

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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December 5, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Department of the Attorney General's Report of the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission, as required by section 134C-3(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <http://ag.hawaii.gov/publications/reports/reports-to-the-legislature/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (808) 586-1500.

Sincerely,

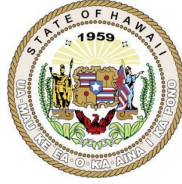
Anne E. Lopez

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Attorney General

c: Josh Green, M.D., Governor
Sylvia Luke, Lieutenant Governor
Legislative Reference Bureau (Attn: Karen Mau)
Leslie H. Kondo, State Auditor
Luis Salaveria, Director of Finance, Department of Budget and Finance
Stacey A. Aldrich, State Librarian, Hawaii State Public Library System
David Lassner, Ph.D., President, University of Hawaii

Enclosure

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REPORT OF THE GUN VIOLENCE AND VIOLENT CRIMES COMMISSION

Pursuant to Section 134C-3(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes

Submitted to the Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025

Act 74, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020 (Act 74), was enacted on September 15, 2020. Act 74 added chapter 134C to the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and established the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVVCC). Pursuant to section 134C-1, HRS, the GVVCC is placed within the Department of the Attorney General for administrative purposes only. Section 134C-3(e), HRS, requires the GVVCC to submit a report of its findings and recommendations on policy relating to preventing gun violence and violent crimes, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than forty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022 and each regular session thereafter.

I. The Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission

The purposes of the GVVCC are to address gun violence and violent crimes in Hawai'i and to provide coordination, facilitation, and planning among state, county, and federal agencies and other partners as appropriate to carry out its purposes.

Pursuant to statute, the GVVCC shall endeavor to:

- (1) Identify relevant data that may be used to reduce gun violence and violent crimes;
- (2) Identify areas in which relevant data is not available;
- (3) Maximize the sharing between the agencies represented on the GVVCC and other appropriate stakeholders of data relevant to reducing gun violence and violent crimes; and
- (4) Coordinate and conduct research on gun violence and violent crimes.

The GVVCC may also work with and engage stakeholders for the purposes of chapter 134C, HRS.

II. GVVCC Members

The Attorney General, Anne Lopez, GVVCC Chair;

The designee of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i, Dr. Erin E. Harbinson, Director, Criminal Justice Research Institute, serving as the GVVCC Treasurer;

The designee of the Director of Health, Dr. Daniel J. Galanis, Epidemiologist, Department of Health;

The Director of Law Enforcement, Jordan Lowe;

A county prosecuting attorney selected by the chair of the GVVCC, Andrew H. Martin, Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, serving as the GVVCC Secretary;

The State Public Defender, Jon N. Ikenaga;

The Chief of Police of the Hawaii County Police Department, Chief Benjamin Moszkowicz;

The Chief of Police of the Honolulu Police Department, Chief Arthur "Joe" Logan;

The Chief of Police of the Kauai Police Department, Chief Todd G. Raybuck;

The Chief of Police of the Maui Police Department, Chief John Pelletier;

The designee of the Administrator of the Hawaii State Hospital, Dr. Meghan McBrearty;

The Dean of the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Dr. Denise Eby Konan;

The designee of the Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Dr. Gerald Busch, serving as the GVVCC Vice Chair; and

The Director of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Tommy Johnson, participating at the request of the chair.

No appointments/selections were made for the following members required pursuant to section 134C-2 (b)(10) and (11), HRS:

One representative from a group that advocates for stricter gun safety laws; and
One representative from a firearm advocacy group.

III. Activities of the GVVCC

The GVVCC conducted one commission meeting on January 11, 2024.

At its meeting, the commission:

- (1) Reviewed and approved the October 18, 2023, GVVCC meeting minutes.
- (2) Discussed the repeal of chapter 134C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). It was noted that there were committees and groups with goals and membership that overlap those of the GVVCC. The commission recommended merging the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Data Sharing Working Group established by Act 157, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023. Senate Bill No. 3042/House Bill No. 2353 (2024), introduced as part of the Administration package, would have accomplished that merge, and it was agreed to allow the Chair of the Commission to propose modifications to the bill as it progressed through the legislative process. No commission members opposed the decision.

IV. Accounting of Expenditures

There were no expenditures incurred beyond the yearly salary associated with the Office Assistant IV position.

V. Proposed Legislation

The legislation to repeal chapter 134C, HRS, (Senate Bill No. 3042/House Bill No. 2353 (2024)) did not pass the Legislature. The House passed its bill to the Senate, but neither bill got a hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee and failed to advance further in the legislative process. The GVVCC has no current plans to introduce a similar bill in 2025.