while under the influence of a controlled substance; and establishes unlawful possession of methamphetamine while carrying a firearm as a class B felony.

In the mid-1990's, I was involved with the Hawai'i Firearms Control Coalition and the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition which were lead organizations in working to address gun violence as a public health crisis. I am proud that the efforts of the coalitions succeeded in passing substantive gun violence prevention measures at the time that have continued to place Hawai'i amongst the leaders nationwide in the effort to minimize the morbidity and mortality associated with guns.

Unfortunately, the use of firearms in domestic violence continues to be a threat for victims of domestic abuse. In the US, **more than 25 million adults have been threatened or nonfatally injured by an intimate partner with a firearm and access to a gun makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed by an abusive intimate partner.**

Living in Wailuku, Maui, I have seen the increased presence of guns and how they impact our community. When I owned and operated a small family business in the Happy Valley neighborhood in the early 2000's, we never had concerns about violent crime. Gun-related violence or even the presence of guns was unheard of, and Happy Valley has a reputation as a rough neighborhood. Things have changed over the past twenty years. Now we witness people carrying guns and we see gun violence. **At my family business, there was even an armed robbery where staff were robbed at gunpoint.** This would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. My daughter lives and works at the family business in Happy Valley now. I am concerned for her safety if the presence of guns and gun violence continues to escalate.

We must take action now to stem the rising tide of gun violence on Maui, where we are seeing a criminal element that has access to guns and is willing to use them. The successes of the firearms control coalition more than thirty years ago laid a foundation that SB 2575, SD2, HD1 builds upon and I respectfully request that you vote in support.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:55:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sanders LEON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:46:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB2575.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 7:35:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2575 SD2 HD1

Testimony Susan Pcola-Davis

Comments: it is confusing!

This version takes away some of the wording that the last bundle of testimonies objected to.

I always support any firearms bill that protects those in harms way.

I agree that there is ambiguity in its current form.

This section is reasonable and a no brainer;

Strongly Support this part

Unlawful conduct while carrying a firearm; penalty.

(a) A person carrying a firearm shall not:

- (1) Consume alcohol or intoxicating liquor;
- (2) Consume a controlled substance;
- (3) Be under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating liquor; [or]
- (4) Be under the influence of a controlled substance[.]; or
- (5) Unlawfully possess methamphetamine in violation of part IV of chapter 712.

Here is where the confusing begins; mixing Class B and petty misdemeanor.

Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; provided that any person who violates this section by [consuming]:

- (1) Being under the influence of a controlled substance shall be guilty of a class B felony;
- (2) Unlawfully possessing methamphetamine in violation of part IV of chapter 712 shall be guilty of a class B felony; and
- (3) Consuming or being under the influence of alcohol or an intoxicating liquor shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:49:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Bishaw-Juario	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, write in support of Bill SB2575. That higher felony charge will allow the Judicial level to impose stiffer penalties for such crimes that will in turn make our community safer.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:06:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NICHOLE COMILANG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised in the Maui County Community, why I say that? My father is a retired police Capitan with the Maui Police Department, and I myself is a 24 year vet of Maui Police Department. I have seen our community become more dangerous than ever with the access of weapons in our community.

No matter how much we work on getting the drugs and weapons off our streets within the state of Hawaii, the offenders just receive a slap on the wrist and now becomes our problem as Law Enforcement to deal with them again, as they go back to the same situations as before.

We know our so called frequent flyers as we call them by name and face. We try to put them away but with our weak laws they are right back out doing the same thing. But now they are killing our police officers and our members of our community.

It is a vicious cycle with the drug use here, and the other thing we should be looking at is better mental health facilities which in the outter islands are few and far between. I know that is another issue that is not in this bill, but it is a contributing factor to our problm.

Voting yes to push this bill through will be just another step in the right direction to safe guard our communities within the State of Hawaii. Again, this is to help the cause that these offenders are not just released on petty misdemeanors and misdemeanors to go out and do the same thing all over again.

This needs to stop, and we need this bill to at least start the momentuem to make Hawaii a safer place to live. I know it will never be the same like when I was growing up, we have changed so much. But, the laws need to start adapting with the change, and the behaviors that are being brought into our communities from the big cities in the mainland.

Again, please vote yes. As that night on August 15th, 2025 will always be apart of me as I was working and losing my sister, being at the scene, and knowing that we can all do better. Starting with stiffer penalties.

Mahalo for you time and support,

Nichole K. COMILANG

(808)866-8952

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:18:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

My name is Ashley Sentinella, and I am one of the juvenile counselors on the island of Maui. My job entails working with juveniles to walk a better path in life through Hawaiian cultural integration, especially when there is a first-time arrest.

Throughout my childhood, I had a few family relatives who were in the police force. I've heard stories of their time and one story that stuck with me was my mom as a child receiving a call in the middle of the night from a male that threatened to harm the family because my grandfather was in vice and arrested said male. The family had to stay at another relatives house until things settled. Because I work with youth in school settings and non-profit organizations, my path led me to working in the police force alongside with my fellow officers as a civilian doing what I do best to work with kids to help prevent crime in the future.

Officer Suzanne O was a woman that helped women get out of domestic situations, bought food for others in need, and brought positivity in the force. Her unfortunate event brought me to anger because we lost a great person. I cannot find forgiveness to the man that shot her and will not be able to in my lifetime.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2170 because although my job is preventative/intervention with the younger generation, we as a community cannot ignore what is going on today. There are too many cases that involve gun violence in our state because guns are in the hands of people that should not possess such weapons or weapons of any kind. We need stricter laws and consequences to those that have felonies on their record. Every county if the state of Hawai'i are short-handed with officers because the work is tough. Everyday that they are on duty, they risk their lives as tomorrow is not promised.

Mahalo for your time.

April 6, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support Senate Bill 2575, HD1, also known as "O's Bill".

This measure targets the individuals who present the greatest risk to our communities-those engaged in criminal activity, under court orders, or impaired by drugs or alcohol while in possession of a firearm. These are not technical violations; they are clear indicators of elevated danger to the public and law enforcement.

SB2575 closes critical gaps by strengthening accountability for individuals who have already demonstrated they should not have access to firearms. From an operational standpoint, this is not about expanding enforcement-it is about preventing predictable violence.

Officer Suzanne O was killed by someone who had an active restraining order and should not have been armed. That failure had irreversible consequences. This bill ensures that those warning signs are met with meaningful consequences before tragedy occurs.

In smaller communities, where resources are limited and response times can be extended, prevention is essential. Laws like this provide the clarity and authority needed to reduce risk before it escalates.

Let Officer "O's" legacy be more than remembrance-let it be action that protects those still serving and the communities we are sworn to protect. I urge your support.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Winfrey

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:55:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

SB-2575-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:59:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

Dennis M. Dunn

Kailua, HI 96734

dennismdunn47@gmail.com

TO: **Representative Chris Todd, Chair**

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

RE: **S.B. 2575, S.D. 2, Relating to Firearms**

HEARING: **Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.**

Conference Room 308

Testimony in Support of S.B. 2575, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, with Amendments

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Finance Committee:

I submit this testimony in **strong support of S.B. 2575, S.D. 2, H.D. 1**

Measures such as S.B. 2575, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 address a critical and ongoing threat to public safety: the misuse and unlawful possession of firearms. Individuals who intentionally use firearms to threaten or harm others, who possess firearms illegally, or who combine firearms with illegal drug activity create an unacceptable risk to our communities. These behaviors endanger not only intended victims, but also families, bystanders, and first responders.

Equally concerning are individuals who possess firearms while subject to a court-issued restraining or protective order. Such circumstances present an immediate and well-documented danger to the person protected by the order, as well as to their family members, friends, and co-workers. Strong criminal sanctions in these situations are both appropriate and necessary to uphold the authority of the courts and to prevent tragic outcomes before they occur.

S.B. 2575, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 appropriately recognizes that these categories of conduct warrant enhanced penalties under criminal law. I fully support the Legislature's intent to deter dangerous behavior, hold offenders accountable, and prioritize community safety.

In summary, **I strongly support the objectives of S.B. 2575, S.D. 2, H.D. 1** and encourage the Committee to advance the bill, which ensures that penalties are **targeted, proportional, and effective** in reducing firearm-related harm across our state.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to public safety.