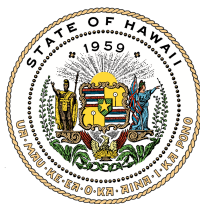


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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 3040, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 2:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 325
Testifier: Mike Lambert

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 3040, Senate Draft 1. This bill proposes to replace the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and includes an appropriation of funds for this purpose. The establishment of a dedicated Office of Gun Violence Prevention would provide a more focused, permanent, and comprehensive approach to addressing gun violence in our state.

The DLE is committed to reducing gun violence and enhancing public safety through evidence-based strategies. A dedicated Office of Gun Violence Prevention would allow for better coordination of prevention efforts, data collection and analysis, community outreach, and the implementation of targeted interventions to reduce gun violence.

The proposed office would serve as a central hub for gun violence prevention initiatives, including educational programs, community-based interventions, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, and community organizations. This

would significantly enhance our collective ability to address the root causes of gun violence and develop effective prevention strategies.

The appropriation of funds for this office is crucial for its successful establishment and operation. These resources would support staffing, research, program implementation, and evaluation efforts essential to effective gun violence prevention work.

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

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:18:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Trombley	Gifford's Gun Owners for Safety	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairman, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

My name is Susan Trombley. I live in Kapolei. I am a gun owner. I am the mother of a school shooting survivor. I am a retired teacher who had a student in my 8th grade classroom with a gun. I am a domestic violence survivor.

I support legislation to create an Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

Protecting victims of gun violence is necessary for the safety of all of us.

According to Giffords Gun Owners for Safety research,

- * In the United States, more than 125 people die every day from gun violence.**
- * 25 million US adults have been threatened or nonfatally injured by an intimate partner with a firearm.**
- * Gun violence is the leading cause of death among all children in the US.**
- * Access to a gun makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed by an abusive intimate partner.**

I urge you to continue to keep our community safe.

Support SB 3040 Mahalo.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:18:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terriann Mohideen	Hawaii Chapter Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

I live here, and I urge you to support this bill.

When I turn on the local news, it sounds like we have a gun violence problem - there's a shooting in a parking lot over here, there's a drive by over there. There was a domestic violence incident involving a firearm and now the victim is dead. There was an armed robbery nearby. There was a road rage incident with a gun. An argument at a party ended up with shots fired.

But what's the story behind these sound bites?

For a couple years now, we have had a group that was trying to work on this specifically- a Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission, but it didn't come with any of the funding necessary to conduct research. It met a couple times and at its last meeting voted to end itself and merge into another group. One important thing that we did learn from a 2022 meeting of this Commission was that in that meeting, police told them that **better data could help them better respond to crimes.**

How often is a person using a gun to commit a crime not the registered owner? Are there trends in how firearms are moving throughout the state? How many crimes were committed with licensed versus unlicensed firearms? How often are 3-D printed guns or ghost guns being used in crimes? Do we have a rise in youth firearms crimes? What can be done to prevent gun violence here? Can we increase community engagement about it? Can we involve public health voices?

Data is not a flashy or exciting thing. But an Office of Gun Violence Prevention that is funded and set up to succeed can get the necessary data to our law enforcement in order to keep our communities safer.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Testimony of Daniel Sagrera, State Policy Manager
Support for SB 3040
Before the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
March 24, 2026

Founded in 1974, Brady works to change the law, change the industry, and change culture to free America from gun violence. Our organization today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans across the country in the fight to prevent gun violence. **In furtherance of our goal to reduce firearm violence across Hawai'i, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is proud to support SB 3040.**

It is imperative that we start treating gun violence as the public health epidemic it is. By prioritizing research and programs that are tailored towards addressing the root causes of gun violence, this legislature has the chance to disrupt cycles of violence and create safer, healthier communities for all citizens of Hawai'i.

Why This Bill is Important

Establishment of a permanent State Office of Gun Violence Prevention would serve as a vital step towards expanding access to funding for the state to address various forms of gun violence, including suicide, mass shootings, and surges in other forms of gun violence. The Office's collaboration with state and county agencies and other relevant stakeholders in Hawai'i will enhance the state's ability to implement comprehensive solutions to reduce gun violence.

Further, the Office's focus on data collection will empower future State Legislatures to continue to lead in this space and save lives by introducing and implementing violence reduction policies that are backed by critical data and research on gun violence rates and risk factors, gun sales, trafficking, violent crime, and more.

This bill directs the Office to engage with stakeholders to develop strategies to minimize the risk of gun violence across the state and will help lead to the adoption of best practices related to gun violence prevention throughout the state. Empowering the Office with the authority to engage with relevant stakeholders and analyze data that may be used in statewide and countywide strategies will

ensure efficiency and coordination, and will bolster these policies' effectiveness in reducing gun violence.

For these reasons, Brady is proud to support SB 3040.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sagrera
State Policy Manager
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence



To: Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
From: Agustin Cabrera, Giffords State Legislative Manager
Subject: Support for SB 3040
Date: March 24, 2026

Submitted via email

My name is Agustin Cabrera and I am a State Legislative Manager with Giffords, the gun violence prevention organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. I write to you today in support of SB 3040, a bill that would replace the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with an Office of Gun Violence Prevention housed under the Attorney General's office.

More than a dozen states have state offices of gun violence prevention. These offices are structured specifically to address gun violence and community violence and allow for a more direct approach to learning more about and addressing sources of gun violence in the state.

Creating an office of gun violence prevention allows for a fuller and more long term gun violence prevention strategy.

SB 3040 not only creates an office of gun violence prevention, but tasks the new office with a series of responsibilities that would help the state craft community centered, data-driven responses to gun violence prevention in Hawaii. An office of gun violence prevention can develop and implement evidence-based, multi-disciplinary strategies tailored to the specific needs and challenges of the jurisdiction. This includes initiatives related to community violence intervention, safe storage, preventing gun trafficking, and gun industry accountability. An OGVP can also promote clearer communication and alignment between the many stakeholders involved in the fight against gun violence, including law enforcement, public health departments, social services providers, advocates, schools, and community-based organizations..

In supporting SB 3040, Hawaii would be acting in line with what other states have done in creating offices of gun violence prevention. In Colorado, for example, the OGVP is housed under the department of public health and is tasked with creating public information campaigns to educate on safe gun owning and storage practices as well as updates on new laws and requirements; maintains a database of gun violence prevention resources; and submits an annual report to the Colorado Department of Public Health on the status of their work and on gun violence in the state. In partnership with the University of Colorado, they recently published a study highlighting the importance of their ability to collaborate which has allowed them to enhance their gun violence data infrastructure and public-facing access to the data; translate research evidence to practical approaches to solutions; and evaluate state gun violence

prevention strategies to inform on potential improvements.¹ Should Hawaii follow and create an office of violence prevention, the state would only be strengthening its ability to respond and craft solutions for gun violence prevention.

Creating Offices of Gun Violence Prevention is a growing trend among states.

Creating Offices of Gun Violence Prevention is a growing trend in the fight against gun violence across the country. In 2024, for example, Governor Wes Moore signed a bill creating the Maryland Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention within the Department of Health as a way to improve the state's coordinated response to gun violence. In 2023, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper used an executive order to create the Office of Violence Prevention within the Department of Public Safety, with a mission to "promote local success in violence prevention by enhancing coordination across state agencies, improving data collection and sharing, offering technical assistance to local officials, promoting collaboration and sharing of best practices between localities, and managing grant programs to pursue and direct available federal funding to law enforcement and community-based organizations focused on reducing gun violence." At the beginning of 2025, Wisconsin created the Office of Violence Prevention through an executive action by Governor Tony Evers.

We urge the committee to support SB 3040. The office of gun violence prevention that the bill would create will allow the state a greater range of gun violence prevention solutions and create a tool to help research, understand, and educate on the issue of gun violence in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Agustin Cabrera

Agustin Cabrera

State Legislative Manager | He/Him

c: (806) 335-5819

giffords.org | [@GIFFORDS_org](https://twitter.com/GIFFORDS)

GIFFORDS

ABOUT GIFFORDS

Giffords is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Giffords shifts culture, changes policies, and challenges injustice, inspiring Americans across the country to fight gun violence.

¹ Wright-Kelly E, Buck-Atkinson J, Brooks-Russell A, et al. Research–Practice Partnerships to Advance a State-Level Public Health Approach to Firearm Injury Prevention in the United States: A Colorado Case Study. Public Health Reports®. 2025;0(0). doi:10.1177/00333549241303278



Submitted via web portal

RE: SB 3040 (Lee): Relating to Gun Violence Prevention - SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Members of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee and Finance Committees:

Everytown for Gun Safety, and the Hawai'i Chapters of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America are writing in support of SB 3040.

Everytown for Gun Safety is the nation's largest gun violence prevention organization, with nearly 11 million supporters, including moms, mayors, students, gun owners, faith leaders, educators, and more. We fight to advance gun safety policies at every level of government, including state legislatures. Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America are grassroots movements working towards common-sense public safety measures. With an established chapter in every state, we campaign for effective solutions to dangerous loopholes that put communities at risk.

SB 3040 replaces the "Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission" with an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. The new office would be a hub of data gathering and analysis to inform programs and policy recommendations to the Governor and legislature which can prevent gun violence.

Strong gun laws require robust implementation infrastructure. It's critical to approach this crisis from every angle. From data collection that can inform policy making to implementation assessments of existing laws, a statewide office will support our state's public safety goals at multiple stages. A state Office of Gun Violence Prevention would also bring Hawai'i in line with over a dozen of its peer gun safety states, including Washington, Colorado, Michigan, California, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois.

For these reasons listed above, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action strongly support SB 3040.

Sincerely,

Jay Franzone

Associate Director, Government Affairs

Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action & Students Demand Action

jfranzone@everytown.org

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 4:48:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i'm from Hauula, HI. I strongly support **SB 3040** which establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to centralize data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations for the Governor and legislature. Please pass this important bill.”

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 4:55:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I stand in **OPPOSITION** to this bill, it goes to show this State’s anti-gun stance. It literally strikes out all other types of violence from its stated goal of violence reduction. How often do we see all types of violence take place in the state and the common response is ‘Well at least it wasn’t a gun’?

Quite often non-gun violence leads to gun violence, we’ve seen that this year when a shooting had started as a mass brawl between two groups that had started over a fist fight which had started over an argument. Why are we ignoring all these root causes? Is it because we’re actually fine with violence here as long as it doesn’t involve a gun? Or is it because it’s easier to go after guns than it is to actually address the behavior of the individuals that’s the problem?

Recently there have been cases where anti-gun groups have submitted manipulated data to similar offices with the goal of promoting further infringements on the Second Amendment. One includes the often repeated, and **disproven** statement that **guns are now the leading cause of death for children**. Among other offenses, the data was manipulated to include people up to the age of 25 as ‘children’, included instances of gang on gang violence where the only victims were rival gang members, and included instances of justified police shootings. The mentioned study has been fact checked by several sources and found to be false despite it being touted by the former Presidential Administration. **Simply altering the study to only include persons under the age of 18 (the normal age range used for such studies) debunked the claim that firearms are the leading cause of death in children.**

Another instance resulted in the ending of a popular and successful program that was having positive effects on reducing gun violence. **Giffords Law Center**, who has the stated goal of wanting to reduce gun violence, did a study on a program known as ‘**Oakland Ceasefire**’. **In their findings it was discovered that the program reduced gun violence in Oakland by 50%, and in 9 other cities that had similar programs reduced crime from 30% to 60%.** The Oakland Ceasefire program relied upon Community Outreach and Mentorship programs for at-risk youth, as well as enforcement and prosecution of current laws.

Giffords has been accused of trying to hide the study from the public, and of using their influence to end the highly successful program because it undermined the message that the only way to reduce gun violence is to get rid of guns. **Even if these accusations are false, the reality is inconsistent with their stated goal as there is little to no fanfare regarding such a successful program.**

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 5:02:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mimi Beams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm Mimi Beams from Honolulu I strongly support **SB 3040** which establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to centralize data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations for the Governor and legislature. Please pass this important bill.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 5:33:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert I Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and I strongly support this Bill which establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to centralize data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations for the Governor and legislature. Please pass this important bill.”

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 5:43:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation and its efforts to strengthen gun regulation and enforcement in Hawaii.

With aloha,

David Ball

Waialae-Kahala

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 6:27:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support an office of gun prevention to keep our streets safe, protecting all our people and taking back into our own control of states rights

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 7:13:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Please pass SB 3040, to establish an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to centralize data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations for the Governor and legislature. We have a real lack of gun violence data all over the nation. Hawaii should be in the forefront of this effort, with data gathering and public information on gun violence so we can do our best to minimize firearm harms to our residents.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 8:22:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 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 SB3040, which replaces the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with a fully resourced Office of Gun Violence Prevention. This bill recognizes a simple but critical truth: you cannot solve a problem you cannot measure. And right now, Hawai‘i lacks the centralized, timely, and actionable data needed to understand and address gun violence in our communities.

The Data Problem Is Real and Urgent

Data on gun violence in Hawai‘i is currently scattered, incomplete, and difficult to analyze. It is held by a variety of agencies—law enforcement, the judiciary, public health, and others—that do not always count things the same way or share information with each other. This fragmentation has real consequences for our ability to prevent harm.

Consider a basic question: how often is the person using a gun the registered owner? Or how many crimes are committed with licensed versus unlicensed firearms? Answering these questions currently requires police to comb through hundreds of individual records—a labor-intensive process that diverts resources from other priorities and still produces incomplete answers.

Even the most basic data on gun deaths lags significantly. By the time we have a clear picture of the scale of the problem, we are years behind, responding to trends that have already evolved. We cannot design effective prevention strategies if we are always looking in the rearview mirror.

What an Office of Gun Violence Prevention Can Do

SB3040 establishes a dedicated Office of Gun Violence Prevention with the resources and authority to address these data challenges. The office would:

- **Centralize data collection** from multiple agencies, ensuring that information is consistent, comparable, and accessible;
- **Improve timeliness** of data on gun deaths, injuries, and crime, allowing for real-time understanding of emerging trends;

- **Support research** into the root causes of gun violence in Hawai‘i and the effectiveness of prevention strategies;
- **Coordinate prevention efforts** across agencies, avoiding the fragmentation that currently characterizes our response; and
- **Provide guidance** to policymakers on evidence-based interventions tailored to Hawai‘i's unique context.

This is not about creating a new bureaucracy for its own sake. It is about giving our state the tools it needs to do what every other state with a functioning gun violence prevention infrastructure already does: understand the problem in order to solve it.

A National Model

States across the country have established offices of gun violence prevention with significant success. These offices serve as central hubs for data collection, research, and coordination. They do not duplicate work—they streamline it. They do not create barriers—they break them down.

Hawai‘i has an opportunity to join these states with a model tailored to our unique needs. SB3040 provides the framework to do exactly that.

Why This Matters for Hawai‘i

Gun violence is not just a mainland problem. While our rates may be lower than some states, the impact on our communities is no less devastating. And the data gaps that exist here are not abstract—they affect our ability to:

- Identify emerging threats before they escalate;
- Target prevention resources where they are most needed;
- Evaluate whether our laws and programs are actually working;
- Hold accountable the systems that are supposed to protect us.

Without good data, we cannot develop a clear, effective strategy. SB3040 gives us the tools to move forward with purpose.

The Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission was a good start, but it has never had the resources or authority to do what needs to be done. SB3040 replaces it with an Office of Gun Violence Prevention that is properly funded, properly staffed, and properly empowered to collect the data we desperately need.

I urge this committee to pass SB3040 and give Hawai‘i the tools to finally understand—and prevent—gun violence in our communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 9:38:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

While serving as a police officer for 34 years, I never responded to a single call in which a firearm in the hands of a civilian helped the situation, yet responded to hundreds of calls in which a firearm present made the situation worse. Therefore, I support gun violence prevention and SB3040.

SB3040 would create a central database for information regarding incidents involving a firearm. Such a clearinghouse would allow people to be aware of what is actually happening with firearms. Mahalo!

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 3:37:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB3040 which establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to centralize data gathering to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations for the Governor and legislature. This is essential information that needs to be accumulated and analyzed to help decrease and prevent gun violence in Hawaii. Please pass this important bill.

Mahalo,

Beth Andersono

Kailua

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 6:40:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Braun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a longtime teacher in the Hawaii state system, testifying as an individual.

I strongly support **SB 3040** which establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to centralize data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations for the Governor and legislature.

Although I'd like to ban guns entirely, in the meantime it would be helpful to have a center where data on gun violence in Hawai'i can be centralized and analyzed. We need to know the number of times the person using a gun is not the registered owner and the number of crimes committed with unlicensed firearms. Data on the number of gun deaths also lags significantly, making it difficult to get an up-to-date sense of the scale of the problem here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathryn Braun, Punchbowl

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 7:06:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Stange	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB 3040

I'm live in Kapolei. I strongly support **SB 3040** which establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to centralize data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations for the Governor and legislature. Please pass this important bill.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:14:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 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-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:48:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Gabrielle Davidson, and I am a resident of Moloa'a, Kauai. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 3040.

Hawai'i has worked hard to build some of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, and this bill takes the critical next step of ensuring those laws are implemented as effectively as possible. Establishing a dedicated Office of Gun Violence Prevention gives our state the infrastructure it needs to translate good policy into real outcomes for our communities.

A centralized office focused on data collection, analysis, and program coordination will help ensure that Hawai'i's gun laws are reaching their full potential. At least 13 other states — including California, Washington, and New York — have already created similar offices, and it is time for Hawai'i to join them.

I urge the committee to pass SB 3040. Our communities deserve a focused, coordinated effort to prevent gun violence and keep families safe.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Gabrielle Davidson

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:36:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB664 Establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to conduct community outreach on gun violence prevention, develop and administer a grant program for gun violence prevention, and develop and administer a gun violence resource bank. Moves the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission from the Office of the Attorney General to the Department of Law Enforcement. Replaces the Attorney General with the Director of Law Enforcement as Chair of the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission and includes the Attorney General as a commission member. Establishes the Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund and appropriates funds into and out of the special fund. Appropriates funds.

SB3040 Replaces the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Appropriates funds

Thank you, Jane Aquino, Indivisible

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:40:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:28:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm a resident of Kaneohe and I'm alarmed by the increasing incidents of gun violence in Hawaii. I strongly support SB 3040, which establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to centralize data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations for the Governor and legislature. Please pass this important bill for the safety of all our island communities.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:46:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

is needed here:

- Data on gun violence in Hawai'i is often scattered, incomplete and difficult to analyze. It's held by a variety of agencies that don't always count things the same way or share information with each other. Figuring out, for example, how often the person using a gun was not the registered owner, or how many crimes were committed with licensed versus unlicensed firearms, would require police to comb through hundreds of individual records.
- Data on the number of gun deaths also lags significantly making it hard to get an up-to-date sense of the scale of the problem here.

With the increase in gun crimes, on the west side and elsewhere, it is more important than ever.

Lynne Matusow

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 12:49:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, to create an OGVP, as exists in other states. The data collection and analysis this office would provide will help Hawaii to implement, refine and create programs necessary to reduce/eliminate gun violence in our communities and keep our families safe.

I have been affected by gun violence personally, with my best friend and her 13-year-old daughter murdered in Makiki in August of 2010 by a person with a firearm, who then killed himself. Having an OGVP could help us better understand how we can prevent senseless loss like this while not infringing on 2nd Amendment rights.

Please support SB3040.

Linda White

Honolulu, HI

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:05:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carol bodnar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Waikiki and I support this bill relating to gun violence prevention.

Strong gun laws require robust implementation infrastructure. A state Office of GunViolence Prevention can serve as a centralized hub working towards the clear mission of ensuring Hawai'i's gun laws are reaching their maximum potential to reduce gun violence in the state. A statewide office can support the state's gun violence prevention goals at multiple stages - from gun violence data collection that can inform policymaking, to implementation assessments of existing laws.

Thank you for your support on this bill.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:05:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie L Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support establish office of gun violence prevention

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:33:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer McFarland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jennifer McFarland and I live in Kailua, O'ahu. I support this bill as I believe that it would assist in gathering important and accurate information in order to make informed decisions to minimize and prevent the risk of gun violence.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 2:51:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 4:34:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Preis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass SB3040 so our gun data can be gathered and organized effectively.

Thank you,

Samantha Preis

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 4:39:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:46:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB3040

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:30:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 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 SB3040 SD1 which would establish office of gun violence prevention and appropriate funds.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:39:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

i am in strong support of strengthening gun control and of promoting programs to reduce gun violence.

Mahalo, Gail Morrison, Honolulu

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:45:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a member of Indivisible. Thank you for supporting this bill.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:08:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen A Valasek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as an individual but also as a member of Indivisibles Hawaii Chapter in strong support of SB3040. I believe a program for gun violence prevention would greatly benefit our community and restore some Aloha in the discussion about guns and gun safety

Mahalo,

Karen Valasek

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference and Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3040, SD1 - RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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 3040, SD1**, Relating to Gun Violence Prevention, which Replaces the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

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.

Senate Bill 3040, SD1 will create a new, statewide Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which will develop comprehensive strategies to prevent and minimize the risk of gun violence and serve as a hub of data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations to the governor and the legislature. Thirteen gun safety states, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois have already created statewide Offices of Gun Violence Prevention. It is time for Hawai'i to join our peer states in creating a statewide Office that will help ensure reduction of gun violence.

Living in Wailuku, 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 3040, SD1 is designed to build upon. I want to see the Office provide policy leadership, ensuring our gun laws are enhanced to reduce gun violence as effectively as possible. I am encouraged that the proposed statewide Office can advance Hawai'i as a gun violence prevention leader for the next thirty years and help reduce gun related crime, morbidity and mortality. I respectfully request that you vote in **support of SB 3040, SD1** and help Hawai'i re-emerge as a leader in gun safety and violence prevention.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:44:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We need to focus on mental health and change how we respond to violence. We do not need another government agency. We need the self-defence laws to change in favor of the defender not the agressor.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:23:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Tash & Renee Iijima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair, Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair and members of the JHA.

I'm Eric Tash and my wife is Renee Iijima and we are from Makiki Oahu. We **strongly support SB 3040** which establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to centralize data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations for the Governor and legislature. Please pass this important bill.

With aloha! Eric Tash and Renee Iijima

Dennis M. Dunn
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

TO: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahia Poepoe, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: S.B. 3040, S.D. 1, Relating to Gun Violence Prevention

Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF S.B. 3040, S.D. 1

Good afternoon Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee. My name is Dennis Dunn, and I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of S.B. 3040, S.D. 1.**

Purpose of the Measure

S.B. 3040, S.D. 1 is intended to replace the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) and to establish an appropriation for that purpose. The proposed Office would be placed within the Department of the Attorney General for administrative purposes.

Need for Action

Recent incidents of gun violence in Hawai'i have shaken our long-held sense of security as a state that has largely avoided the extremes of gun violence seen in the continental United States. As we confront this growing problem, Hawai'i must develop effective, proactive strategies to prevent gun violence before it occurs.

Such strategies require cross-disciplinary data collection, analysis, and informed policy development. The OGVP is envisioned as a central source for this work,

providing the Governor, state departments, and the Legislature with the guidance necessary to exercise leadership and enact meaningful legislation and policies to reduce and ultimately eliminate gun violence in our state.

Role of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention

The purpose of the proposed Office is the elimination of gun violence—not the elimination of guns. Through comprehensive data gathering and analysis, the OGVP can help shape evidence-based prevention efforts that address the root causes of gun violence and promote public safety. Gun violence is a plague on our communities, as devastating as any disease pandemic. Preventative measures to stop gun violence are just as critical to public health and safety as vaccines are to combating contagious diseases.

Personal Perspective

Throughout my fifty-year career in victim assistance, I have witnessed firsthand the trauma and suffering endured by families and communities torn apart by gun violence across Hawai'i. The pain inflicted by these incidents is profound and long-lasting, and it demands a thoughtful, coordinated, and proactive response.

Conclusion

S.B. 3040, S.D. 1 provides an important new tool to help Hawai'i address and prevent gun violence through informed leadership, data-driven policy, and coordinated prevention efforts. I respectfully urge the Committee to vote **in support of this measure**.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:17:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Babcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support **SB3040**

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:21:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:57:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Logan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I write to you in support of SB3040, relating to gun violence prevention. An increase in gun violence on the West side and Waikiki make this an issue we can't ignore. What we are currently doing is not working, we need to try a different approach and I think this a great opportunity to make a real difference in the community. Please support SB3040.

Mahalo,

Rachel Logan

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:24:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Ann Harada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live in Kaneohe and support this bill. Thank you for your work this legislative season.

This office will allow us bring together relevant data to help us have a full picture of gun violence in Hawai'i and also highlight programs and efforts that are proving effective.

Mahalo.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:27:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candice Lanette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this. Gun violence needs to be dealt with head on BEFORE it becomes an issue in our state. I am a member of indivisible hawaii. Mahalo.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:58:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Keilman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it will streamline a lot of data. Thank you!

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:14:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elna Nagasako	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members:

I am testifying in support of SB3040.

I'm originally from Hilo and I am a physician with a background in public health and healthcare quality improvement. Prior to returning to Hawai'i, I spent many years in Missouri, a state with high rates of gun violence, working to improve community health in collaboration with academic faculty, a regional hospital system, and community organizations.

From that experience, I can attest that when gun deaths occur, these deaths affect the whole community. Not just the immediate family and friends, but workplaces, schools, and anywhere people live, learn, worship, work, and play. In addition to the toll of grief and fear, there are economic costs as well, incurred as organizations try to prevent violence in their workplaces and as healthcare and mental health treatment needs grow.

I can also tell you that intervention efforts that are based in solid community-level data and that have a coordinating "backbone" agency are more effective and less wasteful than disparate, unfocused efforts.

Without data to determine what type of gun deaths—homicides, suicides, or unintentional shootings— are occurring in our communities, it is difficult to determine which interventions would be most effective and where they should be deployed.

Having an Office of Gun Violence Prevention would allow the collection of sufficient data to determine which types of gun violence are affecting Hawai'i's communities, allowing resources to be spent in the areas where they are most needed, and could support coordination of efforts to avoid duplication of services.

I urge you to support SB3040.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elna Nagasako, MD, PhD, MPH
Makiki

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 12:01:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am testifying in support of SB3040. I believe it is a common sense policy to address public safety. Mahalo for your concern.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 1:15:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Justice, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Aloha Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair; Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I'm a resident of Kapolei and a member of the Invisible Hawai'i Statewide Network. I am writing to provide testimony in strong support of SB3040 SD1. This bill replaces the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and appropriates funds.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of this Bill.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 1:28:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a longtime Hawaii resident, I believe it is well worth the small investment of tax dollars to do whatever we can to prevent gun deaths.

This statewide office would bring Hawaii in line with other peer states that have already established statewide offices of gun violence prevention. At least 13 states including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York & Illinois have this important office already working to prevent gun violence.

Please support this bill. Mahalo nui.

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 1:47:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allegra Giacchino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in support of SB3040 to establish and appropriate funds for an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. A statewide office will support Hawaii's gun violence prevention goals at multiple stages — from gun violence data collection that can inform policy making to implementation assessments of existing laws. In order to most effectively minimize gun violence, being strategic is important. Gun violence is costly in many ways. This is a small financial investment to improve public safety.

Allegra Giacchino, MSW

Honolulu 96816

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:11:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Ferraro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a longtime Mānoa Valley resident I support SB3040.

Mahalo

Nadine Ferraro

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:38:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you!

SB-3040-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 7:49:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jun Look	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every action that helps focus sensible gun policies in our community should be supported. This is one such action. I support this bill as a good step in that direction.