



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 534, H.D. 1, RELATING TO USE OF FORCE IN SELF-PROTECTION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**
(For more information, contact Landon M.M. Murata,
Deputy Attorney General, at 586-1049)

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General has concerns about this bill and provides the following comments.

The purpose of the bill is to clarify when force, including deadly force, may be used to protect oneself, one's property, or another person. The bill amends various provisions within section 703-304, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to include defense of others, property, dwellings, and motor vehicles, and to establish that a person using force or deadly force pursuant to the section, is immune from civil and criminal liability. The bill also repeals various provisions that set forth circumstances under which force is not justifiable, such as to resist arrest or to resist force used by a person to protect property. The bill further repeals various provisions that set forth circumstances under which deadly force is not justifiable, such as when the actor provoked the use of force with the intent of causing death or serious bodily injury, or where the actor has a duty to retreat.

The Department is concerned that the bill's proposed amendments to section 703-304, HRS, almost completely eliminate the duty to retreat and are vague and confusing. First, eliminating the duty to retreat as long as the actor has a legal right to be in a place and is not engaged in unlawful activity has the potential to cause unnecessary violence that otherwise could be avoided. The duty to retreat is premised

on the idea that an actor safely retreating from a situation or surrendering possession of a thing is preferable to the actor employing deadly force. Second, instead of clarifying the law on the defense of self, defense of property, and defense of others, the bill makes changes to only one of six relevant statutes and creates inconsistencies between them that are difficult to reconcile under the current statutory scheme which is explained in more detail, below.

Section 703-304, HRS, which is amended by this bill, establishes the rules on the use of force in self-protection and the general defense of justification. See Commentary on section 703-304. This section differentiates between force and deadly force, describes the circumstances under which the use of either is justifiable, and sets forth certain well-defined exceptions. The bill does not make amendments to sections 703-305 through 703-309, HRS, which have provisions impacted by this bill.

Section 703-305, HRS, establishes the rules on the use of force in the protection of other persons. This section extends the defense of justification to include the use of force to protect another person on the same terms as the defense is available for the use of force in self-protection. See Commentary on section 703-305, HRS.

Section 703-306, HRS, establishes the rules on the use of force upon or toward the person of another which has as its purpose the protection of property. Pursuant to this section, force may be used to prevent criminal trespass, burglary, unlawful entry upon real property, theft, criminal mischief, and other trespassory taking of tangible, movable property, so long as in each case the property protected is in the possession of the actor or of one for whose protection the actor is acting. See Commentary on section 703-306, HRS. Like section 703-304, HRS, this section also differentiates between force and deadly force and describes the circumstances under which the use of either is justifiable, and sets forth certain well-defined exceptions. The circumstances establishing justification and the exceptions thereto under this section are different from those included in section 703-304, HRS.

Section 703-307, HRS, establishes the rules on the use of force in law enforcement and includes the use of force by not only peace officers but all persons in making an arrest. This section also differentiates between force and deadly force and

describes the circumstances under which the use of either is justifiable, and sets forth certain well-defined exceptions. The circumstances establishing justification and the exceptions thereto under this section are very different from those included in section 703-304, HRS.

Section 703-308, HRS, establishes the rules on the use of force to prevent suicide, serious bodily injury, or the commission of a crime. This section gives a right to use such force as the actor believes is immediately necessary to prevent suicide or serious bodily injury, or to prevent a crime involving or threatening bodily harm, damage to or loss of property, or a breach of the peace. See Commentary on section 703-308, HRS. This section also differentiates between force and deadly force and sets forth only two narrow circumstances under which deadly force would be justified.

Finally, section 703-309, HRS, establishes the rules on the use of force by persons with special responsibility for care, discipline, or safety of others, and includes parents, guardians, teachers, principles, doctors, therapists, wardens, correctional workers, those responsible for the safety of a vessel or an aircraft, and those authorized or required by law to maintain order or decorum in a vehicle, train, or other carrier, or in a place where others are assembled. Like all of the other sections previously mentioned, this section differentiates between force and deadly force and describes the circumstances under which the use of either is justifiable. Under this section, only the wardens, correctional workers, those responsible for the safety of a vessel or an aircraft, are allowed to use deadly force and the section specifies that such force must be otherwise justifiable under chapter 703, HRS.

With respect to the bill's proposed changes to the defense of justification, including the duty to retreat, the Department believes that the current statutes reflect a more balanced approach to the use of both force and deadly force. The current approach takes into account various competing interests and recognizes that the use of deadly force should be a last resort. It is important to note that under the current statutes, there is no duty to retreat when using force. The duty to retreat is only applicable to the use of deadly force.

The circumstances under which a person using deadly force in self-protection has a duty to retreat are set forth in in section 703-304(5)(b), HRS, which states that the use of deadly force is not justifiable if “[t]he actor knows that he can avoid the necessity of using such force with complete safety by retreating or by surrendering possession of a thing to a person asserting a claim of right thereto or by complying with a demand that he abstain from any action which he has no duty to take”. Section 703-304(5)(b), HRS, provides the following exceptions to the duty to retreat:

- (i) The actor is not obliged to retreat from his dwelling or place of work, unless he was the initial aggressor or is assailed in his place of work by another person whose place of work the actor knows it to be; and
- (ii) A public officer justified in using force in the performance of his duties, or a person justified in using force in his assistance or a person justified in using force in making an arrest or preventing an escape, is not obliged to desist from efforts to perform his duty, effect the arrest, or prevent the escape because of resistance or threatened resistance by or on behalf of the person against whom the action is directed.

The Department recommends that any change to the duty to retreat, whether it be to abridge or eliminate the duty, should be made by amending section 703-304(5)(b), HRS, rather than section 703-304(2), HRS. Moreover, any such changes should be considered in light of the effect they may have on the remainder of sections 703-305 through 703-309, HRS. Without a clearer idea of what the Legislature intends with respect to abridging or eliminating the duty to retreat, the Department cannot make any suggested changes to the bill at this time.

With respect to the bill’s inclusion of wording related to the defense of others in the amendments to section 703-304, the provisions of section 703-304 are already applicable to the defense of others pursuant to section 703-305(1)(a), HRS. Thus, the bill’s amendments to section 703-304, HRS, to include defense of others are entirely unnecessary.

With respect to the bill’s inclusion of wording related to the defense of property in the amendments to section 703-304, HRS, these amendments are unnecessary

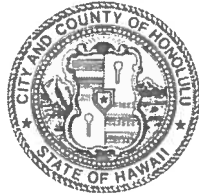
because section 703-306 already establishes clear rules for the use of force in defense of property. Additionally, these amendments confuse the rules on the use of force in the defense of property, first because they are different from what is currently established in section 703-306, HRS, and second because the amendments themselves are internally inconsistent. Paragraph (2), page 2, line 16, through page 3, line 1, seems to limit the use of force in defense of property to one's "legally occupied dwelling or motor vehicle." Conversely, the continuation of that same paragraph (2) on page 3, lines 1-6 indicates there is no duty to retreat so long as the actor is occupying the premises of a place the actor has a legal right to be and is not engaged in any unlawful activity. This internal inconsistency with respect to the defense of property makes it difficult to determine the circumstances under which the use of force in defense of property would be permissible.

Should the Legislature wish to expand or otherwise change the circumstances under which the use of force or deadly force is justifiable in the defense of property, and any exceptions thereto, the Department recommends that such amendments should be made to section 703-306, HRS, and not section 703-304, HRS. As with the duty to retreat, without a clearer idea of what the Legislature intends with respect to expanding or otherwise changing the circumstances under which the use of force or deadly force is justifiable in the defense of property, the Department cannot make any suggested changes to the bill at this time.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
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SUSAN BALLARD
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JOHN D. McCARTHY
AAROH TAKASAKI-YOUNG
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **RP-KK**

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
and Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nakashima and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 534, H.D. 1, Relating to Use of Force in Self-Protection

I am Randall Platt, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes House Bill No. 534, H.D. 1, Relating to Use of Force in Self-Protection.

Tragic incidences in Hawaii and across the nation have drawn attention to the use of deadly force in self-protection of home and property. A number of states have enacted laws that allow for the use of deadly force to protect one's self and home, others, and other property. This bill allows the use of deadly force against a person who "intends or endeavors to use unlawful force" against them. The language is extremely soft and allows for vast situations in which deadly force would be allowed. The HPD feels that laws like this actually encourage armed confrontation, allowing a person to kill another person in a public area when there are alternative, reasonable steps that can be taken to mitigate the danger.

Furthermore, this bill provides that the actor who uses deadly force in the above situation immunity to civil and criminal prosecution. This bill provides far too great a leeway for the use of deadly force without penalty and would undoubtedly result in an increase in shootings and other deadly force confrontations.

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
and Members
February 23, 2021
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The current Hawaii Revised Statute, Section 703-304 (as written), adequately defines the conditions in which deadly force is justifiable for self-protection and provides a more reasonable guideline to protect all citizens of this state.

The HPD urges you to oppose House Bill No. 534, H.D.1, Relating to Use of Force in Self-Protection, and we appreciate the committee's consideration on these concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randall Platt".

Randall Platt, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ballard".

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
2:00 PM
Via Video Conference, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 534, HD1
RELATING TO USE OF FORCE IN SELF-PROTECTION.

Chair NAKASHIMA, Vice Chair MATAYOSHI, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides written comments in opposition to HB 534, HD1, which clarifies when force, including deadly force, may be used to protect oneself, one's property, or another person.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to strengthening our democracy through a safe and equitably society.

Common Cause Hawaii opposes HB 534, HD1 because “[t]here is supportive evidence that stand-your-ground laws are associated with increases in firearm homicides and moderate evidence that they increase the total number of homicides. Thus, it is recommended that “[s]tates with stand-your-ground laws should consider repealing them as a strategy for reducing firearm homicides.” See https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2088-1.html; see also <https://everytownresearch.org/report/stand-your-ground-laws-are-a-license-to-kill/#key-findings>.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in opposition to HB 534, HD1. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair

Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

2:00 PM

STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB 534 HD1 - STAND YOUR GROUND

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the more than 4,100 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,000 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong opposition to this measure that would amend the law relating to the use of deadly force in self-defense and establish the circumstances where a person using deadly force has no duty to retreat and has the right to stand the person's ground. We do not support legislation that is motivated by fear. Last month, we all witnessed what happens when we arm people and stoke their fears. Many have spoken out and researched the impacts of this law.

The ACLU submitted written testimony to the U.S. Senate in 2013¹ and concluded that Stand Your Ground "*laws expand the circumstances in which the state authorizes one person to kill another without any semblance of due process. Also, they exacerbate an existing racial disparity in the success rate of justifiable homicide as a defense whereby a killing is more likely to be deemed "justifiable" if the victim is black and the shooter is not than when the races of the victim and shooter are reversed.*"

¹ ACLU Testimony before Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights Hearing on: "Stand Your Ground" Laws: Civil Rights and Public Safety Implications of the Expanded Use of Deadly Force, Tuesday, October 29, 2013. <https://www.aclu.org/other/aclu-testimony-senate-stand-your-ground-laws-hearing>

RAND updated their study² on Stand Your Ground laws in 2020 and reviewed the research done on Stand Your Ground laws and concluded that “there is supportive evidence that stand-your-ground laws may increase firearm homicides.”

Some of the research that RAND reviewed included:

- Cheng and Hoekstra (2013) found that these laws **significantly increase homicide rates**, but they have uncertain effects on robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary rates.
- McClellan and Tekin (2017) also found significant **increases in total homicides** associated with the implementation of stand-your-ground laws.
- Webster, Crifasi, and Vernick (2014) found that these laws have an **uncertain effect on the total homicide rate**.
- Humphreys, Gasparrini, and Wiebe (2017) and Guettabi and Munasib (2018) found **significant effects consistent with the law increasing total homicides** in Florida after its passage.³

These studies draw on two distinct data sources: Federal Bureau of Investigation crime-rate data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Fatal Injury Reports.

The website Everytown Research and Policy⁴ opens with this statement:

“Stand Your Ground laws give people a license to kill, allowing those who shoot others to obtain immunity, even if they started the confrontation and even when they can safely de-escalate the situation by walking away. Stand Your Ground laws are inherently dangerous because they change the nature of gun violence in a state by encouraging escalations of violence and, according to research, do nothing to deter overall crime.”

² Effects of Stand-Your-Ground Laws on Violent Crime, RAND, Updated April 22, 2020.

<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/stand-your-ground/violent-crime.html>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Underlying Cause of Death, 1999–2017,” WONDER data system, undated-a. As of July 6, 2019: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>

Cheng, Cheng, and Mark Hoekstra, “Does Strengthening Self-Defense Law Deter Crime or Escalate Violence? Evidence from Expansions to Castle Doctrine,” *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 48, No. 3, 2013, pp. 821–853.

Crifasi, Cassandra K., Molly Merrill-Francis, Alex McCourt, Jon S. Vernick, Garen J. Wintemute, and Daniel W. Webster, “Association Between Firearm Laws and Homicide in Urban Counties,” *Journal of Urban Health*, Vol. 95, No. 3, 2018b, pp. 383–390.

Guettabi, Mouhcine, and Abdul Munasib, “Stand Your Ground La

ws, Homicides and Gun Deaths,” *Regional Studies*, Vol. 52, No. 9, 2018, pp. 1250–1260.

Humphreys, David K., Antonio Gasparrini, and Douglas J. Wiebe, “Evaluating the Impact of Florida’s ‘Stand Your Ground’ Self-Defense Law on Homicide and Suicide by Firearm: An Interrupted Time Series Study,” *JAMA Internal Medicine*, Vol. 177, No. 1, 2017, pp. 44–50.

⁴ Everytown Research and Policy - <https://everytownresearch.org/report/stand-your-ground-laws-are-a-license-to-kill/>

*The extensive body of scholarship on Stand Your Ground laws has demonstrated that **these laws are associated with increases in firearm homicides**. Individuals who invoke Stand Your Ground often have violent histories, and despite initiating altercations, are eventually absolved of responsibility for taking a life. Convictions in Stand Your Ground cases have also skewed unfairly against people of color, with particular bias observed against Black people. In light of the evidence, it is imperative for lawmakers to reject Stand Your Ground proposals and states with Stand Your Ground laws should repeal this dangerous law."*

Former Attorney General Eric Holder said, "...laws like "Stand Your Ground" undermine innocent Americans' safety "by allowing and perhaps encouraging violent situations to escalate in public."

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to consider what is before us - what do we value - property or human life?

Please don't pass this bill. Let us learn from the senseless violence that took the lives of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmed Aubrey, as well as so many others. Let us remember the mob violence we all witnessed on January 6th and the violence that has infiltrated peaceful public demonstrations around the United States.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share the research and our deep concerns about this and other measures that promote violence.

That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:41:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rudolph Pangelinan	Puuloa Rifle and Pistol Club	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 HD1. We have a right to protect our selves, family and businesses. As a person with 4 children, wife and business owner, we care of our family, friends, relatives and neighbors. To have the thought that we cannot legally protect ourselves and loved ones without repercussions from the current law is downright wrong. Please pass HB534 HD1.

Thanks.

Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America (Hawaii Chapter)

TO: Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Leah Delos Santos, Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
(Hawaii Chapter)

DATE: February 23, 2021; 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325 (via Videoconference)

RE: HB 534, RELATING TO USE OF FORCE IN SELF PROTECTION

My name is Leah Delos Santos and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Chapter of Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. We **STRONGLY OPPOSE** House Bill 534, HD1, which is also known as a “Stand Your Ground” law.

We are a locally based chapter of high school and college students who work hard to promote gun violence prevention. Firearms are the leading cause of death for young people. And more than 100 Americans die by gun violence every day — hundreds more are wounded. We’ve grown up in the midst of the gun violence crisis and are demanding action. That’s why we’re rising up and organizing in our schools, universities, community centers, and more across the country to call on our leaders to pass laws which will keep our communities safe.

HB 534, HD1 will make our communities less safe and we oppose it. Stand Your Ground laws are inherently dangerous because they create a culture that encourages people to shoot first and ask questions later.

The death toll associated with similar Stand Your Ground laws in other states includes unintentional deaths. Stand Your Ground laws have also been associated with an increase in nonfatal firearm injuries resulting in emergency room visits and hospitalizations. While these laws speak to individual’s desire for self-protection, they have the effect of increasing the risk of death and making our community less safe. Stand Your Ground Laws are associated with an increase in homicide rates translating to more than 150 additional gun deaths each month in the US overall.

High school and college students from across the country have teamed up with Everytown for Gun Safety to ensure that Students Demand Action remains front and center of the gun violence prevention movement. We are determined to fight for our lives, our dreams, and the future of our communities. We will not stop until all American students feel safe from gun violence — wherever they are. Please do not pass HB 534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:19:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Reid	NRA	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima,

On behalf of the members of the National Rifle Association in Hawaii, I would like to communicate our support of HB 534 and suggest the following amendments to help bring additional clarity to the bill:

1. Making clarifying changes to 703-304 (2), to state “**(a) the actor is in a place where they are lawfully present.**”
2. Make clarifying changes to 703-304 (4), to state “(4) The use of force is not justifiable under this section **to resist a law enforcement officer lawfully acting in the performance of the officer's official duties when the officer identifies themselves in accordance with applicable law and the actor using force knows or reasonably should have known that the other person was a law enforcement officer.**”

Respectfully,

Daniel Reid

Western Regional Director, NRA-ILA

TO: Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Melissa Pavlicek, Everytown for Gun Safety

DATE: February 23, 2021; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 (via Videoconference)

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 534– RELATING TO USE OF
FORCE IN SELF PROTECTION

We are writing in strong opposition to House Bill 534, HD1, which seeks to clarify when force, including deadly force, may be used, also known as a “Stand Your Ground” law. A recent study comparing the five years before states began enacting these laws (2000–2004) to the 13-year period following their enactment (2005–2017), found justifiable firearm homicide rates increased by 55 percent in states that enacted Stand Your Ground, while these rates increased by 20 percent in states that did not have such laws. During this latter period, overall homicide rates increased by 11 percent in Stand Your Ground states yet decreased by 2 percent in states that did not have such laws.¹

The tragic death toll associated with similar laws in other states includes unintentional deaths: 6 to 7 percent more gun deaths occurred in suburban counties² and 8 percent more gun deaths occurred in urban counties in states that adopted these laws.³ Stand Your Ground laws have also been associated with an increase in nonfatal firearm injuries resulting in emergency room visits and hospitalizations.⁴ While these laws speak to individual’s desire for self-protection, they have the effect of increasing the risk of death and making our community less safe.

Because Stand Your Ground legislation leads to an increase in the number of gun deaths and injuries, these laws add to the financial toll of firearm violence in states that pass them. Each gun homicide, for example, costs taxpayers \$688,600 on average, covering expenses related to police response, criminal justice, and healthcare. Families and communities bear a heavier

¹ Marc Levy et al., “Stand Your Ground: Policy and Trends in Firearm-Related Justifiable Homicide and Homicide in the US,” *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* 230, no. 1 (2020): 161-167.e4, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2019.11.003>.

² Abdul Munasib, Genti Kostandini, and Jeffrey L. Jordan, “Impact of the Stand Your Ground Law on Gun Deaths: Evidence of a Rural Urban Dichotomy,” *European Journal of Law and Economics* 45, no. 3 (June 2018): 527–54, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10657-018-9581-z>.

³ Cassandra Crifasi et al., “Correction to: Association Between Firearm Laws and Homicide in Urban Counties,” *Journal of Urban Health* 95, no. 5 (October 15, 2018): 773–76, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-018-0306-y>; Cassandra K. Crifasi et al., “Association Between Firearm Laws and Homicide in Urban Counties,” *Journal of Urban Health* 95, no. 3 (2018): 383–90, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-018-0273-3>.

⁴ Chandler McClellan and Erdal Tekin, “Stand Your Ground Laws, Homicides, and Injuries,” *Journal of Human Resources* 52, no. 3 (2017): 621–53, <https://doi.org/10.3368/jhr.52.3.0613-5723R2>; Justin Lee et al., “Guns and States: Pediatric Firearm Injury,” *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 75, no. 1 (July 2013): 50–53, <https://doi.org/10.1097/TA.0b013e3182999b7a>.

burden, enduring losses in income and quality of life exceeding \$7 million per gun homicide.⁵ Sadly, the financial cost alone does not come close to the human toll of a Stand Your Ground law.

This bill threatens lives throughout Hawaii. That is why **I am urging you to defeat HB 534, HD1** and help prevent an increase in acts of gun violence.

⁵ Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "The Economic Cost of Gun Violence," 2021, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-economic-cost-of-gun-violence/>.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America (Hawaii Chapter)

TO: Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Carolyn Pearl, Hawaii Moms Demand Action

DATE: February 23, 2021; 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325 (via Videoconference)

RE: HB 534, RELATING TO USE OF FORCE IN SELF PROTECTION

On behalf of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, we are writing in strong opposition to House Bill 534, HD1, which seeks to clarify when force, including deadly force, may be used, also known as a “Stand Your Ground” law.

Moms Demand Action is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. We seek to pass stronger gun laws and work to close the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our families. We also work in our own communities and with business leaders to encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership. We know that gun violence is preventable, and we’re committed to doing what it takes to keep families safe. Here in Hawaii we have advocated at the state capitol and conducted community awareness and educational events across the islands.

The death toll associated with similar Stand Your Ground laws in other states includes unintentional deaths. Stand Your Ground laws have also been associated with an increase in nonfatal firearm injuries resulting in emergency room visits and hospitalizations. While these laws speak to individual’s desire for self-protection, they have the effect of increasing the risk of death and making our community less safe.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was founded by Shannon Watts, a mother of five. The day after the Sandy Hook tragedy, Shannon started a Facebook group with the message that all Americans can and should do more to reduce gun violence. The online conversation turned into a movement of moms, dads, students, families, concerned citizens and survivors working together with our partners in the gun violence prevention movement to end this uniquely American crisis. Please help ensure that Hawaii’s record of gun violence prevention legislation is not marred by passage of HB 534 and help to keep our community safe.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:12:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zach Eisenberg	Waikiki Gold and Silver	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

With the recent rise in armed robbery it seems common sense to allow us to defend ourselves if our lives are threatened at our home or place of business. Depriving us of this right is unconstitutional..

Thank you for your consideration!

Zachariah Eisenberg and the rest of the the WGS Family

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:14:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Namiki Roberts	Hawaii Firearms coalition	Support	No

Comments:

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:00:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Kitchens	Stolen Stuff Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2021 10:49:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neal Fujii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure.

Mahalo

TESTIMONY OF ELLEN GODBEY CARSON IN OPPOSITION TO HB 534
To the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date: February 23, 2021, 3:25am, Conf Room 325

I practiced law in Hawaii for 30 years, serving as President of the Hawaii State Bar Association and Hawaii Women Lawyers. I became an attorney to protect the constitutional rights of vulnerable persons in our country. While now retired, I still believe this is a critical goal in our state and country.

I oppose HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force in a myriad of locations and circumstances, based solely on the “belief” of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief. We now live in an age of mis-information, outright lies, extremist propaganda and paranoia, all of which create “beliefs” that based on a false reality. Witness the insurrection on January 6, 2021 because thousands of people had become convinced that the presidential election was “stolen.” It is highly dangerous and illogical to justify an actor’s use of deadly force solely based on their own subjective “belief,” without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. As we know from too many news reports, the victims of such skewed thinking and deadly force will likely be those most vulnerable in our society – racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect “oneself, one’s property or another person,” and does not limit the use of force to being in one’s own home or vehicle, but extends to “occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be,” including our shopping malls, houses of worship, beach resorts, concerts and other locales where “self-defense” can easily include extensive collateral damage of injury and death to other, unintended persons. The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

In short, HB534 creates a “get out of jail free” card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which most of us would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Ellen Godbey Carson,
Honolulu, Hawaii

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:19:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah G. Nehmad	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I vehemently oppose HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force based solely on the "belief" of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief. This is such a vague and loose standard, especially in this era of misinformation and disinformation, that it is essentially a "get out of jail free card for anyone who uses their gun.

The most vulnerable in our society are at the greatest risk - racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect "oneself, one's property or another person," and does not limit the use of force to being in one's own home or vehicle, but extends to "occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be," which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

The breadth of this bill and its implications are astounding and horrifying. Please do not pass HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:21:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Taylor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB534 is one of most un-Hawaii bills I have ever seen and I beg this legislature to tear it up. This bill essentially gives any person who "believes" that he/she is threatened a free pass to murder another human being. We are living in an age where a frightening percentage of the population believes in the most extreme outright lies and propaganda. Witness the individual who shot up a small pizza business because he believed some web site that claimed Hillary Clinto was running a pedophile ring there. Witness the people who sought to harm our own Senators because they believed there was a dark plot to "steal" the election from Donald Trump. I'm amazed that in our lovely state a bill like this is even being proposed. I will look closely at which of our elected officials thinks that this bill is at all appropriate. It is an extremely dangerous bill and the proponents need to think hard about the society in which we live. Do they seriously believe that the right to murder someone based on your "belief" is something we ought to enact. Do we not have enough gun violence in a state that was for decades unused to anything involving guns?

The bill authorizes use of force to protect "oneself, one's property or another person," and does not limit the use of force to being in one's own home or vehicle, but extends to "occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be," which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

The community that is envisioned and promoted by this bill is not our community and not one in which any of us, except the most violent and virulent, want to live.

Please kill this bill quickly before it results in the killing of human beings.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:19:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill, for too long we in Hawaii have had a duty to retreat/surrender. Criminals know this and face little if any consequences for their actions, even less so than those who would fight back against them or resist them. Passing this bill should be a no brainer and those who vote against it will show themselves as being against the people of Hawaii.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:27:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joseph Palimoo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill HB 534.I strongly feel that I should have the right to defend and protect myself as well as my family and home.I truly feel that we need to start focusing on more laws that will target and convict the criminals and not the victims.criminals here in Hawaii knows that our justice system is weak and will work in there favor(Revolving door)a few weeks ago my mom was brutally robbed and could not do anything to defend yourself..that's why I'm humbling asking that we need stand your Ground in Hawaii..thank you..

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:34:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Lono	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill ***HB534 HD1.***

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:41:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elijah Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534.

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:43:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We the People need your support to preserve the RIGHTS that we were given by the 2nd Ammendment. We the Law Abiding Citizens do not need any infringement on that right. We have done nothing wrong to have our Rights limited. What we need is stricter laws for those who choose to break the LAW!

Not limit the ability of the average honest person to protect their family!

We are Law Abiding citizen and do NOT deserve to have our Rights limited because of un-justified fear of the people.

Please do not Violate the Oath of office by overstepping Government Rule of the people!

Protect the people by punishing the Criminals!

Stop treating good people like Criminals.

Criminals don't abide by any Laws! So you are Not helping to make our communities safer!

You don't protect the deer by cutting of it's horns!

You are only hurting Honest hardworking People!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:43:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Howeth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

I strongly urge you to pass HB534 HD1

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:46:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bradd Haituka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the right of law abiding citizens to defending themselves and others against criminal elements. For far too long in this state criminals have had more rights than law abiding citizens. I fully support this bill with the ammended language. Please pass this bill so that law abiding citizens can protect themselves if need be.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:46:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mathew Kalamau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to put my name in to support this bill. I feel it would serve and protect the people of Hawaii.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:51:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Prescott II	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Louis Prescott II, SUPPORT HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:54:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Bussen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I vote. I support this bill. I support a citizen's right to trust my government and to have my government trust me. I have a right to not run away from aggression. If I must, then what is to stop this behavior? I was a bully in my father's High School just to show there is no sanction for the bad behavior. If there is not a proper deterrent it is the same as condoning the action. I trust my fellow citizens to make good, reasonable decisions in the moment more than I trust that law enforcement can intervene. Aloha Joe B.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:56:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support bill HB534

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:57:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ross mukai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the bill as amended to support a persons right to self defense

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:00:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Reid Oya	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB534. I believe in our right to defend ourselves, family, & property. With the rise in crime due to Covid, drugs, mental health, etc. It's good we will be able to defend against these crimes without worry of prosecution & civil laws suits.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:01:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
danny yamada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a law abiding tax payer I highly support this bill

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:01:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cris Bartolome	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a public servant, law-abiding, tax-paying, US citizen, and resident of the State of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of HB534.

For far too long, we have seen laws that protect the criminal and punish the victim. Why is it so hard to defend one's self, family/friends, and property? If someone invades my home where my loved ones are, we should be able to defend ourselves by any means necessary. Home invasions have increased. And they are being done in broad daylight. The criminals are becoming more brazen. Should we have to wait for the authorities to arrive? We know seconds count. Do we have minutes to wait, when we can act responsibly on our own behalf? But do we have to be double victims, once to the criminal and and second time to the courts who will try to say it could have been avoided?

Please stop pandering to the criminals in the name of social justice. Start working for the people who pay your salaries. Who voted you into office. Show support for HB534 and your constituents.

Thank you for your time.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:06:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hiroshi Nakauye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534

It should be within ones right to defend themselves with force if someone decides to attack or intend to cause them harm. If put into a situation where I have no other choice but to defend myself with force that could also be lethal it is more than fair that the word of the law defends my right to live.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:09:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Boyd Hurley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Sir/Ma'am,

I completely support HB534. As a law abiding citizen and responsible firearm owner, I strongly support my right to defend my family and myself if someone enters my home to steal my property and/or harm my family. These criminals are young, strong and high on drugs and I no longer have the strength to fight them off using anything else but a firearm.

I shouldnt have to gather my family and retreat and surrender my home to these criminals and pray no one was left in the house. I should be able to protect what me and my wife have work a lifetime to earn and save my family.

Criminals will be criminals and will do whatever they need to I order to get what they want. They are no longer afraid of going to jail because they know it full and their sentences will be slaps on the hand and released only continue what they do. The law no later Nuer has teeth and they know that. Tidays society is full of drugged and unstable people everywhere they in the state.

Please help me and thousands of others who support HR534 ask that we be able to protect ourself and our families from criminals who enter our homes or businesses.

Much Mahalo and Aloha

Boyd Hurley

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:15:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Craig Brumbaugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill clearly benefits the "law abiding citizens" of Hawaii. With home invasion crimes at an all-time high in the state, it is time for the Hawaii Legislature to stop representing the criminal minority and start representing the law abiding majority who put them in office. This bill and others like it protect hard working, tax paying and voting "law abiding citizens" by allowing them to protect themselves and their families and friends in their own home when confronted by criminals, who currently appear to have more rights than the law abiding citizen does. Therefore I highly encourage you, the Hawaii State Legislature to pass this bill and any similar bills that protect the rights of us "law abiding citizens". Thank you...

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:15:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear representatives,

I support this bill that will help strengthen the law abiding protecting citizens in Hawaii. This bill when enacted will give one more thing the criminals would think about before what they would do.

Please vote yes on this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:19:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bradford Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good morning committee members,

I would like to express my support for HB534. Thank you for introducing legislation that will support my God given right of self defense. I would also encourage the committee members to introduce a constitutional carry bill.

Respectfully,

Bradford Davis

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:21:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gordon Fowler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes! By all means I support this legislation nw that the wording has been amended.

It is time the shackles are removed from Law abiding citizens that seek only to live in peace.

That folks be allowed to defend themselves from the dregs of society that would seek to harm them without fear of retribution is fundamental to our American way of life.

Lives will be saved by this legislation.

It has been often said "When seconds count, The Police are only minutes away"

Thank you and Aloha

Gordon Fowler

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:21:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kate dennis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:25:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael J Rush	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I emphatically support this bill! We need more like it!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:34:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
eddiecito racaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:34:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank TK Hinshaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I write in support of HB534 HD1 as it will stop allowing criminals to abuse our criminal justice system to retaliate on law abiding citizens defending themselves, their loved ones, or their own property. The way the system works now, anyone can go into another's home and go through their property as long as they "claim" they were searching for something belonging to themselves. If you stop, interfere, or simply touch the person you are a criminal.

I have a month left on a 3 year injunction for harassment placed upon me for touching a stranger who was taking things from my family's farm to stop the theft. Turned out the stranger worked for a business competitor and they decided to file a TRO and press phoney charges against me. The judge in the TRO case put a 3 year injunction on me because the act of simply touching the other person is considered a crime.

Not only was I hurt in a subsequent arrest days after the incident due to the lies told by the business competitor, but due to the injunction I am not allowed the same constitutional right to bear arms and each time I've crossed the international border I've been harassed by CBP in their detainment areas. The time on this whole thing has just about passed without further incident, but I will say that without a change in our system that giving the criminals the ability to leverage the courts to hurt their business competitors or chosen victims of property crimes has been disgusting and I hope no one else has to experience what I've had to go through for simply defending your life/property.

Again please pass and support HB534 HD1, Victims of crime should not be further hurt as victims of Hawaii's broken justice system.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:38:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing in to support HB534 relating to the use of force in self/home/property defense and I appreciate the bill being rewritten to be consistent with HB711.

Thank you for your support,

Ian Bishop

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:41:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii's left-leaning legal process seems to favor the criminal, at the expense of the victims' rights. For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims, requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

Please support HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:46:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Jeffcost	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I support this bill as I have been in a situation where lethal force saved 3 lives in Maui ,My home was under attack at 3 am by 4 men smashing my windows and trying to enter my home I grabbed my pistol and AR and gave commands that I would use lethal force if they entered home and after they caught sight of my pistol in my hand and AR rifle around my neck at the ready they retreated Maui police caught 2 in a chase as they abandoned their vehicle at a nearby park ,I also had police dispatch on the phone so the whole incident was recorded phone was in my shirt pocket crazy night ,if they hadn't seen the firearms they would have entered home ,and I would have used lethal force and found myself the victim in Jail,I am a member of the USCAA and cary firearm insurance if this ever happens again.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:46:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brett iwanuma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. We should have the right to protect ourselves, loved ones and property from others. For to long we have been required to retreat and allow ourselves to be victims to others who impose their will without any resistance. I also believe that anyone should be able to defend themself, others and property without the fear of criminal or civil legal action. This is a breath of fresh air in very unsettling times. Thank you for your time.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:48:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Sanchez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Robert Sanchez. I am a registered voter and support this law. I live in Waipio Gentry and 3 of my neighbors have been burglarized and my own car was broken into right in front of my house in broad daylight. My wife and I work hard all day to purchase our home and pay bills. We are both in law enforcement and have extra training in self defense and weapons and feel that we and others should be able to defend ourselves from criminals who attack us or our homes and cars.

Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:52:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sue Hornik	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB534. Respectfully, it's insanity for Hawaii to consider adoption of the egregiously misnamed "Stand Your Ground" when so many states are regretting its passage and so many studies have come out showing that such a law increases gun violence, injury and deaths.

We have witnessed in other states the ludicrousness of gang bangers and street thugs successfully using Stand Your Ground as a defense, making a mockery of what lawmakers intended. We have seen how the law promotes dangerous vigilantism. One man killed two unarmed people and walked out of jail. Another shot a man as he lay on the ground. Others went free after shooting victims in the back. In nearly a third of cases, according to one analysis, defendants tried under these laws initiated the fight, shot an unarmed person or pursued their victim — and still went free.

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, which refers to this legislation as the expanded Castle Doctrine laws, has declared: "Expansions to the Castle Doctrine negatively affect public health and the community's sense of safety by undermining prosecutorial and law enforcement efforts to keep communities safe as a result of expanding the realm in which violent acts can be committed with the justification of self-defense or defense of property."

One study by Texas A&M states, "Results indicate the laws do not deter burglary, robbery, or aggravated assault. In contrast, they lead to a statistically significant 8 percent net increase in the number of reported murders and non-negligent manslaughters."

Another study, using data from the Health Care Utilization Project, states these laws are associated "with a significant increase in emergency room visits and hospital discharges related to firearm inflicted injuries."

According to a review of FBI data by the Washington Post, in the five years before passage of the Florida "Stand Your Ground" law, the state had an average of 12 justifiable killings per year. However, in the five years after the law was passed, the average number of justifiable killings per year tripled. Investigations by the Tampa Bay Times found that in 2010 the "Stand Your Ground" law was invoked in at least 93

criminal cases involving 65 deaths. By 2012, the number of cases had increased to 130, over 70% of which involved a death.

Finally, several media reports and analyses have also shown the racist results of these laws, which is the last thing we need here in Hawaii. A comprehensive Tampa Bay Times article found that in Florida: "Defendants claiming 'stand your ground' are more likely to prevail if the victim is black. Seventy-three percent of those who killed a black person faced no penalty compared to 59 percent of those who killed a white." Because of these problems, Florida is now debating repeal of its law. The last thing we need here in Hawaii is a Trayvon Martin incident with the Stand Your Ground defendant, George Zimmerman, waltzing off scot free.

It would be tragic indeed, now that there's a preponderance of evidence showing the dangers of this law that promotes Vigilante Justice, for Hawaii to pass it.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:55:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert McCarthy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is a necessary addition to hawaii law.

I support it.

The right to self defense is a sacred right to all Hawaiians and Americans in all places. The use of force used at the moment of attack cannot be instantly analyzed, citizens should not have to risk death or injury anonizing over what to do and how forcefully. A potential life or death situation should not be the time to stop and ponder what to do. Defense needs to be immediate, and without concerns for litigation for that defense.

Self defense without fear of undue prosecution should be a clear legal right to all of us.

Thank you Robert mcCarthy

Kailua Kona

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:00:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendan Ajolo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

support

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:03:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neal Chantara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a sound and important bill. It reflects common sense. Unfortunately courts don't recognize common sense so please pass this bill. **IMPORTANT:** change the effective date from 2050 (Section 4) to a date as soon as possible. This bill is needed NOW.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:04:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gian Vicuna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen, I fully support this bill.

HB534

The “right” to “self-defense” in an inherent natural “right” that pre-exists any notion of government or the cronies therein that would diminish it, infringe on it, or validate it.

As such, you legislators have no say whatsoever about it. What you can do is clarify what the legal consequences will be, or will not be, due to government infringement of such a natural inherent fundamental individual right.

Passing HB534 would be a tiny step in a long road for Hawaii laws to recognize all the natural inherent rights of Hawaii residents.

Now, about those preposterous bans on various firearms and firearm accessories which violate and infringe our fundamental individual natural right to keep and bear arms for self-defense... don't be hypocrites, again, and this time abide by your oath of office to support and defend the constitutions of the United States and the state of Hawaii:

“A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

There's nothing mysterious or esoteric about that language. Do your job according to your sworn or affirmed oath of office.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:08:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Davis Nguyen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a private citizen, I strongly support this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:18:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
richard arguelles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen and father, i am in full support of this bill. Too many criminals breaking into homes nowadays with extreme force and the homeowner cannot protect themselves or thier family without being charged for assault.

This is apparent with our senior citiizens, too many criminals targeting the elderly and they have no recourse to defend themselves. Granted, our elderly may not have the quickness to grab a weapon, but some of these senior veterans may have a weapon to protect himself and his wife.

Please consider protecting all the law biding citizens and elderly, instead of giving criminals the advantage of a misdemeanor and walking away free of charge.

It's only a matter of time before someone is killed by these criminals, when the homeowner could've defended themselves

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:20:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Allison	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Carla Allison and I strongly oppose HB534 because it justifies use of deadly force based solely on a person's belief/interpretation of danger, no matter how unreasonable that belief/interpretation. It is highly dangerous to justify a person's use of deadly force based on their own subjective belief/interpretation without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. Often the victims of such thinking and deadly force are BIPOC (Black, indigenous, people of color), people with mental disabilities, our LGBTQ community members, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal. This bill gives permission to use force to protect "oneself, one's property or another person," and does not limit this use of force to being in one's own home or vehicle. This use of force extends to places where a person has a legal right to be, which could be anywhere. Please, haven't we learned from the loss of life in states with Stand Your Ground laws? Please do not support this bill. Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:27:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
micah tanoai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, I believe we have the right to defend life and property against violent criminals.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:36:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alisa Thompson-Krog	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Levels of crime continue to rise on the island along with homelessness and drug use. I have personally seen kÅ«puna robbed on the street, entire vehicles stolen out of carports, teams of criminals jacking up cars and removing catalytic converters from underneath, shoplifting where the store owner is helpless and knows prosecutors will drop the case against the thieves, car windows smashed over and over again and more. I have personally known a victim that had video evidence of a their and their name (positive identification) and prosecutors still dropped the case against the criminals.

Since more prosecutions and incarcerations seem out of reach as far as curbing crime in our state, at the very least we as citizens should have the right to protect our homes, livelihoods, and property with the use of force against those who wish to take them away. At the very least this should be an option available to us and may very well act as at least some kind of deterrent to career criminals preying upon the people of Oahu.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:49:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Miyamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimonial that I am a law abiding citizen in good standing and tax payer. This bill would provide monumental rights to defend oneself and family within their home or business instead of criminals taking advantage of the law to spread mayhem and fear that a home or business owner/renter would have to flee in fear. I can not imagine where my family could flee to in a case of home invasion. Would you have us cower in the bath tub and pray that we will not be harmed. HB 534 would give us the right to stand up and be able to defend our family and property that we worked so long and hard for to put food on the table, clean water in our cups, and a roof over our heads. The right to defend ourselves in our home/business without fear of losing everything we have so earned through hard work, blood, sweat, and tears. I humbly implore you to pass HB534 for the right and privilege to defend our beloved family, property, and freedom from those who would steal, cause harm, and selfishly take what we have worked so hard to earn.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ken Miyamoto

Aiea 96701

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 12:59:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Norberto Dumo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill because our home is and should always be our safe haven.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:05:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:06:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please protect the rights of the people to protect themselves as is given in the 2nd Amendment. This bill is written clearly and supports the rights of Kauaians to defend themselves. I SUPPORT HB534.

Rebecca Miller

Anahola, HI

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:08:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
john bettinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB534 because it makes sense.I served 2 tours in VietNam in the infantry and as A door gunner to defend the Constitution and the second amendment is quite clear. After surviving my army service I became a policeman in California where I experienced all of the situations that are seen in a city. People that say "just call the police are people that haven't had to experience an "It is happening right now situation where every second could be life or death"? The reallity is police officers arrive at the scene in time to gather evidence on the crime that just occured. Ask any police officer and will they will concure. A perfect example is where I live,if someone im my neighborhood has a home-invasion, the response time is 20-40 minutes! The way people live in Hawaii make it near impossible for police officers to arrive at an urgent call in time to change the out-come,they arrive, get the information that they can and call it in! They then collect evidence or turn the crime scene over to the detectives. Look at the FBI statistics.Please pass this bill to help to protect all of the Hawaiiian Ohana.

God bless The United States of America and our state of Hawaii!!!!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:14:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D Y	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Madam and Sir,

Thank you for the changes to HB534 now HB534 HD1 I support you supporting the new Bill where we as citizens are able to defend ourselves, loved ones and those who are unable without fear of being charged in return. In a time of growing violence and uncertainty, "we" are our brothers keeper, neighbors, helpers. Support HB534 HD1

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:15:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rocky Pedro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Rocky Pedro. I am a resident of The Big island Hilo. I support this Bill because I believe it protects our rights when it comes to home defense. And I would not want to be thrown in Jail if it comes down to protecting my Family and loved ones. I am a law abiding citizen and I support the second amendment 100%

I did have a Scary experience where some one tried to break into my Home with my Wife and my 1 year son sleeping in the middle of the night. At the time I did not own any fire arm. I felt helpless and scared for my life and for my wife and baby. All I had was a stick in closet to protect our selves.

The intruder tried to come in and all I could do was hope and pray that he did not have any firearm to harm or kill my family. Long story short, he got away and I made a report to Police. This incident got me to acquire a fire for any future intrusion.

with that being said.. when I educated my self of the laws of Hawaii regarding owning a firearm, I was deeply appalled and concerned how the laws are very infringing to me as a law abiding USA citizen.

if I ever was to have this happen to me again, I want to make sure that I won't get prosecuted for protecting my Loved ones. So please let this Bill pass. There are people out there that don't care and are ruthlessly invading peoples homes.

We the people want to be protected from being prosecuted if we should ever have to take action on some one trying to Harm us.

thank you for listening

Mahalo !!

Rocky

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:16:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tony frascarelli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill with its revised language. Pass this bill. It's your opportunity to do something useful in this legislative session. Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:19:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
travis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. It is needed.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:22:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna P. Van Osdol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee:

I support this bill because it gives law abiding citizens, like myself, the opportunity to really defend themselves and their property, if confronted by any hostile element.

On a personal note, and as a senior citizen living with my husband, I was deeply in shock watching the rioting and damage being done by ANTIFA and BLM on the mainland, and felt so sorrowful seeing so many businesses being destroyed. In that regard, I am extremely thankful and utterly grateful knowing our law enforcement will do its duty to protect the citizens of this state, especially its kupuna.

I am unclear, however, if this bill is in line with the "castle doctrine," or will I be able to prevent ANY thieves, drug addicts, mentally ill violent persons from even entering my yard? I hope this bill will allow me to stop any unwanted person from entering any and all of my property.

I would also like to recommend that the bill, if signed by the Governor, take effect in two or three years (2023 or 2024) rather than 2050. Two or three years of good discussion by both those who are proponents of this bill and by those who oppose this bill should suffice.

Thank you for your time and consideration. This is a very good bill!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:28:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Apaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is about time the people of Hawaii do not have to live in fear of being arrested for protecting their lives, their loved one's, and their property. With so much going on right now where people are violated, it is essential that people have a way and a right to protect everything that is theirs. I support this bill! Criminals will think twice before committing crimes.

Mahalo!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:33:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Norris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help me protect my family with out fear of prosecution. I have been so confused at the legal rights I have

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:36:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

With the amendment to address Castle doctrine allowing citizens to defend their home I support this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:46:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Babcock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force based solely on the “belief” of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief. We now live in an age of mis-information, outright lies, extremist propaganda and paranoia, all of which create “beliefs” that are based on a false reality. Witness the insurrection on January 6, 2021 because thousands of people had become convinced that the presidential election was “stolen.”

It is highly dangerous and illogical to justify an actor’s use of deadly force solely based on their own subjective “belief,” without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. As we know from too many news reports, the victims of such skewed thinking and deadly force will likely be those most vulnerable in our society – racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect “oneself, one’s property or another person,” and does not limit the use of force to being in one’s own home or vehicle, but extends to “occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be,” which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

In short, HB534 creates a “get out of jail free” card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which most of us would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:50:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronnie Gonzales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. I am in full support of this bill, due to the capability to defend ones life, family, possessions against an assailant(s) or person willing to cause body or on property harm. Also please reconsider your decision on SB301 and the magazine limit ban as it may cause more harm to the officers that would enforce such law, as not all citizens are for taking their possessions away from them.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 1:58:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Glad to see the addition that protects a person's right to defend his place of business.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:05:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Ball	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this Bill as currently written.

It is reasonable and sensible. Provides for the lawful Right to self defense within the home or business if one deems that action to be necessary.

We've seen the headlines with the increase in home invasions and robberies.

Unfortunately, sometimes when seconds count, the police are only minutes away.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:07:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas E Jensen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If you can't Defend yourself if somebody breaks into your house and they kill you they're just gonna go to prison for life. That's not right somebody breaks into your house you should be able to defend yourself because if this bill passes that means people can break into your house and kill you. You need to able to Protect yourself from any intruder. You lawmakers how would it feel if somebody broke into your house and took your life and you couldn't defend yourself. Your family would be devastated. We need to be able to protect ourselves. Thank you for your time. Douglas Jensen

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:13:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you amending this bill to align with the language in House Bill No. 711, Regular Session of 2021.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:19:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymund Bragado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a retired service member with 2 tours to Iraq. I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Our Constitutional right on the 2nd Amendment should be followed. Please support and defend the Constitution and do not infringe our our right to bear arms. Thank you.

Mahalo,

Raymund A. Bragado

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:33:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jason moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to voice my support of HB534 HD1

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:39:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Carvalho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill, protecting oneself in this new world should always be a no-brainer,,

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 2:49:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
luis larzabal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, while I'm pleased the language has seemingly been changed enough for me to provide positive testimony, it would be even better if the new language were made even more clear that I have the right to defend myself, my family, and my property, against an attacker.

I want to add that above right to defense should be further extended to include concealed carry weapon (CCW) to all law-abiding citizens.

Mahalo nui loa, ke Akua pu!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 3:16:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelvin N Asahina, DDS	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This recent photo was taken off a Facebook post and is an image from someone's Ring security camera in Kalaheo. I also read of another recent case of someone running around near the Alawai with a machete. have no desire to hurt or injure anyone for no reason but what would anyone be expected to do if this guy found a way into your house. Run and hide and call 911? Yes, if you have time. But what if you don't have the time? You must be able to defend yourself and your family with equal or greater force without fear of legal retribution. Please look hard at this image and imagine he is at your home and what your options would be.



HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 3:25:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cass Nakasone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the right to protect oneself, family or other loved ones with the use of deadly force if necessary to stop the threat. Having to justify why I support this seems unnecessary and slightly ridiculous. I support this proposed measure because it is a fact that the police cannot be everywhere and are unlikely to protect you from immediate harm. Therefore, the average citizen should and must have the right to self protection. If this bill is not passed, it implies that our legislators feel they can protect us all the time. If so, we should have laws holding our legislators personally, and criminally liable if citizens are physically or emotionally harmed by criminal activities or intentions that could have been prevented or stopped using deadly force. If you want to take responsibility for the people's safety, then take responsibility personally.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 3:33:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Nakanishi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the right to defend myself against criminals.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 3:42:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Galli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this legislation.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 3:50:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm a very tiny woman and would appreciate any law that helps me protect myself against being harmed.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 3:51:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaac Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:17:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keola	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:17:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
I. Robert Nehmad	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force based solely on the “belief” of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief. We now live in an age of mis-information, outright lies, extremist propoganda and paranoia, all of which create “beliefs” that are based on a false reality. Witness the insurrection on January 6, 2021 because thousands of people had become convinced that the presidential election was “stolen.”

It is highly dangerous and illogical to justify an actor’s use of deadly force solely based on their own subjective “belief,” without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. As we know from too many news reports, the victims of such skewed thinking and deadly force will likely be those most vulnerable in our society – racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect “oneself, one’s property or another person,” and does not limit the use of force to being in one’s own home or vehicle, but extends to “occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be,” which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

In short, HB534 creates a “get out of jail free” card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which most of us would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

Mahalo

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:29:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Ann Kawabata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force based solely on the “belief” of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief. We now live in an age of mis-information, outright lies, extremist propaganda and paranoia, all of which create “beliefs” that are based on a false reality. Witness the insurrection on January 6, 2021 because thousands of people had become convinced that the presidential election was “stolen.”

It is highly dangerous and illogical to justify an actor’s use of deadly force solely based on their own subjective “belief,” without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. As we know from too many news reports, the victims of such skewed thinking and deadly force will likely be those most vulnerable in our society – racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect “oneself, one’s property or another person,” and does not limit the use of force to being in one’s own home or vehicle, but extends to “occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be,” which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

In short, HB534 creates a “get out of jail free” card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which most of us would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:30:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hipolito Olaes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support 2nd Amendment Rights to all citizens of our great country, any infringement on it is unconstitutional. The right to bear arms and be able to defend ourselves is protected under the constitution. We have every right to defend ourselves, our families and innocent people around us from harm. Law abiding citizens follow the law. Criminals on the other hand don't. Having restrictions on our abilities to protect ourselves emboldens criminals to commit the crimes, but if they're aware that law abiding citizens have the ability to protect themselves, they'll have second thought about committing a crime on law abiding citizens.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:30:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramiro Noguero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:36:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruben Betts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that a person should have a responsibility to protect their family and property with force if needed

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:39:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support HB534 HD1 for both protection of oneself and others.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:46:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill.

It is encouraging to see the proposal of meaningful legislation, that the people want, and this bill meets that criteria.

The 2008 Supreme Court Heller decision affirmed the right to self defense both within the home, and outside the home. This bill would put the state of Hawaii well within the intent of the Supreme Court's decision.

Given the increase in brazen crimes seen in this state since the start of the Corona Pandemic, this bill would allow citizens to defend themselves and others against aggression and threat, without the duty to first retreat. It is also good that the bill prevents criminal and civil prosecutions for justified uses of force, including deadly force.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:49:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Hampton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In its current form, I wholeheartedly support this bill.

The ability to defend one's family, property and self without fear of arrest is essential to a free nation.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 5:11:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alfred janneck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

with the changes to this making provisions for a law abiding
citizen to defend themselves in their own house and not having to
"Retreat" I now support this.

criminals rights do should not take away my right to defend myself, my family
or my property
mahalo

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 5:15:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as it will allow me to lawfully protect my family and my home.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 5:19:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joann Salakielu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 5:37:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jefferson Foust	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as it gives me the right to protect my family against anyone that is trying to hurt them.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 6:01:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Is upport this bill because the criminals family cannot take me to civil court because I have defened myself. Criminals should not even be allowed to have this right because they chose to be a criminal. Law abiding citizens need to be protected and be able to defend themselves without suffering the consequences

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 6:32:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.Â This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.Â Hawaii is becoming more and more dangerous as a result of the dying economy. Drug and alcohol abuse is escalating at a frightening rate and the homeless problem seems to be growing daily. These changes to the law would allow a victim to use enough force against a person, who is committing a crime against them, to stop. It would also ensure that this person does not face criminal or civil legal action should the force be justified.Â

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 6:36:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Byon Nakasone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534!!!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 6:55:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barry Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 534 because it will give my wife and myself the ability to protect ourselves and our son without fear of prosecution in our own home.

I ask that you please pass this Bill and let law abiding citizens feel safe in their own homes.

Mahalo, Barry

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 7:06:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gretchen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

Please do the same and protect our rights to safety and protection.

thank you.

Gretchen

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 7:07:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wilfred Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good Evening Representatives,

I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of HB534 HD1...with one request. This Act states that, if passed, will take into effect as of 7/1/2050. This date needs to be changed to read 7/1/2021. Bad things are occurring NOW, and we need to protect and create an environment where our law-abiding citizens can defend themselves from those who would do us harm. Each and everyday I see on the news and on social media the numerous crimes occurring all over our state. And it is getting worse. We cannot wait to have this Act be the law so far off in the future. So please, change the date on this.

I am no stranger to crime, as I have been a victim of crime several times. My property has been trespassed numerous times & burglarized twice. To know that someone has been in my house, seen the pictures of my family and know what we look like....but I wouldn't recognize them on the street if they passed me, is disconcerting. I have been lucky to not be home when the crimes occurred, but what about the next time? I should be allowed to defend myself, and my family without having to retreat.

We need to protect our law-abiding citizens first and foremost. This Act is the step in the right direction, and I would like to see it passed (with the change of the effective date).

Wilfred Lum

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 7:20:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PHILIP LAPID	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. It is pro law abiding citizen, pro good citizens that needs to protect their love ones, and pro tax payers that needs to protect their livelihood. Thank you for giving our state the right to self defense and protect themselves.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 7:27:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Fukuhara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB534 HD1

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 7:28:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noreen Lapid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. I like and support Honolulu Police Department and how they help our community but the citizens need to protect themselves when HPD will be late on critical moment. Thank you. This bill is pro tax payer and law abiding citizens.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 7:38:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Drye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live in ocean view hawaii.. I am a single hard working father. Every day in our town I see and here about burglaries and assaults.. stollen cars property damage and abuse... We are americans. Law abiding good people.. these law breakers and thief's get caught and released every day just to do it again and again.. we work very hard for our possessions and to provide for our families.. in no way is it right that we should have to run away from protecting ourselves and our property and loved ones.. why should someone with bad intentions have the right to take what is ours while we can't protect ourselves from these types of people.. when someone breaks into your home they're prepared to attack you.. they won't break in then give you a chance to run.. nobody is protecting replacing or reimbursing us for the items that are taken from us.. we deserve the right to stand our ground and protect ourselves our families our property and our lives..

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 7:38:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirk Gosnell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am supporting HB534 because for too long tax paying citizens of Hawaii have been victim of laws the appear to support criminals instead of us when we are trying to protect ourselves, families and property. I believe this bill puts on the right path towards protecting the tax paying citizens of Hawaii.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 8:33:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan roldan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. It finally gives law abiding citizens the ability to defend themselves and their loved ones from a person or persons in a commission of a crime. There have been many occasions where people have been accosted or otherwise assaulted in their own homes. They feared prosecution and thus did nothing and some have paid the ultimate price in being murdered or raped and robbed. My cousin caught a person trying to break into his house. He was caught, prosecuted and served a light sentence. Upon his release he came back to his house and tossed a large rock through the front picture window. He has come back several times to vandalize the property. I am afraid that he will one day enter the house and hurt my cousin or his family. I feel better if the law helps me protect my family. I urge you to vote for this common sense piece of legislation to the the power back to the citizens against criminals.

Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 8:34:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support SB534! The revisions to this bill were much needed. It's a relief to know that the state would finally recognize the rights of citizens to protect themselves over capitulating to criminals.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 8:38:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glennon T. Gingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha JHA Committe Members and Chair Rhoads.

I'm in full support of this Bill.

Thanks for your consideration.

Glennon T. Gingo

Holualoa, Hawaii

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:04:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chair and Committee,

Please pass HB534

With all due respect,I love my family,and their safety is a primary concern in these trying times..

I am prepared to defend myself and family in a safe and legal fashion should the situation demand it.

HB534 is a justifiable measure.

thank you

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:09:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip T. Rapoza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:15:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:15:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Pitman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business, or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

The bill reads,

“The use of force upon or toward another person is justifiable when the actor believes that this force is immediately necessary to defend oneself, one’s property, or another person against the use of unlawful force by the other person on the present occasion.”

“a person employing protective force may estimate the necessity thereof under the circumstances the actor believes to be occurring when the force is used without retreating, surrendering possession, doing any other act which the actor has no legal duty to do, or abstaining from any lawful action.”

“An actor who uses force, including deadly force, as justified and permitted under subsections (1) and (2) is immune from criminal prosecution and civil action for the use of the force unless the force was determined to be unlawful.”

These changes to the law would allow a victim to use enough force against a person, who is committing a crime against them, to stop. It would also ensure that this person does not face criminal or civil legal action should the force be justified.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:16:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Russ Shappard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen, Hawaii resident, and homeowner; I have owned guns all of my life. I find it literally insane that I must worry about going to jail by exercising my natural right to preserve my own life, or the lives of my family members. It has never once crossed my mind that I would not do so. No husband or father worthy of the title would have a moment's hesitation in doing so. This is not a legal right that can be taken away, this is a natural right no different than breathing.

I will never hesitate to take a life to preserve the life of my loved ones, and to find out that I stand to lose everything I own and my freedom for protecting others is a crime in itself. I am ashamed to call Hawaii my home if even one citizen is ever convicted for doing what is without a doubt, a human right.

Legal gun owners keep America safe because you can't keep a cop in your pocket. In the 20 minutes it will take you to respond to my home, my family's lives will be extinguished in under two if I don't protect them. This law just legally protects citizens from selective prosecution for doing what is right, to everyone except politicians that are already exempted from prosecution. As the law stands now, nearly everyone is guilty for the crime of self defense and the District Attorney decides the fate of the citizenry. That is not freedom, that is fascism in its literal sense, not some mockery of the word that is taught to children today.

I have spent 30 years risking my life in the United States Army to defend my fellow Americans from this type of oppression. I have no desire to sit by and watch bureaucrats destroy the lives of those that choose to protect themselves and their loved ones. You would make a mockery of my service. My only wish is that you would have to look each innocent person effected by this bill right in the eye, as their lives are destroyed by a vengeful DA that cares nothing for the blood of the innocent, only their own political assension. Sign this bill, it's not enough, but it's the right thing to do.

Russ Shappard
Kapolei, HI

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:30:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Langley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As the wording of the bill has been clarified to allow one to defend themselves, their property, and others in this climate of rising crime, I do support this measure allowing residents to attempt to keep themselves safe before the police can arrive.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:38:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Harwood-Tappe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, David W. Harwood-Tappe, DECLARE MY SUPPORT OF THIS NEWLY AMENDED BILL (HB534 HD1) FOR REASONS STATED HEREIN.

For too long, Hawaii's law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims, requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm. If you truly serve and care for your constituents you will do the morally correct thing which is to support this bill and vote "Aye!"

Our country was founded, and our great Constitution written based on the fundamental principle that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

One of those rights is the right to self-defense and the defense of others! We hold these truths to be self-evident! It appears that the voices of We The People have been heard by our current Congressmen and Congresswoman and We The People applaud and thank you all for upholding your oath to defend the Constitution, for representing We The People and for defending and support our right to self-defense!

I encourage you all to please continue upholding your oath to defend the Constitution of the United States by supporting this bill specifically, along with any other bills like it that defend our Second Amendment rights, and in fact, all of our God-given rights protected by the Constitution!

God bless you and may He continue to guide you always! Mahalo!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:40:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Chow Hoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is James Chow Hoy, as a resident of the State of Hawaii, I would like to submit written testimony that I am in agreement with and fully support HB534. Please accept this testimony that I make as a Law Abiding Citizen of the State of Hawaii.

There must be some way we citizens can defend our own lives and that of family members and neighbors and our property against perpetrators that have no respect for the law and decide to break in to our own home or trespass on our property, where we are enjoying life and in a blink of an eye commit unspeakable crimes against us for their own ill gotten gains. Please help us Law Abiding Citizens with the passage of this bill. Thank you and Aloha!!!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:41:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Travis morita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is too much crime that the judiciary system has failed to upkeep law and order. The system is failing and the crooks are taking over this island. We need to support this bill that way we can put justice back on our side again. It's sad to live in a community fearing for when our house would be broken into.

By putting this law into place allows the homeowner to be able to sleep a little bit better at night. You guys are putting the wrong people behind bars and letting the crooks run free. Please stop doing this before you put more innocent lives at risk.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:43:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Nagai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am in support HB534. I would just like to add that individuals protecting self, home or property must have the ability to use any means necessary to defend against perpetrators. Individuals shouldn't need to retreat first or match the aggression of an assailant before taking it to the next level. Stand your ground by any means necessary. Also please inact bill before 2050.

Mahalo,

Scott Nagai

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:53:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Onnagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that every law abiding citizen should be able to defend themselves and their loved ones without having to worry about be a criminal in doing so. For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property. This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm. These changes to the law would allow a victim to use enough force against a person, who is committing a crime against them, to stop. It would also ensure that this person does not face criminal or civil legal action should the force be justified.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:56:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elmer Domingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Every law abiding individual should have protective rights to defend themselves, their home, their property, and other persons against these unlawful acts at any cost.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:57:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Willis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. It is long overdue.

We should never been in this predicament that a law in 2021 need to be written to give law abiding citizens the right to defend ourselves. Should be a God given right from birth.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:58:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
justin bajadali	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:58:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. It is long overdue.

We should never been in this predicament that a law in 2021 need to be written to give law abiding citizens the right to defend ourselves. Should be a God given right from birth.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 9:59:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elmer Domingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Every law abiding individual should have protective rights to defend themselves, their home, their property, and other persons against these unlawful acts at any cost.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:00:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Moriki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a senior citizen who primarily lives alone in a rather isolated rural area please grant me a sense of security that if my home gets broken into I would not be a helpless victim. I would like the ability to defend myself, my family and all that I am able if ever confronted with a situation that no talking or walking away will solve. The use of any kind of weapon should be the last thing that we resort to but it should be an option we have to protect life and/or property. I feel that our justice system today gives more rights to the criminals than to law abiding citizens. Please restore some balance.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:09:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Brady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi . I am a law abiding citizen . We do need a good stand your ground law in Hawaii . We need to protect our families from evil people . Home invasions are some thing we all hear about more often these days . If a criminal has forcefully entered a innocent victims home . The victims shouldn't have any worry about being convicted of a crime for protecting them selves and or any family from bad criminal behavior. The innocent stay out of criminal prosecution. Thank you soo much I hope this goes through .

Sincerely

Erik Brady

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:18:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor Ganoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 534.

The right to self defense especially in ones home is paramount for a civil society. I do not believe that one should ever abandon the one place in this world they have always retreated to for safety and security. I will always support one defending their home and everything they hold dear to their heart.

I have 3 firm stances of formidable debate:

1. A phone must first be made prior to rescue from Law Enforcement. How many murders, robberies, rapes, etc are listed in the FBI database that may have possibly required a simple phone call to be made, in order to avert our worst fears? These murders, robberies, rapes, are mostly of people that were incapable of rescuing themselves let alone making a phone call (given an infinite amount of circumstances). We overlook this minor detail of having a phone in hand when things hit the fan, and yet most if not all never know if and when they would need their phone at the ready during unanticipated duress.

2. A murder, robbery, rape, etc can be committed in less than 2 minutes. An armed robber can force any or all occupants to their will with enough time to commit an infinite amount of atrocities. Fact: Unless your phone call is made (at the near instant of critical duress), and the police teleport to the scene instantaneously... your potential victim has to survive 10-15min before law enforcement can arrive. How may tens of thousands of crimes have been committed where the arrival of Law Enforcement came too late? How many were defenseless?

3. Lastly, it is our constitutional right to bear arms. Are we exclusively bearing arms in Hawai just for sport or for hunting? What if people simply want to protect their family and home from people probing for weakness throughout the neighborhood? I know for a fact most gun owners in Hawaii do not hunt. Also many don't have the time or the finances to shoot for sport or hobby. Most simply want to be prepared for the moment they must protect that which they love.

In closing, in natural law, only the animals equipped to survive will thrive. To disempower your law-abiding 2A demographic by not allowing them to defend their

homes is a blatant disregard for the security of the people. If that is the case, all liability should be placed upon the state for each individual turned victim, in the event they feared legal repercussions from the state more than the criminal acts of the perpetrator.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:20:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ricky Ferreira Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT this Bill

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:26:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Morozov	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this Bill!

We have to be able to protect ourselves and our family members!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 10:59:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lionel Delos Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

dear legislature i support this bill ,because it will help victim to fight and defined ourself so crimmlinal dont get away with crime and make our family safe.

thank you

lionel

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:04:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chase F	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 12:17:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert P Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a former Marine Corps Officer few things annoy me more than to live in a state where the laws go against using my years of training to protect myself, my loved ones, our property and other persons.

It is ridiculous to have laws that make people afraid to stand up to violent criminals and support one another for fear of becoming a victim through the legal system as a result of doing so.

“Stand your ground” should be a right just as much as the right to bear arms is our right and Hawaii has screwed with our rights as United States Citizens for far too long on both counts.

For too long Hawaii’s law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals and it just keeps getting worse. Laws favor criminals over the rights of victims. No more! Now is the opportunity to right this wrong and protect the good guys as we protect ourselves and each other.

Anyone found not supporting HB534 as it has been amended and our rights will not be getting my support in any way for anything they do thereafter.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 12:38:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malcolm Yee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a law abiding resident / citizen of Hawaii, I highly support HB 534 which will expand on victim's rights to self defense which is vital in today's troubling times.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 1:25:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter J Long III	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wish to submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

For FAR too long, law abiding citizens in this state have have had to suffer as victims of violent criminals with little recourse. Current laws favor the criminal actor far more than the victim, requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their own property or business. This notion flies in the face of most people that work very hard or have made great sacrifices for what they have built.

Our weak and overburdened Judicial system allows many bad actors to face little to no consequence or responsibility at all for their criminal actions. This is fundamentally unfair to the majority of the public and a failure of the primary function of government, to serve and protect the rights of citizens.

Certainly in these curious times where inmates are being released earlier and more often due to COVID-19 concerns, and calls for police reform are being made, it is necessary to make this change to a lawfully state recognized use of force for self protection without fear of prosecution.

Thank you,

PJ Long III

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 2:18:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael P. K. Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB534 HD1. As they stand, the amendments seem satisfactory to accomplish the bill's original aims; to expand and better establish the right to self defense. An armed society is a polite society, and where the letter of the law is insufficient to deter those of an impulsive character from doing violence upon their fellows, the more visceral, less cerebral threat of violence in response is, ostensibly, a better deterrent. Police cannot—indeed, in a free society, likely *should* not—be omnipresent, and the gap in response time between a violent crime and their arrival needs to be filled by something; historically, that something is everyday people defending themselves.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 2:45:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'am supporting the passing of this bill. Everyday numerous violent encounters occur with law abiding civilians and violent criminals, many of which ends up with the law abiding civilians enduring bodily harm and or death. A dose of that reality is shown through a YOUTUBE channel called Active Self Protection which shows violent encounters with criminals throughout the country and some of the people being able to defend themselves against said violence. Police cannot be everywhere all the time and violent crimes take merely seconds to commit while police is MINUTES away to help AFTER they've been dispatched by the 911 operator and that's IF the potential victim even has the ability to call for help. Let us life loving law abiding citizens be able to defend ourselves against violent criminals from bodily harm or death if the unfortunate need arises. Criminals care not what laws you write but law abiding citizens do. Please do the right thing and pass this bill. Mahalo for your time.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 4:30:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 HD1 because the law should promote the right to self defense. Mahalo nui loa for your kokua.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:04:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Barbieto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB534 will be very helpful . Defending yourself and other should be a right because sometimes others don't have the mean at to defend them self this bill should become law ASAP

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:12:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Morrison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For too long, Hawaii's law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims, requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend themselves, their home, business, or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

These changes to the law would allow a victim to use enough force to stop a person who is committing a crime against them. It would also ensure that this person does not face criminal or civil legal action should their use of force be justified.

Therefore I am in support of this Bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:39:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Fong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it will give people back their basic rights of self preservation and self defense. There are too many laws that protect the criminal while not allowing the law abiding citizen to protect themselves and their property. With violent crime increasing and repeat offenders being constantly released, I believe this will be a great first step in protecting the people.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:45:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberto Morales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe this Bill will help Law Biden Citizen and their families.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:59:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leona Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Citizens should have every right to self defense without worry of they themselves being criminalized. It's a human right to defend yourself against attack. Make it legal.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:09:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Goo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I strongly support this bill as it strengthens innocent victims from violent assaults, robberies, rapes and sometimes murders. I have been in law enforcement for over 35 years as a Detective in the Honolulu Police Dept and currently I work for the US Marshals Service. I have seen many victims violently assaulted just for 0.25 cents, people with broken noses, jaws, swollen eyes and concussions just because they look at someone the wrong way. Rape victims, both young and old. In 35 years of law enforcement I **COULD NEVER** get there **on time to save anyone of these victims**. I would arrive long after the suspect has fled. We need to strength our Stand Your Ground laws and protect the innocent and most vulnerable.

Please pass bill HB534

Sincerely,

Dan Goo - Retired HPD Detective, US Marshals Service

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:10:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

These changes to the law would allow a victim to use enough force against a person, who is committing a crime against them, to stop. It would also ensure that this person does not face criminal or civil legal action should the force be justified.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:13:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
garrick yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly agree that we need to be able to defend ourselves and our family's with out the the worry that the person committing the crime has more rights that the person defending him or herself and family

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:14:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Koons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 HD1. A person should be able to protect themselves or those around them in a defensive situation where they feel an attacker may inflict serious harm or death. They should not have to worry about the repercussions of what may happen to themselves regarding the law in a life or death/fight or flight situation. Especially when the only or most strategic option would be to fight to prevent any further harm or death to themselves and/or those around them.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:22:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an honest law abiding citizen and I support HB 534. Please give citizens the ability to survive a bad actor, make it equal and fair for us. Criminals have ilegal guns and with the current gun laws honest people are at a disadvantage. The current laws have taken our second ammendment rights away and you can restore them.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:35:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nathan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, to apply force to protect my self and or my loved ones.
because there are a lot of criminals out there that's will do anything and has more power
in force then us law abiding citizens.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:00:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon DS	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it provides us law abiding citizen to use self defense to protect themselves, their families and property from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:11:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris A. Tamm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:17:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Galen J. Pao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Galen J. Pao, want to go on record as supporting HB534.

The issue of self protection is very important to me as a law-abiding citizen. I believe it is a basic right as a US citizen and is something that should not be taken lightly nor irresponsibly.

This bill will enable private citizens to use deadly force if necessary to protect themselves if their life and well being is being threatened while in their home or property. I believe the duty to retreat has only emboldened those criminals who have already decided to break the law.

Enabling citizens to defend themselves sends a clear message to the criminal element and in my opinion eliminates many situations before it ever becomes a reality.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to voice my support for HB534.

Regards,

Galen J. Pao

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harold K Pang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Harold Pang, lifetime resident of the state of Hawai'i. I am a responsible gun owner and have been for many years. I adamantly **support** HB 534_HD1 (similar language in HB 711, as recommended by Committee Report [HB534 HD1 HSCR350](#)). I believe this bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:56:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Coster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a citizen of Hawaii I am writing in support of HB534. For too long citizens have had to live in fear here on Big Island of home invasion, property damage, and malicious trespass. Local law enforcement are in no position to provide citizens timely protection for the ever growing population of transients and ne'er-do-wells. In the last few years I noted most property crimes elevate from simple theft to physical threats and criminal property damage perpetrated by a growing group of criminals with no fear of police or court intervention. Police showing up to document the crime doesn't help the citizen, and doesn't provide for any incentives for the criminals to stop. Criminals have become increasingly emboldened and citizens need the ability to legally defend their families, home, and property. Respectfully request passage of HB534 and provide citizens the ability to defend themselves appropriately without fear of prosecution. It's a sad state of affairs when a law abiding citizen knows if they are placed in a situation of having to protect their family, they will likely go to jail and suffer financial and legal difficulties from a State that ignores their citizens rights to protect themselves.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:07:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Matayoshi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force based solely on the “belief” of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief. We now live in an age of mis-information, outright lies, extremist propaganda and paranoia, all of which create “beliefs” that are based on a false reality. Witness the insurrection on January 6, 2021 because thousands of people had become convinced that the presidential election was “stolen.”

It is highly dangerous and illogical to justify an actor’s use of deadly force solely based on their own subjective “belief,” without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. As we know from too many news reports, the victims of such skewed thinking and deadly force will likely be those most vulnerable in our society – racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect “oneself, one’s property or another person,” and does not limit the use of force to being in one’s own home or vehicle, but extends to “occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be,” which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

In short, HB534 creates a “get out of jail free” card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which most of us would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:19:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Coralie Matayoshi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force based solely on the “belief” of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief. We now live in an age of mis-information, outright lies, extremist propaganda and paranoia, all of which create “beliefs” that are based on a false reality. Witness the insurrection on January 6, 2021 because thousands of people had become convinced that the presidential election was “stolen.”

It is highly dangerous and illogical to justify an actor’s use of deadly force solely based on their own subjective “belief,” without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. As we know from too many news reports, the victims of such skewed thinking and deadly force will likely be those most vulnerable in our society – racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect “oneself, one’s property or another person,” and does not limit the use of force to being in one’s own home or vehicle, but extends to “occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be,” which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

In short, HB534 creates a “get out of jail free” card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which most of us would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 12:11:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this ammended version of HB534.

because it now matchs Bill HB711. This clearly defines that, law abiding citizens are allowed to defend themselves, their loved ones and thier property.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 12:43:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dirck Sielken	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and ask that you pass it. There has been such an increase in violent crimes in Hawaii and as good as our law enforcement is, they most times will not arrive to help the victim. They will only be able to record a report and at sad times investigate a death. Many laws seem to protect the bad guy and punish the victim...a victim that never asked to be a victim. This law is good in that a victim and others can defend and protect themselves and the ones they love without being punished when justified.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 12:57:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arthur Kluvo	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

This amended bill is better than original bill, but if it won't be effective until 2050 then I oppose the bill. The hearing for this bill is a total waste of representatives time. By the year 2050 who knows what kind of world it might be.

I don't understand the political game being played, but wish more important legislation would be considered.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 1:14:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steven a kumasaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

please allow law-abiding citizens of Hawaii to have more rights than those who wish to do us harm

mahalo

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 1:42:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 HD1 as we need a strong stand your ground law.

As an older individual, the thought of having to run and retreat is easier said than done. I no longer have the physical strength to present a strong defense against a younger and/or stronger individual or individuals. Without a strong stand your ground law, we are presented with two choices, 1) be a victim and possibly lose your life, or 2) defend yourself, get arrested, struggle through months of dealing with lawyers & courts (if you can afford it), and possibly go to jail because you couldn't retreat based on someone else's opinion. These are just a few reasons why we need a strong stand your ground law.

People who don't believe in a stand your ground law will cite fear as a poor reason for needing such a law. The same people are highly probable to have never been a victim of a violent crime. I have a daughter who was attacked by a person who used a knife in an attempt to kill her. She is lucky to be alive. She is a student with a 4.4 GPA which demonstrates that she isn't a person that seeks out trouble. Without a stand your ground law, my daughter doesn't stand a chance to survive and defend herself against an attacker like this. Simple physics dictates that a 100lb female has no chance against a 6ft 180lb attacker with a deadly weapon. She won't become a Karate master like movies would like us to dream of. The reality is that all of the feel good philosophies of the people advocating for the protection of people who commit violent crimes, can not provide a defense against an attacker.

We hope to never have to utilize such a lethal defense, but we need a strong stand your ground law because there are people who just keep choosing to commit violent crimes. We people who just want to live a peaceful life can not lay down and continue to be victims. The reality is that there are people who have no concern for the well being of others and a stand your ground law will help the good citizens have strong rights to defend themselves and their families against people who choose to harm them.

Those who are against this law also cite increases in violence as a result of such laws. They fail to inform others that this is a result of the increased count of criminals receiving injuries due to the homeowners defending themselves. No one seems to understand that violent criminals by definition, do not care what any of us think. Those

who oppose this right to stand your ground need to realize that violent criminals will have no issue with invading your home, attacking and causing great bodily harm to you and your family. The violent criminal will not identify your home as one that voted against this stand your ground law. You are just fortunate that you haven't been victimized.

Perhaps those in opposition should concentrate their efforts on stopping people from committing criminal acts and assaulting others or attempting to kill others. When those in opposition to a strong stand your ground law can stop people from committing violent crimes, the need to defend ones self will also not be needed. However, if we all paid attention in our World History class (either in High School or College), you would understand that humans have always had to deal with other humans with evil intents. If history has taught us anything, there will also continue to be humans with evil intents. As representatives of all people both good and bad, we can only ask that we good citizens be allowed to lawfully be supported in our God given right to defend ourselves and our loved ones.

Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 1:43:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Craig Nomitsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. It will give a law abiding person the right to defend themselves, their property and another person from a presently unlawful force from another person or persons.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 1:58:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcus Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. It's ridiculous that a criminal can commit a crime in someones home or business and if they get hurt, they or their family can sue the resident or business. So pretty much without this law, it's a win win for a criminal. Either they get to steal your stuff or harm an occupant, or if they get injured trying, they can take them to court and sue.

Just because someone gets taken to court, doesn't mean they will win. The home occupant or business worker will have to pay lots of money for an attorney to defend themselves. So this law would make it so they do not have to worry and spend thousands on an attorney if self defense was applied legally.

Some may be opposed to this because the saying "the wild west" will appear. Well guess what, Nevada already has this law. And many HI people still go to Nevada, pre COVID-19 of course. SO having this type of law didn't stop them from going to Vegas.

So again, I support this law because someone using legal self defense inside their residence or business should not have to spend thousands on an attorney for a civil suit.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 2:09:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Byron Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello and Aloha.

With the ever growing crime rate now days I fully support this bill!

we have had home invasions during the middle of the day where people have broken in, tied people up, while they had a firearm. They were helpless. With this bill it gives people an absolute chance to equalize the field.

thank you, and I pray everyone makes the right decision. Not everyone has the luxury of security guards or living high up where criminals don't have access too.

thank you again,

Byron Chong

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 3:14:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Ladera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a veteran of our military, sworn to protect us from foreign and domestic threats at a national/international level, there shouldn't be any reason why we can't do this at a local level. These criminals have had such an advantage over us, law abiding/innocent citizens for far too long. It is extremely/terribly heartbreaking to hear of victims that could've had the chance to defend themselves if the opportunity was theirs. Please..please help us protect ourselves, families and friends, and you and yours. Mahalo.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 3:35:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert-Joseph Sigel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support **HB534**. This bill is a **MUST HAVE**, it is a human right to be able to protect yourself in a moment of need from a person or persons wanting to inflict harm or death. We need the right to be able to stand our ground. This bill would restore order to Hawaii's current unconstitutional, laughable stand your ground rules. I have no idea how anyone would allow bills to be passed that would force people to hide/escape from their own homes. The current laws in place only benefits the criminals. And makes victims out of law abiding citizens that only want the right to stand there ground and protect themselves and their families, as well as their properties. In addition, how do you suppose people that live in studios or small Appartments are supposed to hide/escape from intruders, criminals, rapist. In addition to that women now have no power, if someone wants to push in a door to sexually assault/rape someone you currently expect them to hide? In a situation like that the best action is defense/attack. These are the times for law abiding citizens to be able to use their right to the 2nd amendment to protect themselves. Enough of this, enough righting laws to make criminals out of law abiding Americans and stop protecting criminals and people that are out to do harm. Support **HB534**.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 3:43:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Kaia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Jordan Kaia. I am a husband and father to two children ages 14 and 5. My families safety is always a top priority. My life is my family and my home and if someone shall encroach and endanger either of those two i shouldnt have to second guess defending my self, family, or property because the law will not support me. The safest place for my family is within the confines of our home. I shouldnt have to retreat while a criminal either lay siege to my belongings or worse assault my loved ones. I humbly ask that this bill be passed into law. This is a human right, no matter the age, race, gender, or political affiliation. Everyone should have the ability to self defense knowing the law is on their side and not with the criminal. Thank you and Aloha.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 4:06:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Muneoka-Nagy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because we need to stop protecting criminals. I should be able to protect myself, my family and my property while having the law behind me, not the person choosing to break the law. They as a criminal made the decision to break into, steal, or harm me, my family, or property and should not be the ones with the law on their side.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 4:12:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Osamu Makiguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB534 HD1, however, please include language to preclude Honolulu Police Department and any other Hawaii law enforcement unit from continuing their policy of automatically arresting a citizen who discharges a firearm especially if a firearm was used in a lawful attempt to protect life and property. Law enforcement should determine if a law was violated before arresting a citizen. Automatically arresting a law abiding citizen who lawfully uses a firearm puts undue/unecessary burden on a law abiding citizen to make bail, hire an attorney and incur other financial and psychological burdens during a stressful situation.

Thank you.

Osamu Makiguchi

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 4:33:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Y Song	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force based solely on the “belief” of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief. We now live in an age of mis-information, outright lies, extremist propaganda and paranoia, all of which create “beliefs” that are based on a false reality. Witness the insurrection on January 6, 2021 because thousands of people had become convinced that the presidential election was “stolen.”

It is highly dangerous and illogical to justify an actor’s use of deadly force solely based on their own subjective “belief,” without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. As we know from too many news reports, the victims of such skewed thinking and deadly force will likely be those most vulnerable in our society – racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect “oneself, one’s property or another person,” and does not limit the use of force to being in one’s own home or vehicle, but extends to “occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be,” which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

In short, HB534 creates a “get out of jail free” card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which most of us would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 4:33:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Cluett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 4:51:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Woodward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 534.

The law-abiding citizens of the State of Hawaii should have the right to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm in their own home and not be required to run away. They should also have the right to protect their property and not be required to surrender their possessions being unlawfully obtained by force by another person.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 5:07:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pieter Meinster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is imperative that the government and justice system facilitate and support the rights of the citizenry to allow them to defend themselves when presented with a credible threat, without complex, protracted or costly legal ramifications.

The goal should be to avoid creating more victims, society has too many of those already. Empower people to defend themselves and others.

Mahalo

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 5:11:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rikkirene Kaia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in SUPPORT for HB534 HD1. I believe in giving power back to the victims or would be victims of a violent crime. I believe this is a step in the right direction to creating a safer community in Hawaii. We need to protect the law abiding citizens rather than the criminals. They deserve to be able to feel empowered to protect themselves, others and property from criminal victimization.

Mahalo!

RikkiRene' Kaia

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 5:15:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Casey Nakama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 HD1. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 5:19:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Carvalho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this Bill. The people of this great state need to be able to protect themselves from being victimized.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 5:46:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allegra Giacchino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB534 effectively allows those who shoot people to have immunity, even when they start a confrontation or can safely de-escalate the situation by walking away. This bill confuses the public perception of lawful self-defense and may encourage people to shoot first and ask questions later. People with a legitimate need to defend themselves are already protected under existing self-defense law. Please oppose HB534.

Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 5:50:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brent Llanaez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 534 HD1. Lawful citizens should have the right to defend themselves in times of need.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:13:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark K.Wilson III	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB534 because it would create a "Stand Your Ground" law here that would allow the use of deadly force based only on a person's "belief" that someone was going to use unlawful force against them. Unfortunately these days misinformation, intentional lies, paranoia and propaganda all can create perceptions based on a false reality, as we witnessed recently in the Jan. 6 attack on our Federal Capitol.

The bill broadly permits the use of deadly force to protect "oneself, one's property, or another person" anywhere at all, based solely on one's subjective perception of a threat to themselves, their property, or other persons. I urge you not to vote in favor of HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:16:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Yokota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"If violent crime is to be curbed, it is only the intended victim who can do it. The felon does not fear the police, and he fears neither judge nor jury. Therefore what he must be taught to fear is his victim." - Lt. Colonel Jeff Cooper, United States Marine Corp, WWII, Korea.

I wholeheartedly support HB 534. The attached image was from the video doorbell of a homeowner on Kalaheo Ave in Kailua this past Saturday, February 20th, 2021. The individual with the machete rang the doorbell at three o'clock in the morning, with obvious malicious intent. The perpetrator was probably hoping a groggy homeowner would answer the doorbell at that hour and they would be able to overpower the homeowner. Thankfully the homeowner was awake enough to realize what was happening and never opened the door. This is an example of something that goes on in every community around Oahu on a daily basis that never makes the headlines in the news.

January 27, 2021 - Home invasion Punchbowl; suspects kicked in door and brandished handgun. Bound elderly homeowner. - *Hawaii News Now*

January 04, 2021 - Home invasion in Manoa - *Star Advertiser*

December 02, 2020 - Home invasion Waialae Iki; bound elderly homeowners. - *KHON2*

The alarming increase in daytime home invasion robberies, especially those targeting the elderly was recently addressed with HPD and the police commission. With the pandemic, many people are spending less time working in their traditional offices and more time at home. This will inevitably lead to more confrontations between criminals perpetrating these crimes and citizens.

HPD can not be on every corner of every residential street full time, and so the responsibility of safeguarding one's own well being is left up to the individual. Hawaii home owners, renters, and law abiding citizens should not be further burdened with a "responsibility to retreat" in the face of criminal activity. This "responsibility to

retreat" loophole in the Hawaii Revised Statutes only further emboldens and enables criminal, it does not make citizens safer.

Help the law abiding citizens protect themselves and their loved ones by voting "Aye" on HB 534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:33:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry Nagai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:34:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
paul gasper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We should as law abiding citizens be able to use whatever force necessary to protect ourselves, family, property or others from some one stealing or damaging that property or any type bodily harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 6:36:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabriel Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Gabriel Miller and I am in support for "Stand your Ground." I have a family, and I believe in our right to "Bear Arms" to protect my family from any type of harm in my home. It is our 2nd ammendment right and it should be illegal to take away our right. I am in full support and so is everyone in my family.

Mahalo Nui,

Gabriel

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:05:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
colby sakumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the passing of HB534

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:33:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodney Rego	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

My position is in favor and support of house bill 534 the right to stand your ground if unavoidable harm is certain. I believe this will be more in favor of the victims rights .

v/r

Rodney Rego District 47

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:38:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecelia Yamamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a woman, my ability to protect myself, or my property, is limited due to the physical advantage that a perpetrator (statistically, most home invaders are male) has over me. Criminals know that under current Hawaii laws they have a significant advantage in that I cannot use deadly force to protect myself or my possessions, even in my own home, except under very specific circumstances. In fact, a number of burglars would likely prefer the homeowner to be home in order to expedite the home invasion. The passage of HB534 would cause would-be criminals to think twice before breaking into a house. Please consider the welfare and safety of the people, especially women and kupuna, of Hawaii and pass this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 7:58:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Fuchikami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing to express my strong support for this bill as it clears up some gray areas of the self-defense issue in Hawaii. Law-abiding citizens have the right to defend themselves, their home and persons with them from any criminal action by another person or persons. The citizens have a right to use whatever means to protect themselves, including deadly force if deemed necessary because of immediate fear of serious injury or loss of life. Please also make certain that the law-abiding citizen will not be liable for any civil action against them related to the self-defense action as that could cause irreparable financial consequences for them. Thank you!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:00:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Tom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support HB534 for the purpose of defending oneself, one's property, or another person against the use of unlawful force by the other person on the present occasion.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:00:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Moriguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Criminals in Hawaii have become more brazen. Violent home invasions have become commonplace. Criminals will reconsider targeting a home when they know the occupant will fight back, possibly with deadly force if necessary. Hawaii residents should not be forced to retreat from their home, left legally unable to defend their hard earned property, loved ones, and themselves. A person's home should be their safe space. Individuals should be able to ward off violent intrusion legally and use force if necessary.

I respectfully urge you to support HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:04:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Yamamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB534 as it protects homeowners from criminals. Current laws are actually more protective of home invaders than law-abiding citizens who choose to defend themselves and their property. With drug use and criminal activity on the rise, home invasions will also continue to rise. Homeowner's should not have to live in fear that a split-second decision to protect oneself, one's loved one or possessions from a criminal invader could lead to a life in prison. The time has come for Hawaii's representatives to stand up for the people of Hawaii and pass HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:09:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samuel Webb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, because it will give law-abiding citizens the right to defend themselves from criminals.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:09:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Baltazar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this House Bill! The people of Hawaii need to protect themselves and their family without being punished for doing so. Crime has been going up due to drugs, homeless, and crime of opportunity. We need this bill to pass so Hawaii can be a safer place to live!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:11:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Guy Pasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 534 as currently written.

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

The bill reads,

“the use of force upon or toward another person is justifiable when the actor believes that this force is immediately necessary to defend oneself, one’s property, or another person against the use of unlawful force by the other person on the present occasion.”

“a person employing protective force may estimate the necessity thereof under the circumstances the actor believes to be occurring when the force is used without retreating, surrendering possession, doing any other act which the actor has no legal duty to do, or abstaining from any lawful action.”

“An actor who uses force, including deadly force, as justified and permitted under subsections (1) and (2) is immune from criminal prosecution and civil action for the use of the force, unless the force was determined to be unlawful.”

These changes to the law would allow a victim to use enough force against a person, who is committing a crime against them, to stop. It would also ensure that this person does not face criminal or civil legal action should the force be justified.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:14:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ROBERT MOSTELLER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:26:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob Holcomb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is necessary especially for people who live in rural areas where police response time is slow. Criminals are emboldened by the hesitancy of people to defend themselves, and we need to eliminate frivolous litigation from robbers and home invaders who are "experts" at manipulating the legal system at the expense of their victims.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:34:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:35:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Perrin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The right to defend oneself, one's loved ones, and their property must be allowed. If violent criminals know that every law abiding citizen has the right to protect themselves, as is appropriate to the crime, it will deter these criminals from such brazen acts. The innocent law abiding citizen acting in self defense will still be subject to an investigation to confirm that their actions were in self defense. Again we want the criminal to think twice before perpetrating a violent crime against an innocent person.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:36:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven T Takekoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to voice my support to the amended version of HB534 - HB 534 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:41:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert A Okuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I respectfully support my right to self defense.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:46:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian Shields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support the right of individuals to stand their ground and protect themselves and their families with firearms if necessary.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:47:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Ilo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:53:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steven lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534. It allows a person to defend themselves against thieves and attackers.

The current law that makes it illegal for a person to defend themselves encourages the criminals to commit crimes against Hawaii's citizens.

HB534 is a common sense deterrent to criminals and allows our citizens to protect themselves and their property.

I owned a jewelry manufacturing business for over 20 years and the greatest fear we had was fear of an armed robbery. We had as much as one Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) of gold and gemstones in our location and we were a prime target for armed robbery. The cost of purchasing and maintaining insurance against theft was prohibitively high. Virtually all of my personal net worth was in the inventory at my business. I feel strongly that business owners should be able to defend themselves and their business against criminals and not be required to let the thieves take their life's savings. Not allowing business owners to protect their businesses only encourages and enables criminals to victimize Hawaii's citizens and businesses.

I urge you pass this bill and to ammend it to allow business owners to protect their businesses and places of work.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 8:54:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymond Ishii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT HB534.

As a retired State Deputy Sheriff, I fully understand the use of force in highly stressful situations. And I applaud the Legislature for standing with and protecting the Law Abiding citizens of the state against both criminal prosecutions and civil law suits should they be forced to defend themselves. As a retired Law Enforcement Officer, I am fully aware the Police cannot be everywhere, and when seconds count, the Police are minutes away. The rioting in many cities on the mainland have shown that Police were unable to protect the law abiding citizens from being assaulted, robbed, having their businesses and lively hood destroyed. These citizens were forced to fend for themselves in those highly stressful and deadly riot.

This bill will empower the law abiding citizens to defend themselves against harm, and again I strongly support this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:03:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Lofton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT this bill.

Thank you,

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:14:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Dasalla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534.

A law abiding citizens should not be a victim twice for doing the right thing.

A law abiding citizen should not be in legal purgatory for months or years, putting their life on hold, spending their time away from family, friends and work, sitting in a court room or in counsel, discussing something they want to forget and move past.

A law abiding citizen should not be financially bankrupt for doing the right thing. They should not spend thousands of dollars defending themselves from greedy lawyers and criminals in frivolous lawsuits.

It is time the law protect the law abiding.

Thank you for considering a law that would actually benefit the law abiding citizens of Hawaii.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:20:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Kelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is a step in the right direction to afford citizens to have clear definitive rules for when they can protect themselves, thier family members and their property. The number of home invasions in Hawaii has drastically increased over the past two years. Pass this bill now.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:20:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael VanDoorne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to all
present

I fully support an individuals right to self defense. A persons house and property are their domain, and the family unit as well as an individual can be protected with with deadly force if necessary. Once an uninvited person enters my home, their intentions are irrelevant. MY INTENTIONS are to protect my family and myself by all (legal) means at my disposal. The police are only able to be on the scene after the fact to gather evidence of a crime already committed. After the fact. That is why people need the means to protect themselves.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:27:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter J Long Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB534. To me, it is inconcievable that a citizen should not be allowed to protect his or her family's lives and safety while in their own home and to use deadly force if required to adequately provide that protection. Criminals must be put on notice that entering another's home while intent on committing harm or destruction will not be tolerated in the State of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:29:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francis Corpuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it will decriminalize defending one's self or others.

We need to start supporting average citizens not criminals.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:37:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Al Elkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a medical professional and former police officer, registered to vote in the State of Hawaii. I strongly support HB534, as it is the right of any and every life to defend themselves and thier property. No law should be enacted that challenges this in any way. No person should feel threatened by any government for defending themselves or others. Citizens do not seek violence or confrontation, neither should they be required to run from it. submit to it, or surrender thier property. This is what was known as common sense, which now seems quite uncommon. If a perpetrator chooses to assault, acost, attack, or rob another it is the perpetrator who is making the choice to endure the consequences of thier actions. It is past time that Hawaii support it's citizens. Vote HB534 into law; as elected representatives you owe it to the intelligent, law abiding, and hard working constituents who placed their trust in you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:50:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Matsumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I strongly support this bill! We finally have the law on our side to defend ourselves or family members without having the duty to retreat on our own property. Please pass this bill, we for too long have given criminals more rights than law abiding citizens.

Thanks,

Ryan

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:51:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheldon Miyakado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT.

HPD can't be everywhere to prevent these brazan crimes occuring so the Law Abiding Citizens of Hawaii need to protect themselves and their property from criminals by the use of force.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 9:56:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marc	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534.

The good people of Hawaii and even good tourists have been victims of crime for far too long. The existing laws make us all such easy targets with little to no recourse. Many examples can be seen in social media and even talking with local law enforcement. The citizens need to be able to defend what is rightfully theirs without worrying about legal repercussions from the State. It sickens me to think so many are ripped off with nothing they could have done to prevent it.

Please consider supporting HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:01:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grant Nagata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. I support Bill HB534 which allows law abiding citizens to protect ourselves and loved ones. Thank you!

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
HEARING: Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 2:00 PM
Regarding: **HB 534 HD 1 Relating to Use of Force in Self-Protection**
Position: **SUPPORT**

Representatives of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I wanted to express my **support** for HB 534 HD 1 because its content has been appropriately revised to support victims' rights and strengthens their inherent right to self-defense. It does not take a criminologist to see why this bill is necessary. When confronted by a violent criminal actor, citizens need to be able to use whatever force is necessary to ensure that they can preserve their own lives and the lives of their loved ones, no matter where they are located. The following public news headlines highlight the alarming reality that criminals are preying upon the public and justifies why HB 534 HD 1 must be passed without delay and without removal of its key victim-focused legal protections:



Man charged with arson after a string of firebomb attacks



Waianae Arson

By [Chelsea Davis](#) | January 27, 2021 at 11:33 PM HST - Updated January 28 at 3:48 PM

2 injured in early-morning stabbing in Makiki



Honolulu police are investigating a reported stabbing in Makiki early Thursday. (Source: Hawaii News Now)

By [HNN Staff](#) | January 28, 2021 at 4:55 AM HST - Updated January 28 at 7:10 AM

TOP LOCAL STORIES

HPD investigating early-morning armed robbery at Waterfront Plaza



Police are investigating an armed robbery at Waterfront Plaza early Wednesday. (Source: Hawaii News Now)

By [HNN Staff](#) | February 3, 2021 at 6:55 AM HST - Updated February 3 at 7:15 AM

Woman seriously injured after being ambushed by armed carjackers at stoplight



Woman seriously injured being ambushed by armed carjackers at stoplight

By [Allyson Blair](#) | February 8, 2021 at 4:25 PM HST - Updated February 8 at 5:24 PM

NEWS

Police arrest man suspected of several violent crimes across Oahu



NEW AT 10

HPD ARRESTS MAN TIED TO MANY VIOLENT CRIMES
PHOTOJOURNALIST: JOE BURRUSO

Police arrest man suspected of several violent crimes across Oahu

By [Chelsea Davis](#) | February 11, 2021 at 10:45 PM HST - Updated February 11 at 11:47 PM

Siblings charged for attempted murder in alleged machete attack on Maui



(Source: HNN Graphics)

By [HNN Staff](#) | February 15, 2021 at 7:18 PM HST - Updated February 15 at 7:26 PM

The people of Hawaii cannot be forced to simply wait for after-the-fact law enforcement responses during life-or-death situations instigated by criminal actors. Delaying passage of HB 534 HD 1 increases the platform for criminals to continue their uninhibited activities and will adversely affect the safety and wellbeing of Hawaii's hardworking citizens.

The news examples above reveal that a person's right to self-defense should not be limited by location or by level of force. Criminals have demonstrated that they are opportunists that seek to inflict harm upon anyone they deem vulnerable at any place and at any given time. Moreover, the self-defense concept extends far beyond the scope of merely protecting property—a person's life will always be at risk as long as an actor participating in criminal activity is present. Just because a victim complies with a criminal actor's demands does not guarantee the victim's safety. One notable and fairly recent [example on a national scale occurred in Philadelphia](#). The tragic incident involved a man that was simply walking his dog and was later **killed** by two suspects that sought to rob him and deprive him of his personal property in a public space away from the proximity of his residence or place of work (6abc Digital Staff, 2021). **Neither surrender of property nor retreat would not have resulted in the preservation of the man's life**. With such reality in mind, it is time to end the invalid argument that the surrender of property is the all-encompassing solution to interactions with criminal actors.

Do the people of Hawaii a favor by giving them a fighting chance for their very lives, the lives of their families, and of the island community as a whole. I reiterate my call for this committee to pass HB 534 HD 1 in whole, without removal of any aspects in its current form. The removal of any important victim-focused legal protections contained within HB 534 HD 1 will play in the favor of criminals that terrorize our communities. Do not afford criminals such opportunity—your constituents are depending upon you to enact legislation that will enhance public safety and bring an end to criminal terror.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony.

Respectfully,

Ryan Tinajero

References

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HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:17:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Tamashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi everyone,

I support this bill. Every citizen of the USA has the right of self defense in the defense of oneself, family, other persons endangered by another person, and property. Not everyone is a martial arts expert or MMA fighter. And, even if you are, if there are multiple attackers one person cannot defend against that. If someone or a group of people break into my home I would like to think that I could use as much force as necessary to defend myself, my family, and my property. My family is the most important part of my life.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:17:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Busto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen, and am woman, I should be allowed to use force to protect myself, my family, and my loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:22:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for being responsive to the self defense needs of law abiding citizens.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:24:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Wayne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB534. It would enable anyone who perceives a threat to himself, his property, or to those around him to use force against others. Most of us would not want to live in the kind of society it would permit, where a subjective, perceived threat is enough to justify dangerous acts of violence. Please do not pass HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:28:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Kaono	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for allowing me to present this testimony supporting HB534. No constitutional amendment in this country comes under more scrutiny and attack than the second amendment. Law abiding citizens like myself have to continue fighting to keep our right to bear arms. Lawmakers would suggest that Honolulu is one of the safest cities in the U.S. because of our strict gun laws. I would suggest that the reason this is the case isn't because of strict gun laws. It is because of our culture. Unfortunately this is changing. All around this country cities, including Honolulu, with the strictest gun laws continue to watch gun violence rise. Why is this? It is because criminals don't abide by gun laws. Only law abiding citizens abide by the law. And in the case of Honolulu, the law abiding citizen is unarmed. I am 68 years old and it is highly unlikely that I could defend myself against a determined criminal, either in my home or on the street if I am unarmed. A 2019 Hawaii News Now report noted that violent crimes against the elderly was up 300%! Every law abiding citizen deserves the right to defend themselves, anywhere, anytime. It's our right. Mahalo.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 10:35:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Hawai'i state laws already provide for adequate self-defense protections. "Stand your ground" and similar bills have become an excuse for violence and a license to kill in other states. This bill goes much too far in permitting the use of deadly force with impunity from criminal or civil liability in almost any situation where a person might feel threatened, whether or not there is ample opportunity for retreat to avoid violence. This bill makes the potential for insignificant disagreements or misunderstandings, whether in domestic disputes or among perfect strangers, to escalate to gun violence and loss of life too easily.

I urge you to oppose this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Erica Yamauchi

Kaimuki/Maunalani Heights

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:21:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benel Piros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will protect me as a law abiding citizen. Preventing me from facing criminal or civil legal action should lethal force be use in the act of self defense, protection of property or of others.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:27:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Sapatu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as a private citizen we should be able to defend ourselves within our own home against anyone that wishes to do harm upon ourselves and our families without worrying about the repercussions of our action. This is a basic law that does not require much thought and should have been implemented a long time ago.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 11:31:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Miyao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I appreciate your time reviewing my testimony for HB 534: Relating To Use Of Force In Self-Protection. I strongly support HB 534 as it fairly clarifies when force may be used to protect oneself, property and other people. This legislation favors law-abiding citizens instead of criminal assailants.

I urge you to support HB 534.

Thank you for all that you do for the State of Hawaii.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:44:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence Ma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii used to be a place in which I felt safe from harm. Times have now changed and crime rates against innocent citizens have risen dramatically. I no longer feel completely safe in the confines of my own home. Criminals have become so desperate and brazen. For the first time in my 42 years of life I've decided to make it a priority to exercise my 2nd amendment rights and have purchased a firearm. I've done this legally and responsibly and have/will receive the proper education and experience to handle a firearm. I'm a father of two very young children. I am responsible for their safety and for the safety of my wife. Since living at my current location (a good neighborhood) my car has been broken into twice. No perpetrators found by HPD. Let's be honest HPD doesn't have the resources to investigate every single theft and it takes them time to get anywhere. I am ultimately responsible for the safety of my family. What if the next time it's a home invasion? I need to have the right to protect my family without having to worry about getting myself in legal trouble. If an intruder enters my home uninvited it should be reasonable for me to consider him a threat to my family and property, and therefore I have a right to defend. Please do not continue to punish the victims, rather help us protect ourselves from these criminals. I highly support HB 534. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:00:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe it is important to allow private citizens to protect their personal property and family from those that illegally trespass on our homes and/or property that we own, and should have the right to lawfully use force if needed without prosecution for doing so against the perpetrators.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:33:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Montenero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT HB534!

As the Framers of our Constitution noted, the right to self-defense is not just one embodied in law but an inherent basic right of each individual. Government can make no law abridging an individual's right to life, and subsequently defense of life.

Government should address its focus to eliminating from society those evil persons necessitating peaceful law abiding citizens' need to use deadly force in self-defense. Any attempt by government to rob or restrict peaceful citizens of the tools necessary to defend themselves is equally abhorrent and only creates a community of future victims!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:36:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A. Mikioi Edwards	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a tax paying native Hawaiian and I vote. I support this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:04:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Shimabukuro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of passong HB534. Anecdotaly, the Covid-19 pandemic has led to an increase in criminal activity in and around my Waipio-Gentry neighborhood and I would feel safer knowing that the burden of retreat is lifted in place of "stand your ground" as described in this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:57:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Reaume	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB534 we desperately need a solid stand your ground law in Hawaii

thank you

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:20:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth M Matsumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for lending me the time to express myself and for my family.

I have been a firearm user since I was approximately 5 years old when my father use to take us down behind Kailua Drive Inn to the old Higa Farm where it was just ginger and banana plants growing on the property. Since that time I had a long spell that I did not use firearms for much of anything, but my father was still hunting regularly as I recall. Then some 35 years later, I met a person who owned some property on the Waianae Coast that he said the doves would fly over his house regularly because of the cattle feed lot next door. So my father and I jumped on it and started to hunt doves there. It turned out to be a haven for dove hunting and soon I was bringing my friends and other associates to get familiar with hunting doves. My good old friend eventually sold his farm and thus ended all the fine bird hunting we were doing. Since then, the times have really changed and now we worry about crime in Hawaii and being able to protect my home from outside intruders. I should know since there has been a rash of robberies in the area of late and my recently moved in "neighbor" is suspected of being within a crime syndicate that monitors the area and sends the information along to their friends who do the acutally robberies. The police are watching them so my wife and son are very careful to not leave the home without someone staying home to guard the house from any intrusion. So my needs have changed since my earlier days of dove hunting and now I need home security more than any other type of function in the use of firearms. Maybe to go target shooting once in a while and plan a hunt for game someday with an old friend. To go on, there used to be my mother in law who would constantly stay home while my wife and I took my son to the beach for the weekend. Since then she has gone back home to Russia and has been staying there for most of the year. Aside from a shotgun that my father had left in the family for our use and some handguns that I am trying to get the executor of the estate to transfer the ownership to myself has been frustrating at best. Why? Because my 3rd oldest brother (the estate execurtor) and I do not get along very welll, With that it is my guess that he is stalling the paperwork portion until such time he passes away, I am guessing since I have no definitive proof of the future. Now you may ask why don't I just get a permit to purchase a handgun? Well it is useless since I have one "legally" and have been keeping it as my home defensive weapon in case I really needed it. I will go ahead and buy a handgun if the transfer of ownership fails completely, but not until that happens. Only because of

the cost of handgun which can run up to a thousand dollars or more for a decently "fail proof" version. So the next thing I might find out is the police to come knocking at my door (yikes) since I just gave away the inside information of the situation I am facing. I think it is legal to have it, but illegal to use it for self defense. You tell me what you folks would do in the same situation? A handgun is best, but ownership is expensive. So what would you guys do? My son is all of 5 years old and private schools are very expensive today. Anyway, thank you for lending me the time to explain myself and I won't take up any more of your time. Thank you and yes, I do need to be able to protect myself and use firearms in doing so.

Sincerest Regards,

Kenneth M Matsumoto, Natalia A Matsumoto, and Ian A Matsumoto w/ mother in law:
Galina Lebedeva sometimes living here.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:37:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Soon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in an "older" demographic.

I support this bill because it just makes god old fashioned common sense.

Especially for us older folks who aren't able to run and hide from attackers very well.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:38:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kimo galon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534.

We need to defend our selves without fear of being penalized for doing so. This will help us fight against crime and protect ourselves and loved ones. Passing this will take us one step forward to give power back to the people and not criminals.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:56:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Soleil Roache	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 534. We are all born with the right to self defense, and law-abiding people should not have to worry about going to jail for fighting back against criminals who want to take advantage of and victimize them. The innocent, especially, should be fiercely protected. Our laws should reflect those values, not favor the criminals who have no respect for us or the laws which govern our state.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:57:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534. Hawaii needs to protect law abiding citizen resulting from criminal activity. Victims of crime should be protected from the liability of being prosecuted or sued due to defending themselves or defending another person from death or great bodily harm.

Due to the revolving door justice system, criminals no longer fear the courts or police. Under the current laws the victims are liable for any injury to the criminal if they defend themselves. This needs to change.

Jerry Yuen

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
HEARING: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 2pm
RE: HB534 RELATING TO USE OF FORCE IN SELF-PROTECTION

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB534

This is a “Victim’s Rights” bill. Victims are faced with several traumatic ordeals if they should injure, or kill, a violent criminal in self-defense.

1. The violent crime.
2. Arrest and criminal trial.
3. Civil lawsuit by the criminal or their family.

Currently the government cannot stop these problems. Police usually respond to an incident after it happens to take a report. Police will sometimes arrest the victim and prosecutors charge them with a crime. Government cannot stop the criminal from suing the victim. Even if the victim doesn’t have a criminal trial or wins the lawsuit they will still face thousands of dollars in legal fees and years of stress and worry.

On the other hand government is increasing the crime problem by giving criminals short or no prison sentences, early release from prisons, and the “revolving door” is spinning ever faster. **IT’S ALMOST AS IF CRIMINALS HAVE MORE RIGHTS THAN VICTIMS DO.** Some people don’t report crimes anymore because they feel it’s useless as the criminal will be back on the streets the next day.

This bill will help to solve all of these problems and allow victims to take control of their lives. Victims can defend themselves against criminals more safely knowing they won’t suffer from the aftereffects of being arrested or sued. **THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII WANT CHANGES TO REDUCE CRIME, PUNISH CRIMINALS, AND SAVE VICTIMS.**

Attached is a self-defense incident that occurred a few years ago where the victim is still worried about criminal prosecution and lawsuits. Also attached is SB334 which I suggest passage or using its language to help strengthen this bill. SB334 will reimburse legal fees if a victim is found not guilty due to self-defense in a criminal trial and provides civil action protections. This was copied and strengthened from a long time Washington law.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB534.

Todd Yukutake
Resident of HD 33
(808) 255-3066
toddyukutake@gmail.com

SB334 Limitation of Civil Actions; Crime; Justification Defense; Protection of Self, Others, or Property; Reimbursement

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the right to defense is a fundamental right. Good persons employing justifiable force to protect themselves, others, or property should not be subject to civil liability arising from those actions. Defendants charged with a crime can face tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorney's fees, court costs, lost wages, and other expenses. This financial burden is unfair for a person who is charged with a crime and subsequently found not guilty because of defense of self, others, or property. Such situations can lead to financial hardships, bankruptcy, and other hardships that these individuals do not deserve to bear.

The purpose of this Act is to:

- (1) Ban civil actions arising from use of justifiable force if the defendant has been found not guilty of any related criminal charges arising from use of justifiable force; and
- (2) Provide reimbursement of reasonable legal costs to defendants when the defendant is found not guilty due to the justifiable use of force to protect themselves, others, or property under certain circumstances.

SECTION 2. Chapter 657, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§657- Limitation of civil actions arising from use of justifiable force; related criminal charges. No action to recover damages for any injury to property, real or personal, or for bodily injury or wrongful death arising from justifiable use of force pursuant to sections 703-304, 703-305, and 703-306 shall be commenced against a defendant who has been found not guilty by reason of justification as a defense in a prosecution for an offense arising from the same incident under sections 707-701.5, 707-702, 707-702.5, 707-703, 707-704, 707-705, 707-706, 707-710, 707-711, 707-712, 707-713, 707-714, 707-716, 707-717, 707-720, 707-721, or 707-722 and any related criminal charges; provided that the defendant is granted reimbursement pursuant to section 703- ."

SECTION 3. Chapter 703, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§703- Defense; reimbursement. (1) If a person charged with an offense under sections 707-701.5, 707-702, 707-702.5, 707-703, 707-704, 707-705, 707-706, 707-710, 707-711, 707-712, 707-713, 707-714, 707-716, 707-717, 707-720, 707-721, or 707-722 is found not guilty by reason of justification as a defense pursuant to sections 703-304, 703-305, or 703-306, the State shall reimburse the defendant for all reasonable costs, including lost wages; legal costs and fees, including those for appeals; and other expenses involved in the defendant's defense. The reimbursement shall not be an independent cause of action. For a defendant to be entitled to an award of reasonable costs, the trier of fact shall find by a preponderance of evidence that the defendant's justification defense pursuant to sections 703-304, 703-305, or 703-306 entitles the defendant to acquittal. If the trier of fact makes such a finding, the court shall determine the amount of the award.

(2) Notwithstanding a finding by the trier of fact that the defendant's justification defense pursuant to sections 703-304, 703-305, or 703-306, entitles the defendant to acquittal, if the trier of fact also finds that the defendant was engaged in criminal conduct substantially related to the events giving rise to the charges against the defendant, the court may deny or reduce the amount of the award. In determining the amount of the award, the court shall also consider the severity of the criminal conduct.

This section shall not be deemed to preclude the legislature from paying a claim to the defendant where no award was granted by the court or from paying a claim higher than the award granted by the court.

(3) Whenever a jury finds that the defendant's justification defense pursuant to sections 703-304, 703-305, or 703-306 entitles the defendant to an acquittal, the court shall instruct the jury to return a special verdict in substantially the following form:

Answer

"Yes" or "No"

1. Was the finding of not guilty based upon a justification defense?
2. If your answer to question 1 is "no", do not answer the remaining questions.
3. If your answer to question 1 is "yes", was the defendant:
 - a. Protecting himself or herself?
 - b. Protecting another, including his or her family?
 - c. Protecting his or her property?
 - d. Engaged in criminal conduct substantially related to the events giving rise to the crime with which the defendant is charged?

(4) Whenever a court finds that the defendant's justification defense pursuant to sections 703-304, 703-305, or 703-306 entitles the defendant to an acquittal, the court shall consider the same questions identified in subsection (3)."

SECTION 4. Section 703-301, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§703-301 Justification a defense; civil remedies ~~unaffected.~~ barred. (1) In any prosecution for an offense, justification, as defined in sections 703-302 through 703-309, is a defense.

(2) The fact that conduct is justifiable under this chapter ~~does not~~ shall abolish ~~or impair~~ any remedy for such conduct which is available in any civil action."

SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Police investigate deadly stabbing at Kailua tattoo shop

Posted: Nov 27, 2017 / 07:42 PM HST / Updated: Nov 27, 2017 / 07:42 PM HST

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Police are investigating after a man was stabbed to death in Kailua.

It happened at around 5:35 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27, at Aloha Tattoo Company on Kuulei Road.

The shop is located across the street from a police station.

Police say two men entered the store, attacked the person who worked there, and the worker fought back.

“Upon arrival, it was determined that a possible robbery may have occurred. We’re not 100-percent certain at this point,” said Capt. Walter Ozeki of the Criminal Investigation Division. “One of the suspects that initially assaulted the employee at the Aloha Tattoo shop was stabbed multiple times by the employee. Shortly thereafter, (officers) located a vehicle just around the corner. That was the suspect vehicle that the two suspects left in. The initial suspect that had been stabbed was still in the vehicle, and later pronounced dead at Castle hospital.”

The second suspect fled the scene and remains at large.

Police arrested the tattoo shop worker, Timothy Goodrich, 43, for murder in the second degree. However, prosecutors declined the case and Goodrich was released at around 6 p.m. Tuesday.

According to his attorney, Goodrich and the two men did not know each other.

Myles Breiner says there were several people in the shop at the time.

“(It was) certainly an act of self defense, defending himself as well as his patrons,” said Breiner. “The location is almost directly across the street from the Kailua police station, and the circumstances are very, very bizarre on why they would attempt to do that. It certainly appeared to be planned, because the vehicle was parked outside and the other individual who made it away was wearing a mask, and you don’t go shopping with a mask.”



Family members identified the deceased as Dayson Kaae, 24. They want more answers, because they don't know what to believe.

"I'm trying to piece things together, who is he with, who did he talk to last, what was he doing there, things like that. Everything just, it's just not believable at this moment," said Sade Delos Reyes, Kaae's niece. "Right now, we want some peace, a little bit of closure."

Delos Reyes said she and Kaae grew up together, and she called him a brother.

"He was a fun person to be around. Whenever there was family functions, he was always there," she said.

We looked through court records and found both had previous run-ins with the law.

When we asked about Kaae, the city prosecutor's office told us Kaae faced a firearms violation following an October incident at an alleged gaming room in Palama.

Prosecutors didn't pursue the case, because witnesses would not cooperate.

As for Goodrich, he was found guilty of assault and possessing a switchblade knife in 2008, and sentenced to three months in jail and five years probation.

Nearby store owners tell us Goodrich was a friendly neighbor.

"Especially at night, it's nice to have them open, because they're very nice there, the employees and Tim, and if something were to happen, I could run out and SOS, so I actually felt more secure having them next to me," said Anita Rhee of Mama'Nita Scones.

Former city prosecutor Peter Carlisle tells us in Hawaii, a person is allowed to use force to protect himself or herself, even if it ends in death.

“It’s not the end result that counts. It’s what the actions are that lead up to the person dying,” he explained.

Carlisle says if you’re able to safely walk away from the situation, you are required to do so.

Hawaii Revised Statutes states in part:

§703-304 Use of force in self-protection.

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section and of section 703-308, the use of force upon or toward another person is justifiable when the actor believes that such force is immediately necessary for the purpose of protecting himself against the use of unlawful force by the other person on the present occasion.

(2) The use of deadly force is justifiable under this section if the actor believes that deadly force is necessary to protect himself against death, serious bodily injury, kidnapping, rape, or forcible sodomy.



HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:37:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
anthony kaauwai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support hb534, we need more laws that protect law abiding citizens when protecting themselves from criminals. Police cannot be outside everyone's house to protect them, and with the uptick in violent crime against the elderly and theft of people's property, some of which do not have money to replace things that are stolen because of no income due to the pandemic. Vote yes on this bill, because your mother, father, your son and daughter has the right to defend themselves against criminals wanting to do harm to them.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:37:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
george mimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Mark Nakashima,

My name is George Mimura, and I am a resident living in Diamondhead/Kahala. I write to fully support HB534 - the right to use deadly force in my family's self-defense in their home. In the past eight years, I have seen crime dramatically escalate in my neighborhood. In my cul de sac, half the houses have been robbed in the past year. They are the first reported crimes as such in over 50 years! Some of those robberies took place while the occupants were napping at home in the afternoon! My particular house has been "scouted" by would-be robbers on a couple of occasions. However, we were fortunate that I was at home. I travel more than most. On my last trip back, I overheard a group of young people at the airport discussing where they should be camping out for their transient move to Hawaii.

My wife and I moved to Hawaii 8 years ago from NYC to raise our sons. They have grown up and moved on but we want to remain here but we no longer feel safe in our home. We feel safer living in a doorman building in downtown NYC! How did this happen so quickly?

It is my experience and humble opinion that crime is a function of bad public policy. Please pass laws that increase the rights of citizens to arm and protect themselves. Please actively enforce the truancy laws on the books.

Thank you for your ongoing public service and your attention to this critical matter.

Sincere yours,

George Mimura

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:47:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Nakanishi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and Good Morning,

I am in support to protect my family and property from intruders entering my house to do bodily harm. By running to your bedroom is useless. You run to your room, lock the door and you have your cell phone in the living room. How are you supposed to call for help?? Are you supposed to let the criminals just take your property or possibly break down the door and hurt you?? What if this is your family?? What would you do?? Thank you

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:25:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 HD1 with the changes that have been made since it was first introduced. Thank you for the changes that support the victims rights to self-defense.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:26:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Russell Takata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT this measure. It's about time that the right of innocent citizens to protect themselves is recognized in this State. However, the implementation date of 7/1/2050 in Section 4 is not realistic. We need this NOW!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:33:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gavin Lohmeier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support HB534

Law abiding citizens who are victims of violent crimes should have the legal right to defend themselves without the threat of prosecution themselves

sincerely

Gavin Lohmeier

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:34:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel L Orr II	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honored Legislature: Please support my right to self-defense as noted in HB534.

Mahalo nui loa, Dan Orr in Pupukeya, Oahu

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:36:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Abelaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The recent incidents of home invasions, assaults, and robberies of innocent victims necessitates my support of HB534. Law abiding citizens have the right to defend and protect themselves and their families from perpetrators inflicting bodily harm. Self defense against a perpetrator is not a crime. I support House Bill (HB534 HD1).

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:36:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Mayo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs:

The defense of one's home and family is built into the DNA of mankind. Countless tales of people giving their lives to defend their friends and family echo through the corridors of time. Please consider this bill carefully and make sure that honest, law abiding citizens have the right to protect themselves from lawless wicked men who have no regard for their fellow man! Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:49:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
melanie Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good morning committee members,
I would like to express my support for HB534. Thank you for introducing legislation that will support my God given right of self defense. I would also encourage the committee members to introduce a constitutional carry bill.

Respectfully,
Bradford Davis

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:02:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daysha Mendes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of HB5341. I can sum up my entire testimony in one sentence..... guns stop bad people from doing bad things to good people.

Please vote in favor of HB5341 to ensure us good people some protection rights.

Mahalo Nui,

Daysha Mendes

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:06:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Abbott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB534 as it has been amended at the time of this testimony. Far too often, victims of crime here in the Aloha State are further victimized by the current laws on self defense. As it stands, criminals have more rights than their victims, for they know that the punishment they face for committing a crime will be plea dealt down or dismissed entirely. Over and over this cycle continues causing untold harm to law abiding citizens property and livelihoods. Ultimately, many of these career criminals eventually physically assault, injure, or kill someone. it is only then that the outcry is raised over how a crimmlinal with hundreds of convictions is still able to walk the streets freely and indeed, commit their crimes with impunity.

Bill 534 is an important step to changing this and to reestablishing justice for te people of Hawaii.

By protecting the right of citizens to defend themselves where ever they may find themselves when attacked or assaulted, this bill provides a substantial measure of protection for the defending citizen.

I urge you to SUPPORT HB534.

Best Regards,

Jon Abbott

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:11:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jostin A Iriarte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support House Bill HB 534 HD1,

We as law abiding citizens, should have the right in the state of Hawaii, to stand our grounds with use of force to protect our family, home & property, from any criminal without having to worry of being charged with a crime for protecting ourselves. I find it very unfair to know that if something happens in our home or even in our place of business that we may get arrested or charged with a crime for doing what we should have the right to do against criminals. There should be no reason why in the state of Hawaii this is an issue or any other state. Many states across the USA that allows law abiding citizens to protect themselves when necessary. Thank you for for your time.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:11:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edelio Gerola	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534.

Thank you.

Edelio Gerola

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:19:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ginger Amaral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 because I was a victim of a home invasion while I was at home. We should have the right to protect ourselves in our own homes and not be criminally charged for being a victim.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:19:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Iriarte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, I strongly support hb534 as it protects my rights as a US citizen and my family in these troubled times. There has been a huge increase in the amount of break ins and crime lately that has really impacted many. During Covid I was also a victim of a break-in as well and everyone is already struggling and to have what we work so hard for taken from you and nothing you can do about it really bothers me. This crime needs to stop and I feel that perpetrators that may want to commit more crimes may think twice with a law like this in place. Again Thank you for your time and I Support hb534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:36:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To our Leaders in Hawaii's Legislature,

As a resident of Hawaii, I am in full support of this bill as it does way more to protect victims and law abiding citizens. Right now, it seems like the laws really protect criminals, and gives them a way to even go after their victims after they have committed a crime.

My family has had our house broken into twice, where both times the house was ransacked. I was very insensed and afraid for my parents. Luckily, no one was hurt or killed. It could have ended very differently.

Another two times in the last 5 yrs of or so, we've had someone run trespass our property, one of those times it was a guy who ditched a stolen car right in front of our house to get away from the police. He was later caught and subdued by one of our neighbors because he broke into their house and tried to steal from them. Thank goodness no one was hurt or killed in that incedent. Something like that could easily end up in a homicide or a hostage situation. There have been too many of those especially in recent times.

Due to the increase in violent crimes and civil unrest, I feel that it is necessary to provide some protection for law abiding citizens, the right to protect their home, property and even place of business from wouldbe criminals who are current empowered because they don't fear any consequences of breaking into someone's home or place of business, This is crazy.

Something, has got to change.

I really respect our men in blue. I have a few friends who are HPD and greatly value their service to our state. But, if the average response time for police is about 10 miin, even they won't show up in time to prevent a crime or save a life. A lot can happen in 10 minutes. Also, they cannot be everywhere and there is a limit to the protection that they can provide.

This bill would be a great help to the police because it would act as a deterrent to these criminals who want to prey on people in our community. Make criminals think twice about committing the crime.

I feel also that if criminals, who are charged with lesser crimes know that there is such a law in place, and are informed about it when they are released from prison, they will be less likely to commit a crime if they know that citizens have the right to defend themselves and their property. It could cut down on the number of repeat offenders.

Please vote yes for this bill.

A yes vote is a vote to protect Hawaii's law abiding citizens and not the criminals in our state.

Please empower us as law abiding citizens to protect what is ours.

Hand cuff criminals or those who have criminal intent. Don't hand cuff Hawaii's law abiding public. Please do what is right to protect us and not criminals.

Thank you for hearing us out.

Aloha

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:37:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because recently I had some chronic person/thief come on to my property. thank god nobody was hurt I feel violated your home supposed to be we you kick back and relax and not worry if someone going to come in you home and steal everything you work hard for. I support this bill because give me chance and others chance to defend there Ohana. this gotta sound stop by all means necessary I'm tired of seeing hearing and see on the news that another elderly couple got robbed help defend them and other against criminals .thank you

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:38:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Wela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I can now support this bill as ammended. Honest citizens have a clear right to defend themselves , their loved ones and their possessions from predation by criminals. This bill recognizes that right and should be passed.

Sincerely,

Daniel Wela

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:41:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chase Cavitt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today to express my support for HB534 relating to use of force in self protection. I feel the current laws allow for situations where a criminal who may or may not have intentions to cause physical harm has more rights granted to them for protections than a law abiding citizen who is solely seeking to prevent bodily harm or loss of property from someone looking to take possessions from them or potentially harm them. It is not the responsibility of the law abiding individual to know the intentions of the criminal and if they feel threatened, retreating in some circumstances could lead to a worse situation for the person in harms way. I am supporting this bill because the wording now includes protections for individuals at home and within their place of business. I also appreciate that this bill allows for the individual being attacked to not remain a victim without the ability to legally protect themselves and places the burden with the criminal. Please vote to support HB534 and allow the people of Hawaii to live and be safer.

Thank You,

Chase Cavitt

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:58:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hunter C. Patterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:59:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mikhael Kobayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support my right to protect my family against a criminal intent on doing us harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:59:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy C. Patterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:02:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Cornforth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, member of the Hawaii Firearms Coalition, and law-abiding gun owner, I support our right to defend our homes.

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

This Bill needs to be modified to become effective immediately, not July 1, 2050. That must have been a simple typo, but it needs to be corrected.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:02:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg J. Patterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:04:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Arakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I **support** this bill. Any legislation that provides greater protections to ordinary law-abiding citizens is a good thing.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:05:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Djou	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to protect my family from criminals intent of hurting them.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:05:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Berky	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, as citizens we should be enabled to defend ourselves!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:06:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deanne Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 the right to defend myself as noted in the constitution Second Ammendment "Right to Bear Arms - Passed by Congress September 25, 1789".

Guns are there for providing food (legal hunting) and self protection.

There also should not be an increase in the cost of gun ownership (taxes, licenses etc) to make it unaffordable for the average working person or that will also be an infringement on the right to bear arms.

If you take a look at cities that have taken away the right for citizens to bear arms it has not stopped gun crimes. Just only the criminals have them.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:07:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martin Kehoe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I served in the US Army from 1966 - 1969 and am fully capable of protecting myself and my family with legal firearms. I support HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:08:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Burgess	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am providing testimony in support of HB534. As the world changes and becomes increasingly unfriendly, I believe that I should be able to defend the home that I live in and have raised my children in. I love Hawaii and continue to call this place home. There has been such an uptick in violent crimes that has resulted in writing this testimony. I want to be able to protect what is mine against those who have no regard to personal property. Please vote in favor of this bill.

much aloha,

Laurie Burgess

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:20:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Austin White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support allowing persons to defend their family, home, property and business in the manner of appropriate response.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:27:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jun Look	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Let's call this bill what it really is-- a Stand Your Ground bill. This type of law has resulted in many tragic deaths in states that have this law. It is misplaced " justice "and does not belong in our community.

HB534 creates a "get out of jail free" card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which I would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:40:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GENER MACARAEG	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. This will benefit law abiding citizens greatly to defend themselves against criminals who want to do harm to them, their loved ones, and to their properties. This bill favors law abiding citizens, which they have the right to defend themselves from harm instead of violent criminals. So, please support this bill pass. Thank you very much.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:41:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Cummings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB534. It is ridiculous to expect law abiding citizens to be sitting ducks and victims. The US Constitution ensures Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Our current law under HRS 703-304 is not in alignment with this.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:44:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Tillotson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition to HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force based solely on the "belief" of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief.

This is ludicrous and would reduce Hawaii to a state of defacto lawlessness. To avoic violence based on subjective, individual "belief" is why we have police and courts.

We now live in an age of mis-information, outright lies, extremist propaganda and paranoia, all of which create "beliefs" that are based on a false reality. Witness the insurrection on January 6, 2021 because thousands of people had become convinced that the presidential election was "stolen."

It is highly dangerous and illogical to justify an actor's use of deadly force solely based on their own subjective "belief," without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. As we know from too many news reports, the victims of such skewed thinking and deadly force will likely be those most vulnerable in our society – racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect "oneself, one's property or another person," and does not limit the use of force to being in one's own home or vehicle, but extends to "occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be," which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

In short, HB534 creates a "get out of jail free" card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which most of us would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

Thank you for your consideration and mahalo for your service.

Richard Tillotson

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:45:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Normand A Cote	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

I strongly oppose HB534 as it actual reduces our right to protect ourselves.

Respectfully,

Normand A Cote

Law Abiding Citizen

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:45:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 for the ability to defend yourself, home, and family. Protection shouldn't be limited to only those that can afford armed security.

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Tuesday, 23 February 22, 2021, 1400 hrs.

In regard to **HB 534 HD1 Relating to [the] Use of Force in Self-Protection**

Position: SUPPORT

Representatives of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

Aloha. I intend to express my unwavering support for HB 534 HD 1. The content therein has been created with the support of victims' rights and also lends much support to their inherent, God-given right to self-defense and self-preservation. It doesn't take much though or a degree in Criminology or even law enforcement experience to know that average **law-abiding** citizens **must** be able to use whatever force necessary to protect themselves as well as those around them when confronted with a violent offender.

The aforementioned became a dark reality for my own family. In early November of 2018, my father was faced with the scenario that many of us pray we never have to face. A mid-30's aged man, whom we later found out was under the influence of crystal methamphetamine, marijuana, and was legally drunk trespassed onto my family's property, promoted a threat, and attempted to assault my father. This man was well over six feet tall and easily 100 pounds heavier than my father. My father is roughly 20 years this man's senior and stands at only five feet, three inches tall and less than 200 pounds. My father was put into the position to either use force, or face the possibility of bodily injury, death, and even risk this man's getting past my father and harming or even killing myself, my wife, my mother, my grandfather, and my teenaged sister--all of whom reside in the same home. Unfortunately, as Hawai'i's laws currently are written, such laws seem to have a more favorable outcome for the initial aggressor instead of the people who use such force to defend themselves and their families. Nearly three years later, my father remains incarcerated awaiting trial for Second-Degree Murder—which in my families eyes is completely absurd. I may not be alive today to write this testimony if my father did not protect the rest of my household. My family discovered ex post facto that the gentleman who was on the receiving end of the self-defense action was a known drug dealer and "strong arm" and has had a history of violent offenses as a juvenile and as an adult. He did not reside on the street my family lives on and was visiting our next door neighbor, whose house at the time, was a known drug house. For nearly a decade, my other neighbors and even my late grandmother phoned the police on a regular basis to no avail. My neighbor has been in and out of various drug rehabilitation programs and even jail. He has been arrested for charges ranging from drug possession to grand theft auto.

Point being, police would arrive usually fifteen minutes on average ex post facto. It doesn't take a genius to know that a lot can happen in one minute let alone fifteen. Without being excessively cliché, the police are minutes away when help is needed in seconds. As is, State laws already make it difficult or even impossible for average citizens to obtain the means to protect themselves and their families.

Moreover, State laws also make it nearly impossible for average people to use such means of self-defense without risk of immense legal consequences and other recourse.

The United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 3 states, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person," closely echoing our own U.S. Constitution. Representatives, I urge you to advance this bill not only out of moral obligation to we the people whom you all work for and represent, but under the pretense that we are all entitled to the aforementioned protected by the UDHR and U.S. Constitution. We the people need to be able to protect ourselves from any threat to our well-being using any means necessary. It's a known fact that our police force is extremely overwhelmed and response times are already high. We the people cannot wait minutes for ex post facto help when assistance is needed immediately.

Once more, I submit this testimony in support of HB534 HD1 because I would like to have the ability to protect those I love as well as my small business which I run out of my home without the burden of possible retaliation or legal recourse from any party.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tysen K. Burdett

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:01:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kent Kurihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This letter serves to confirm my support for this measure. It seems absurd that we have to PERMIT people the right to self defense, but I support clearly cementing that right into law.

I will be happy and appreciative if any Councilmember or Senator would speak to me, directly, about this issue and my stance.

Sincerely,

Kent Kurihara

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:06:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Iaela	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Although I am glad to see the changes made to the original draft of this bill (HB534) in HB534 HD1, it does concern me that it is still not a true Stand Your Ground bill. Of far more concern to me is the fact that in Section 4 of HB534 HD1, it states that "This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050." That provision is repeated in the "Description" line at the bottom of the Bill.

Being that the stated reason for the necessity of this Bill is "the recent surge of armed robberies, violent attacks,... etc." it is counter-intuitive to have this bill be enacted/ effective so far in the future. It places the law-abiding populace in the position of believing they are acting in the spirit of and according to the letter of the law when in fact they are not and are still both criminally and civilly liable to charges and being sued for damages until the effective date of this Bill. As such, if a person defends themselves or another prior to July 1, 2050,(29 years from now), he or she would not only possibly be breaking the law but also simply be giving anti- 2nd amendment legislators and other detractors ammo to use against self-defense/ pro-firearm causes going forward.

As all Bills are reviewed with a fine tooth comb prior to submittal for consideration by the Legislature, I find it hard to believe this was either typographical or inadvertent. To be honest, I am of the mind that this was purposefully done given the undeniable anti-gun rights history of our State Legislature and the Democratic party as a whole.

For these reasons, I cannot in good conscience support this Bill as it is currently written.

Respectfully yours,

William Iaela

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:20:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D'Adamo III	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support Thank you

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:21:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Kellam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534

**Testimony of Joyce Y Neeley In Opposition to HB 534HD1
To the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date: February 23, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., Via Videoconference**

I am writing in strong opposition to HB534HD1. I care about this issue because my children and grandchildren live in Hawaii and I want it to be a safe place. I oppose HB534 because it would justify use of deadly force based solely on the “belief” of the actor, no matter how unreasonable that belief. We now live in an age of mis-information, outright lies, extremist propaganda and paranoia, all of which create “beliefs” that are based on a false reality. Witness the insurrection on January 6, 2021 because thousands of people had become convinced that the presidential election was “stolen.”

It is highly dangerous and illogical to justify an actor’s use of deadly force solely based on their own subjective “belief,” without any reference to objective circumstances and reality. As we know from too many news reports, the victims of such skewed thinking and deadly force will likely be those most vulnerable in our society – racial minorities, persons with mental illness, our LGBTQ community, and others whose conduct is perceived by some as threatening, even when it is not dangerous and is entirely legal.

The bill authorizes use of force to protect “oneself, one’s property or another person,” and does not limit the use of force to being in one’s own home or vehicle, but extends to “occupying the premises of a place that the actor has a legal right to be,” which could be virtually anywhere.

The bill provides a complete exemption from criminal liability and civil liability from the harms caused by such force, even if, for example, the actor was using an illegal firearm and had no permit for such firearm.

In short, HB534 creates a “get out of jail free” card for anyone who uses force for any perceived threat to themselves, their property, or persons around them. That is not a type of society in which most of us would ever want to live. Please do not pass HB534.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Y Neeley

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:34:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Michael Shiwota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:35:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry Bruckner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The right to self-defense is Constitutional and essential.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:36:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carmel Tomlinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534, use of force in self-protection. I rely upon my right to defend myself and my 11 year old son from threat of danger, especially in my home. Being 5'4" tall, I would be unable to defend myself from a male home invader without the use of a firearm and potentially deadly force. Approval of HB534 would provide peace of mind that my decision to stand my ground within the confines of my residence and defend myself and my young son without the requirement to retreat or the threat of legal action by the attacker is invaluable to me. Under current law, Hawaii is slanted in favor of the criminal and not the individual who is under attack...this MUST change. Please approve HB534 and give citizens like me peace of mind.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:41:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mitchell weber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB534,

This bill is a step in the right direction, far too often victims of crime are "ran through the ringer" after a tramatic assault. The modern Judicial system in Hawaii seems to sometimes place the criminal assailant's rights over their victim's.

Opponent's of HB534 may say that they oppose this bill because they dont want a "wild west" attitude in which people start shooting anyone that comes onto their property. Actual analysis of this bill would prove the opposition's reasoning for their objections plain false. The bill does not green light an individuals right to kill, it merely clarifies the current law's and adds protections for the victims of crime.

Please pass HB534, we should not enable would be assailants with legal and civil protections.

Regards,

Mitchell Weber

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:51:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fel Sepada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

After the last hearing I now support this bill HB534 / HB534 HD1 and should have been in place long ago. This bill will save many law abiding citizens lives and deter criminals from committing crimes. For years it has felt like the criminals are being protected and the law abiding citizens are being neglected & punished. This bill is needed now more than ever with crime rates and severity of crimes rising continuously. Stand Your Ground is a must and serves the people.

Mahalo

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:52:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Fukuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support

It is about time we as law abiding citizens are allowed to defend ourselves and our property from criminals. At this time the criminals have more rights than victims. We need this bill to be able to stand our ground without being prosecuted. If you have not been a victim of crime, you have no idea how violated that makes you feel. Please pass this bill so that we are able to have piece of mind that we can protect ourselves.

Paul Fukuda, P.E.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:58:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Shaheen Mulkern	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill that affirms my right as a U S citizen to defend myself if necessary.

Thank you,

Susan Mulkern

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:00:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Mulkern	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill that affirms my right as a U S citizen to defend myself if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Mulkern

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:10:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather M Strait	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB534 HD1. We, the citizens of Hawaii, have the right and duty to protect ourselves, our families, and our friends, against anyone who enters our homes or places of work, using lethal force, if necessary. I have the right to shoot and kill anyone who enters my home or place of business illegally. We have the right to stand our ground, especially in our own homes, vehicles, and places of work.

Sincerely,

Heather Strait

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:11:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lissa Cockett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs House Committee,

*I stand in **Support** HB534 HD1. Every citizen, because of the U.S. Constitution and our 2nd Amendment rights, have absolute the right to protect themselves, property, or others, with force, if necessary. Hawai'i has infringed on this 2A right for far too long, giving perpetrators/criminals MORE rights than their victims. This is a disservice to our law enforcement as well.*

It is time to restore the constitutional rights of the people, and in doing so this will help keep our state EVEN safer as criminals realize there are greater consequences if they break the law in this area.

Thankfully, our state has many very qualified gun safety instructors & organizations that are properly equipping the public for firearm training & overall safety.

Mahalo for your time & service!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:11:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB534 HD1. I think it is prudent that all law abiding citizens of Hawaii be allowed to protect themselves, their property and others from being harmed due to the acts of a criminal, without retreating or surrendering. Not passing this law will continue to give the benefit to those who are committing the crimes and will not be in the best interests of our community. Why should the criminals be protected?

Thank you,

David J. Ching

Haiku, Maui, Hawaii

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:14:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Iijima and Eric Tash	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

HB 534 H.D.1

Committee Hearing on Monday February 22, 2021 at 2 pm in room 325

The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Chair

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Testimony of Renee Iijima and Eric Tash

February 21, 2021

We oppose the passage of HB534 H.D. 1 on the grounds that it would create a very harmful precedent, encouraging individuals to use deadly force against others without any accountability. It would open the door to people using firearms or other weapons in personal and public settings and increase the potential for serious injury and death. Hawaii must not become a state in which violence of any kind is condoned. It goes against our principles of aloha and the importance of community.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:36:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erwin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. We need laws to allow law abiding regular citizens to protect themselves, their families, and their property and not be punished for doing so. Common sense is needed. Please support this bill.

Mahalo!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:45:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jason	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We should have the right to defend our families and property. Hawaii has a lot of theft issues. I believe this bill will stop a lot of thieves from entering homes.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:48:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecelia Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I respectfully and strongly support this bill, HB534 HD1.

This bill properly preserves the right of all law abiding persons to protect themselves, their loved ones, their homes, and their businesses against violent criminals.

The House Committee on Pandemic Disaster Preparedness was inundated with testimony overwhelmingly in opposition to an earlier version of this bill that would have weakened Hawai'i's self-defense law under the guise of strengthening it. Fortunately, this bill was appropriately amended, and I fully support passage in its *current* form.

My concern is that the pandemic and resulting economic slump are contributing to violent crimes against the elderly. Criminals are brazenly preying upon our kupuna, even in their own homes. This must stop. Our kupuna need protection. Calling 911 for after-the-fact reporting/documentation is not enough.

Crime prevention is crucial. Passing this bill would allow law abiders on scene to stop crime *in progress*, without fearing the cost and stress of a civil suit.

I respectfully urge the Committee Members to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:48:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grant Tom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I write to you as a tax paying, voting, law abiding citizen who finds it imperative in this day and age of rising violent crime that I am protected in the ability to lawfully defend myself, family, and property from such perpetrators. I find it utterly disgusting that someone can invade your home, imprison elderly individuals, steal your belongings and be caught to only be given a \$25,000 bail.... If criminals are repeatedly able to use force against law abiding citizens while those who crimes are committed against must fear using equal force against for fear of retribution from the law, then the laws of our land have failed us.

Respectfully, Grant Tom

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:01:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Kiyabu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB534 in it's ammended version. Finally a bill that empowers the potential victim and not a bill to protect the criminal.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:03:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Basta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Support HB534 HD1

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:17:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taarna D'Adamo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to submit my testimony on my heavy SUPPORT of this bill. This bill will deter some criminals not hurt others or act in a crime. It will also allow law abiding citizens the right to defend themselves, their loved ones and their property. It will also allow protection from civil suit because a law abiding citizen protected themselves.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:18:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Okasako	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Support HB534.

A Castle Doctrine is long overdue in the state of Hawaii. The use of force in self-protection is likely the only means a law abiding citizen may have against a violent assailant. This Bill does well to clarify SPECIFICALLY when and how such force might be used. This measure would equip law abiding citizens with MORE avenues of self-defense and leave out communities SAFER as a result. Please support HB 534.

Nathan O

Resident of House District 36

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:21:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534, as the wording has been amended from the original draft. It is of the utmost importance that law abiding citizens have the ability to protect themselves as well as their family. Our homes are supposed to be safe havens for us. Unfortunately it has become all too frequent that criminals are becoming more and more brazen. It seems that it doesn't matter whether people are home or not. The thought of defending one's self is not something I take likely. Honestly it is something I hope I never have to do. However I feel if a situation arises where I fear for the safety of myself or one of my family members, I should be able to take action without the fear of repercussions from the law. The police cannot be everywhere all the time, it is up to the individual to take action if they feel threatened. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:25:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darryl Y.C. Choy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please consider my support of HB 534. With the on going "defund police" movement and the under staffing of our police departments this bill should be enacted to help protect of our community

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:38:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Hayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Representatives of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I support HB534 HD1 in it's amended form. It's about time we see Bills that support the victims or intended victims of criminals. HB534 SD1 appears to be a good start. Hopefully we'll see more Bills that protects honest, law abiding citizens rather than criminals and their actions.

Mahalo!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:43:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiani Bento	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill in protecting myself in my household on my property.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:46:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwayne Lim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB534, Self-Protection; Public Safety; Lethal Force. A person shall be innocent of prosecution when protecting one's life against violent crimes anywhere the attack is being committed.

Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:54:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

we should be able to defend our property and family . From intruders. We don't know what there intentions are . To harm or steal .we should be able to stand our grounds

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:01:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Lim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB534, Self-Protection; Public Safety; Lethal Force. A person shall be innocent of prosecution when protecting one's life against violent crimes anywhere the attack is being committed. As a woman, I should not have to hid and be a statistic. I should have the right to use justifiable deadly force protect my family and myself from violent attack and crimes.

Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:02:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael A. Wee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT this legislation. It's about time that victims' rights are considered. There are too many bad laws that protect the perpetrator and demonize law-abiding citizens for defending themselves. This measure will clarify the right to self-defense. It also protects the victim from prosecution for doing so. Criminals are always the focus, and their victims are often treated badly as well. A self-defense shooting with obvious justifiable circumstances should be resolved immediately.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:10:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Kaiawe II	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Thomas Kaiawe II and I would like to say mahalo for the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of HB534 HD1.

A home owner's right to use force in the protection of themselves, their property, and others is very important for a number of reasons. First and foremost, an individual and their family should ALWAYS feel safe in their own home, and their primary duty should NEVER be limited to fleeing or escaping, especially if they have the means to protect themselves and others. Most importantly, using force is not only crucial to protecting yourself and your family from physical harm, but using force protects them from mental/emotional harm and distress as well; protecting your property is NOT as important.

The final point I want to make is legislation such as HB534 finally shifts rights back to the home owners, allowing them to legally use force without fear of being punished like a criminal. HB534 can also serve as a deterrent to the "predators" that lurk among the general public, and seek to assail and victimize unsuspecting people.

Finally, I would like to say mahalo again for allowing me to provide my testimony in support of HB534 HD1.

Respectfully,

Thomas Kaiawe II

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:11:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Silverio Alejandro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen, husband, and care giver, I strongly support bill HB534 HD1. This bill goes in the right direction in protecting victims from criminals both during and after the crime.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:33:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelton Yamashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

The citizens of Hawaii have the right to defend themselves, loved ones and property. This law would make the citizens more secure in their ability to use defensive force against the rising tide of violent crime.

Shelton Yamashiro

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:33:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott A Noltie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe that everyone has a God-given right to life and liberty. When a person is threatened by a criminal, I believe that it is inherent that the person should have a right to defend themselves, even with lethal force if they perceive that their life is threatened. I believe that civil society should recongize these things and that legislation and laws should reflect that recognition. When laws show undue favor towards the criminal, either by restricting the right of the victim to be found blameless when acting in defense of innocent life, or by failing to prosecute crimes or offering disproportionately light punishments, or by allowing criminals or their families to sue crime victims, that our God-given rights are being infringed by the State.

I support this bill because I believe it is a step in the right direction towards recognizing and incorporating into law, the inherent rights that citizens already possess.

Thank you.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:49:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert sylvia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support stand your ground law. Stripping us from defending our family is unconstitutional

with the recent crime wave that's been happening I believe criminals would think twice knowing that people have the right to defend themselves and family.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 1:53:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Reginald Eubanks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB534 HD1. The duty to retreat in any place in which one is lawfully present must be eliminated. By removing this archaic philosophy, we reduce the possibility of criminalizing the victims with the goal of deterring criminal activity.

I have been personally victimized by criminals inside and outside the home without resolution, right here in Oahu. Others at my workplace tell me on a regular basis how they don't feel safe, not even in their own home. Recent Rand studies indicate that stand your ground laws deter violent crime, therefore, consider following the example of 34 other states (Rand) and pass this bill.

The right to defend yourself is given to us by the Creator and should not be infringed.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:18:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melvin Casio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill to aid in protecting myself, my family and my property by any means necessary. If we can use any other object as a weapon of defense to disarm a bad guy, then my choice will be with my firearms. Have a great day!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:20:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seth Addison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident and citizen of Hawaii, I support HB534 and ask that you also support HB534. This bill helps to not make Hawaii's residents helpless victims and removes much of the question or ambiguity of whether a citizen is charged with a crime for simply defending themselves from an attacker. I ask you again to please support this bill.

Thank you,

Seth Addison

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:25:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jack Covington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Bill HB534. The criminals always seem to have more rights then those trying to defend themselves, property and family. It's time for law abiding citizens be allowed to protect themselves and property from those who continually prey upon citizens that contribute more to society then these low lifes that go around committing crimes knowing that the system will allow them minimal jail time with a slap on the wrist and then be set free. This state keeps submitting gun bills aimed at law abiding citizens making them criminals while trying to remove their legal right to pcess a firearm to protect themselves. Criminals don't care about your gun laws it just makes them more in control knowing we are unable to defend ourselves. It's time you start protecting law abiding citizens that's why you're in office.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:31:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Klink	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm an in support of HB534. I am in 100% support of OUR US Constitution's 2nd Amendment AS WRITTEN.

Thank you!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:46:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Howard Suguitan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB 534

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:49:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in SUPPORT of HB534, the right to self defense. For too long, law abiding citizens like myself have been victims of violent criminals. The laws currently in place favor criminals over the rights of victims and require us to surrender our property and/or run away rather than defend ourselves, our home, our business or property. This Right to Self Defense bill will provide law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families and loved ones from harm. This bill will allow a victim to use enough force to stop a person who is committing a crime against them and wil also ensure that they would not face criminal or civil legal action should their use of force be justified.

I am in SUPPORT of this self-defense and victims rights bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:55:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Self IV	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Louis T. Self IV

Do submit my written testimony in support of of Bill HB534 HD1 The Hawaii Stand Your Ground Law. I support this bill to stand your ground to stop a threat by all means necessary with force or use of deadly force knowing I am defending and protecting my self my family friends my property and or any individual from destruction or harm and even death. Knowing I will not be arrested for it in self defense. Please pass this Bill HB534 HD1 we need this law so we are protected for defending our selves

mahalo

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 2:59:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Mefford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am 83 years old and support Bill HB534 as a logical extention of self protection. As a senior with reduced physical strength I also support changes to our firearms laws that currently don't allow a person to have a firearm outside of home unless transporting it to a legal shooting or hunting area. What am I going to protect myself with?

Alan Mefford

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:07:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Howard Murai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for considering a measure that protects and expands the rights of law abiding citizens to protect themselves, their families and their property. Up until now, the rights of those who would or have committed crimes have been the only concern of lawmakers. The rights of their victims need to be considered -- they understand that during a crime, when seconds count, help from police is at best, minutes away. Those who take takes steps to protect themselves, their property and others need to be assured they will not also become victims of a criminal justice system.

Repsectfully submitted,

Howard Murai

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:18:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I ask you to oppose this dangerous "stand your ground" bill. Hawai'i has some of the best gun safety laws in the country and, as a direct result, some of the lowest rates of gun violence as well. "Stand your ground" laws like the one proposed in this bill do not keep communities safer. Instead, they encourage the escalation of force in confrontations to potentially lethal levels in an extremely short amount of time.

These laws also make prosecution of gun violence more difficult. Trayvon Martin might still be alive if Florida did not have a "stand your ground" law. At the very least, the man who murdered him would have been held accountable. I urge you to kill this bill. It is a special interest bill that runs counter to Hawai'i's culture and legacy of problem-solving through nonviolent means. We need fewer guns on the streets and in our homes, not more.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:28:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edmund Silva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I absolutely support this bill. It is rather refreshing to see a bill proposed that actually has the law abiding citizens best interest at the forefront.

If a criminal comes into your space and threatens your home, family, our yourself, you should be able to defend without thinking in the back of your mind, I hope this doesn't get me in trouble. You should be able to stand your ground and defend. Obviously any situation like that is uncomfortable and will leave scars for a lifetime but that is nothing compared to the hurt of a loved one or yourself being injured or worse, not to mention theft of hard earned personal belongings and personal property.

This is very important bill, that gives rights to the citizens that obey the law and finally has their backs as opposed to bills that protect the criminals who could care less.

A person has a right to defend their family and property and this bill is a great step in insuring that right. Please see that this bill is passed.

Again I strongly support HB534 HD1

Mahalo

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:29:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marc Shimatsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 HD1 as the text has been re-written to allow law-abiding citizens the right to use force to protect ourselves against criminals.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:46:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Hurt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

When first laws were ever written, be it in the territory or the state of Hawaii, this should have been law at that point in time. Passage of HB534 HD1 is long overdue for honest citizens to not become criminals in protecting their family and possessions in their homes, vehicles or proper workplace surroundings.

Please immediately pass the bill

Thank you

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:55:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathryn Nicholosn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Gov,

I support HB 534 and I want you to pass this bill. It is good for the community safety and well-being. I also suggest more funding for gun saftey courses, self defense and neighborhood watch programs be implmented as well to educate the public on self-defense.

Thank you,

Kathryn Nicholson

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:56:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jiyoung gerwig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB 534, the right to self defense.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:05:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert gerwig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:10:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Goto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 534, the right to self defense as revised, which is up for hearing on Tuesday, 2/23/2021 at 2 p.m.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:13:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Leite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As law abiding citizens we are guaranteed in th US constitution the ability to protect ourselves. Hawaii state law puts a citizen in an unreasonable position increasing the opportunity for personnel bodily injury to ourselves, our family and the public. The last thing a responsible citizen wants to do is to cause bodily harm to an individual. If an individual is illegally, or intentionally in a place,(ie a personnel residence or another person's private property), they are already an unnecessary threat and are possibly endangering others health and well being. By forcing someone to retreat in their own home or on their own property gives criminals the upper hand and an increased ability to harm and victimize individuals who have the right to be there. People should be allowed to protect themselves, their family, and their property

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:16:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jay Morford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB534 HD1. The intent of the bill allows law-abiding citizens to protect themselves, their property, and other persons without fear of conviction. The legislature believes that the goal of all laws should be to empower law-abiding citizens, not the perpetrators. I am in support of this measure and urge the committee to pass **HB534 HD1**.

Mahalo, Jay Morford

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:28:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judy Ann Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to **favor criminal actors over the rights of victims**. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:31:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rogelio Lazaro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB534

I support this bill. The right to self defense is a natural, universal, God given right. Why would anybody deny a person the right to self defense? Unless, you support violent criminal acts upon the innocent. I urge you to pass this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:33:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin J. Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB 534. The right to self defense is paramount in society. Everyone must be able to protect their family.

V/R

Kevin J. Cole, Mililani

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:39:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Masuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Victims of violent crime shouldn't be subjected to unnecessary civil suits, thereby being victimized twice. It's hard to believe that anyone would be against this bill unless they themselves are criminals too

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:42:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trenton Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am asking you to support and vote in favor of HB534 HD1. For too long, the citizens of Hawaii have been put at undue risk of personal harm, due to the unjustly restrictive legislation previously passed in this state. Hawaii may be the 'Aloha State', but violent crime still does occur. Violent people still reside and visit here. Unfortunately, the state legislature has neutered the citizens of Hawaii from protecting themselves from this reality. As a husband to my wife, and father of my two young sons, this is of grave concern to me.

At the present time, if I am out for a walk in the evening and a violent individual accosts me and my family:

- I may not use a firearm to defend my family, as this is illegal.
- I may not use mace to defend my family, as this is illegal.
- I may not use a Taser to defend my family, as this is illegal.
- I may not use a stun gun to defend my family, as this is illegal.
- I may not use a baton to defend my family, as this is illegal.

Not only has the state of Hawaii deprived me of my 2nd Amendment right to bear arms for the purpose of self defense, but the state of Hawaii has also deprived me of almost every single non-lethal self defense option as well. The clear message which I have received as a citizen, is that I do not have the right to defend myself or my family from harm.

I invite each of you reading this today who are parents, to consider whether you believe you have a moral duty to protect your own family from harm? I suspect that each of you would answer 'yes' to that question. If you answered 'yes', then I would ask you to consider HB534 HD1 from that perspective. If you and your family were personally attacked, mugged, raped, accosted, etc., would you at that moment in time hope that you lacked the ability to protect those you love from harm, or would you hope that the goverment of this great state would have acknowledged your moral obligation to protect those you love, and not stripped that right away from you?

If you feel as I do, then please take this very important small step in the right direction of correcting the wrongs which have been perpetrated upon the citizens of Hawaii. Please vote in favor of HB534 HD1!

Sincerely,

Trenton Johnson

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 4:50:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
davin asato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534.

Woth the rise in crime in Hawaii and criminals becoming more bold and committing crimes in broad daylight, Hawaii citizens need to be able to protect themselves, their property and families without fear of being prosecuted for doing so. HB534 allows for this and needs to be passed.

I support HB534

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:02:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leo Dodier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

As a law-abiding citizen, I would like to let you know that I support the right to self-defense and to stand your ground, especially in your home or business. Just having this law in place will certainly be a strong deterrent to criminal threats. Thank you for the opportunity to hear my views,

Mahalo,

Leo

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:08:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Loperfido Donato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The common law principle of “castle doctrine” says that individuals have the right to use reasonable force, including deadly force, to protect themselves against an intruder in their home.

“a person who is not engaged in an unlawful activity and who is attacked in any other place where he or she has a right to be has no duty to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground and meet force with force, including deadly force, if he or she reasonably believes it is necessary to do so to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another or to prevent the commission of a forcible felony.”

I am a law abiding citizen and it is my right to protect my family and property from any intruder that would cause harm to myself and or my family.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:15:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregg Hutchings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support, in most part, HB534.

It states that citizens may defend themselves, their “legally occupied dwelling or motor vehicle,” and other people against assailants, and that there is no duty to retreat under those circumstances when they occupy premises in which they have a legal right to be and are not engaged in unlawful activity. In addition, it provides immunity from civil action for lawful use of force. Victims of violent crime shouldn’t be subjected to unnecessary civil suits, thereby being victimized twice.

I should not have to worry about legal, criminal, or other ramifications against me if I had to use force, any type of force, against someone who has broken into my home, or vehicle, while I am in it. I should have to run away. Is this what the citizens of Hawai'i should do? Run away? No, we should be able to stand our ground, defend not only ourself, but our property as well. Now, the only "legal" option is to run away. To flee. To put your tail between your legs and run.

This is not right. If someone comes into my home, I should have the right to defend myself.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:22:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry Donaghy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it May Concern,

As a private citizen, my husband and I work to pay our bills, we go to church and are a productive part of our community! I am in favor of this self defense measure! We have our rights as US citizens to protect our own from those who would harm, steal, or kill! Please pass this measure so that we know we are able to take care of our own!

Thank you for your attention

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:38:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Buffett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorary Law/Policy Makers

I am in support of bill HB534. As a constituent of this state it is my position that this bill be passed. Without it, our state is sending the wrong message to criminals. That said message is that we are victims and that the law protects them (criminals) not the law obiding, tax paying citizens of this state. It is a sad day indeed when we must ask politicians for the right to protect ourselves from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:41:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaleb Binkley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Great piece of legislation. People need the right to defend themselves in their own homes. I had a friend who was a WWII marine, crippled and old. Defended himself against intruder and had to pay large sums of money to exonerate himself. Kupuna, veteran of one of our greatest conflicts and a noble American, forced to hire lawyers to keep him out of prosecution for defending his own home. This should not be a concern to a citizen under attack. Let the intruder continue in what they are doing or defend yourself without having more fear of the state than the intruder. This is common sense and should be in place everywhere. Police are stretched thin and if citizens are forced to stand down, effectively allowing anyone to do anything they want because you are afraid of the state, that is terrible government. The main objective of government is to protect it's citizens. Not prosecute them for defending theirseves or families.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:42:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill being passed. How have we gotten to the point where we must ask politicians for the right to protect ourselves?

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima Chairman
The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chairman
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairman Nishihara; Vice Chairman Wakai,

I am writing to register my SUPPORT of House Bill 534, "Relating to use of force in self-protection".

I FULLY SUPPORT this bill as it restores much needed common sense to laws relating to citizen self-defense.

So PLEASE vote FOR this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell Price
3329 Woodlawn Drive House "B".
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
808-763-9653
rnfrmprice@gmail.com

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:51:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Arakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of House Bill 534 because if you are being victimized in your home or work it is very difficult to retreat and to where? Also it's not the wisest way to protect yourself and others by leaving a place that is familiar to you and safe, into an unknown area where other assailants may be waiting or intruding. Also if you fail to flight and decide to fight you would then be unintentionally breaking the law and may be held in civil court. Please defend the law abiding citizens and our Ohana.

Mahalo!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:58:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank J Mulec	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, please provide individuals a clear right to self defense.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:59:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Meacham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I as a United State's Citizen and resident of Hawaii strongly support the rewrite of HB534. Proposed draft gets to the core issues at hand that currently infringe on ones right to legaly protect life and property.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:00:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Chirico	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am supporting this bill and ask all house member to also support it. Nothing is more important and being able to legally defend our moved ones are home and ourselves from violent people who do not follow our laws and for which we have a Consitutional 2 Amendement right to do. With criminals being let into our country now it makes this right even more important. Unfortunatley the

police do not show up in time to prevent loss of our loved ones and oursleves. I urge you to support this bill so that we can defend oursleves from wrongdoers.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:03:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Kojima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of the bill in general but disagree with lining out [or place of work]. I feel that the same protections should apply to ones place of work if allowed by the proprietor.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:09:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Art Owen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB534

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:36:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dustie Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I support the revised bill of HB534. But I don't understand why it would go into effect in 2050 if it is so important, which I believe it is shouldn't it go into effect ASAP? Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely, Ms. Dustie Nelson

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:03:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the right to defend ourselves, our families and our legally occupied domain from the growing criminal violence that is infecting our state.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:28:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Saiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 HD1. An individual should have the inalienable right to defend oneself, family and property with force equal to or greater, including deadly force to protect the aforementioned from those that have no respect of the law abiding honest hard working citizens.

Thank you

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:31:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mery Ann Luna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this revised bill. It's about time victims are not being punished for another's criminal actions. Criminals need to know there are consequences to their actions when entering someone's home/vehicle/business that isn't theirs, along with taking things that do not belong to them.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:45:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sterling Luna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support. The people of hawaii deserve the right to defend themselves and not be tormented by criminals. Me being a voter would appreciate hawaii's lawmakers do something for the people. Thank you please pass this immediately

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:06:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Uyeda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Hawaii and I strongly SUPPORT HB534 and any bill that will support the right of private citizens to protect their families and property from criminals who come onto their property without consent and threaten harm. I strongly support legal protections, especially against civil suits for victims who use justified force to stop a criminal from harming them. I don't understand how the law currently allows criminals who willfully choose to commit a crime can take civil action against the victim even if the victim acted in a legal manner. That doesn't make any sense and is not justice! Please pass HB534 to protect the victim from being victimized twice.

Lawmakers need to place their priorities on protecting law abiding citizens, not criminals. Please SUPPORT HB534.

Thank you.

Paul Uyeda

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:08:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ross Fujimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 because law abiding citizens should be able to defend themselves without fear.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:20:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalei Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I expect once criminals realize that potential victims have been empowered to defend themselves, they'll think twice! Strongly support.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:03:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Desiree Mae Nagtalon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this revised Bill HB534 as it is to the right to self-defense. It's protecting victims from crimes when using force for self-protection.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:05:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill out of committee. We do not need to encourage more gun use in Hawai'i nei. Mahalo.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:16:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Huihui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to show my support for hb534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:19:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CRISTON KAM	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We the People support this bill 1000%!!!!

For too long, law-abiding citizens of Hawai'i have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminals over the rights of law-abiding citizens who are forced to become victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

If one should choose to use deadly force, you would be arrested and assumed guilty till proven innocent and all firearms will be confiscated. That sounds like a total infringement of our 2nd amendment rights if you ask me. This goes right along with the rest of all the unconditional laws we have in this communist state including but not limited to open carrying of any and all firearms

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:21:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frederick Huihui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to support hb534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:26:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alvin Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Alvin Rodrigues Jr and I support HB534. Hawaii is our home and the laws at the moment strip law abiding citizens of their basic God given rights to protect themselves, their families, friends and property. To prosecute someone who is protecting themselves, family, friends and properties from criminals who don't respect other people's lives is to tell law abiding citizens that their rights and lives depend on the conduct of criminals. And that law abiding citizen have no rights.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:30:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534 HD1. The bill provides law abiding citizens the ABILITY to protect their property AND places of business with necessary force and not requiring retreat. It allows law abiding citizens the freedom to stand and defend OR retreat as THEY see fit in the moment. It gives the law abiding citizens the right to protect their livelihood and loved ones.

Thank you for the amendments.

James Robinson

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:32:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
BRETT WAIPA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! I would first like to thank the Legislature for acknowledging the recent increase in violent attacks on private citizens, especially our Kupuna and others who are most vulnerable. Having the duty to retreat really gives the power to the criminal while leaving the resident in a disadvantaged and dangerous situation. This bill gives our citizens the ability to stand their ground and improve their odds of surviving such an attack. This bill will also help to curb these criminal acts as criminals will know that legally owned/occupied private property is no longer an easy target...leaving our most vulnerable that much safer in their homes or cars. I fully support this bill in its current revision. Mahalo!

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:48:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ethan Fergerstrom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB534 is a step in the right direction for better protecting the citizens of Hawaii. We should not have to fear prosecution for doing what is necessary for survival. To better aid in this step it is suggested to let citizens that have already passed Hawaii's complicated and time consuming firearms permit process to be able to carry and deploy those tools should the need arise.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:12:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barry Aoki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to strongly SUPPORT this bill as amended. Law abiding Hawaii citizens have been too fearful in the past to take defensive action to protect themselves and others from violent criminals. The fear of being prosecuted for protecting loved ones has gone on too long and now is the time to allow law abiding Hawaii citizens to defend themselves and their property. Having been in law enforcement, I have seen criminals emboldened because they know the law protects them by tying the hands of their victims.

Please SUPPORT this amended bill. Thank you.

Barry Aoki

Lahaina, Maui, HI

I am in support of HB 534. Any law-abiding citizen has a natural right to stand to their ground and not yield against any trespasser who violates him or her. No human being should have to retreat on their property to protect themselves from anyone wishing to do them harm. In addition, no one should have to turn over their property to someone who demands it from them. Any criminal that would subject another human being to such treatment should not be accommodated. In a situation where the person is being victimized, they should be able to protect themselves and their property. By allowing the current language to remain as it does, will only provide the perpetrator the undue right and protection from the law. According to the Law of Nature, any human has an innate, natural right to protect themselves and no permission or legislation shall deny that right.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:26:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Cadinha Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this amended version of HB534 HD1. Everyone should have the right to protect and defend their property,life,family and business without fear of prosecution.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:42:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laetitia Thibault Santoro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is LaetitiaThibault Santoro and I am a concerned mother and one of your constituent.

I want to write to you today to express my opposition to this bill.

I want to bring your attention to the findings of different research conducted by the RAND Corporation showing that this kind of bill doesn't make the population safer but increase the number of homicides.

When in dangerous position, the matter should be take care by the police (that the proper training to deal with those situations), not by private citizen (that don't know how to diffuse the tensions).

I want our state to stay the "Aloha state", not another sad "shoot first, ask questions later" state.

Your duty is to make our state and its citizens safer ...not to put them in danger.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Stay Safe.

best regards,

Laëtitia Thibault Santoro.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:44:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor Muh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is our god-given right to defend our lives, the lives of our loved ones, the lives of innocents and our property from those who wish to do us harm and/or take the aforementioned from us. This should not even be up for debate. However, I do support HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 10:47:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zon Sullenberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha,

Please support HB534

This bill provides citizens with the legal means to defend themselves if attacked. For too long the State of Hawaii has favored the attacker and made a persons right to self-defense uncertain. This law will provide clear direction regarding the use of force in order to stop a threat against you.

Please support HB534

Mahalo

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:01:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franklin Navia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB534 HD1

To whom it may concern,

My name is Franklin Navia. I reside in the Salt Lake area. I see myself as a responsible firearms owner. I live in a household of 5 including myself. My mother, my 2 young children, my 1 teen and myself. I strongly agree with the use of force for self protection in my own home. I know that fleeing my home to safety would be the best solution. However what if fleeing isnt an option? What if its to late to flee? How will i get my family to safety? How will I insure that they will be safe? I am a father of 3 and I am also a son. I will protect my family, my property if need be. An intruder coming into my home the situation can escalate very quickly, in a blink of an eye. Question is, why would the intruder be in my home/property in the first place? We all know it is for bad intentions. Knowing that I will be able to protect my family and myself would be my number one priority. As it would be with any other family. With the rise in crime, burglaries and thefts. Using force for self protection or even as a deterrent in those cases that fleeing is not an option will save lifes. Not only save the lives of your family but as the intruder as well if he/she decides to flee as well from my property. Not all situations have to end in a bad way. As a responsible firearms owner we also have the be responbile and be mindful of our desicions.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

I strongly agree to use force in self-protection.

Franklin Navia

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:16:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Carreira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to show my SUPPORT for bill HB534 HD1. I believe too many times in self-defense cases the punishment gets flipped and the person defending themselves gets harshly prosecuted despite being party acted UPON. The police are allowed to use like means to stop an individual and are allowed to escalate all the way up to lethal force if necessary. These changes to the law would allow a victim to use enough force against a person, who is committing a crime against them, to stop. It would also ensure that this person does not face criminal or civil legal action should the force be justified. I don't have a problem with that, in fact I'm appalled that is not the current standard.

Thank you,

William Carreira, Waipahu, HI

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:28:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support. Thanks.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:37:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darren Clemen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe the individual has the right to protect themselves, their families/loved ones and property with the use of deadly force if necessary with immunity and without fear of prosecution from the state.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:46:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Clemen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that a person has a right to protect themselves and their family if danger presents in their dwelling. They should not be punished nor fear persecution for self defense on their property.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 12:32:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am retired and 70 years old. I am a father, husband, parent and grandparent. I am a law abiding US citizen and a resident of Hawaii. I heard there has been increase break in. Two years ago I caught a young man looking to break into the house in the backyard. After questioning him I allow him to escape because I was unable to hold him for police questioning. My wife is often working in the garden in our backyard. I told her to be sure to lock all the doors before going downstairs. A friend told me that our screen gates to our front and back doors are easy to break into along with our old windows where pieces could be easily slide out. I am a registered firearm owner and firearms are safely locked away. There are also two locked quick access firearm boxes mounted to the wall at different locations in the house. My wife and I practice unlocking the safe boxes, and a few times a year I practice at the range and follow all the safety rules. I want to keep our firearms safe so it could not be used against us, but have quick access if needed. I do not want to live in fear. My health is questionable and I am unable to move around quickly. If person or persons illegally entered my house wanting to rob, rape or do bodily injury to us, I want the ability to defend ourselves. I know I am unable to outfight them. I have own firearms for over fifty years and never had a cause to point it at a living being, person or animal and I hope I shall never need to. I do not want to hurt anyone or any animal. if our lives are threaten, I want the ability to be able to defend my home and family. I am physically unable to defend my loved ones or home without the use of a firearm. Please consider my request and pass HB534. We want to feel safe at home in our old age and not worry about losing our home or going to jail in the act of defending our lives. We are careful people and we really do not want to hurt anyone, only defend ourselves if absolutely necessary. Mahalo for allowing me to testify and hearing me out. My wife agrees also agrees with me. Honolulu is no longer the once safe town where we never locked our doors growing up. We can not turn page the pages of time. I am requesting you pass the HB534 because we want to feel and stay safe, like wearing our Cov-19 mask, and washing our hands often. It gives us piece of mind.

Aloha, John Lee

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 12:35:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Daraban	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this Bill, our current bill makes absolutely no sense, that you would have try and run away, before you can defend yourself, if running is even an option when being attacked.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 12:41:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Lukas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Legislators, I strongly support HB534 H.D. 1 that recognizes the fundamental rights of Hawaii residents to defend themselves and their families. Every living being has an inherent right to defend itself against injury. This right is not granted by any other living being. The consequences of humans exercising that right have been regulated and criminalized in certain circumstances and jurisdictions in ways that effectively force citizens to be victims of violent crime. Any law that requires (or even seems to require) citizens to flee their place of residence or be punished for defending themselves against illegal intruders erodes the Bill of Rights, including both the Second and Fourth Amendments. In the past year, we have seen growing numbers of home invasions, car-jackings and other violent crimes. Victims of such violence have the inalienable right to defend themselves, which should be clearly respected in law. The current bill does that. Must I jump off my lanai if criminals break into my apartment? Can I even get over the railing? At that moment, hesitating to consider whether and how I could flee rather than defend myself might cost me grave injury, possibly death. I urge you to repair the Hawaii Revised Statutes to explicitly recognize the inalienable right of humans to defend themselves and other inhabitants in their places of residence (home, car, or business). Respectfully, Roger Lukas retiree

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 3:01:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald G Livingston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support. Criminals have become bolder and more violent.

They don't fear law enforcement or being caught.

They need to be stopped somehow.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:02:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Hechtman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB534 HD1!

I believe in the right of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves and their loved ones.

This bill supports that position and right every citizen has.

Thank you,

Robert Hechtman

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:17:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawika Freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Force for self defense needs to be allowd, crime is up because crminals know we cant defend ourself.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:23:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Au	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I support the most recent version of HB534. The bill would allow a victim to use force against someone committing a crime against them and ensure they don't face criminal or legal action if the use of force is justified. The old law of having a duty to retreat needs to be done away with.

Thanks,

Jordan

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:32:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB534 and any "stand your ground" legislation is a recipe for overuse of force. There are many other reasonable ways to respond to what people may feel are threatening situations. Please oppose HB534.

Mahalo,
Colleen Rost-Banik
Resident of Honolulu

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 6:21:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elias A Sugui IV	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help law abiding citizens by passing this, it gives citizens hope knowing that they can protect themselves in case of emergency without fear of being prosecuted for rightfully protecting their own family/home from burglary or theft or assault.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 6:41:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendon Heal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support this bill and defend law abiding
Citizens.

Anyone who believe you have a right to defend oneself against criminal behavior and violence, and anyone who has one iota of common sense and decency would not be opposed to this bill.

Support this legislation

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:01:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Sumikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please vote to support HB535 HD1.

Thank you

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:15:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory FRIEL	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen of the State of Hawaii, I support HB 534 for a citizens right to defend their person and property from illegal acts upon their person or property. Mahalo.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:35:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Woody Child	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill HB534.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:52:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the legal ability to defend myself and family.

I support this bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:57:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Frey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this long overdue bill.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 8:44:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brenda O Watene	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

With the increasing amount of crime threatening to come to our homes, our children, and our property, I support the bill allowing individuals to take appropriate measures to protect ourselves and our property.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 8:47:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Folk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB534

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:19:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monisha Das Gupta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I oppose it in the name of Trayvon Martin and so many others who have been victims of ALEC-sponsored stand your ground laws. There is NO place for these laws in Hawaii. We have seen repeatedly that such laws are used disproportionately against minorities and have been repeatedly and shamefully used by police to justify using lethal force. Legislators, open your eyes and understand what's going on this nation. I am dismayed that this bill is getting heard while you have not allowed bills protecting workers rights to reach the floor. What are your priorities?

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:52:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremy Van	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT this bill. In the last hearing, the wording of the bill was changed to provide the people of Hawaii a clear Right to Self Defense.

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:57:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronson Stewart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii residents must be allowed all affordable protection for self defense. A retreat first policy is dangerous, and increases the chances of injury or death, and lessens the chance of successful self-defense.

A vote to support this bill, is a vote to reaffirm Hawaii residents, and American citizens', Second Amendment rights, as well as the inalienable, God-given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

thank you,

Bronson Stewart

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:01:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Van	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT this bill. In the last hearing, the wording of the bill was changed to provide the people of Hawaii a clear Right to Self Defense.

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

Aloha,

We are all aware of the riots at the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

One of the people arrested is a founder of The Proud Boys, who lives in Hawaii.

Gun sense is a touchy subject.

Let me say that my father and one of my brothers are Marines, and my sister and her husband worked in law enforcement, in the San Francisco Bay Area. And because we lived out in the sticks, my father gave my mother a pistol for self defense, just in case. So I know what weapons of deadly force are, and why you need them, and why you need to be careful in using them. They are designed to bring down an attacker, and you need to have all the technical advantage possible.

How does this relate to Hawaii?

I have gone to community meetings where gun advocates engaged in bullying and threatening behavior, to me, to other community members, and to our representatives who were there to help their constituents. The leaders were wearing video equipment, facing outwards, to video tape everyone else. They tried to dominate and usurp the conversation about safety at traffic stops, to harangue the group about gun rights and slow police response and dangerous felons in our neighborhoods, and their right to bear arms and the necessity of concealed carry. At the end, I had people ask me if I wanted someone to walk me to my car, for safety. I declined, since I have been bullied before, and these guys seemed like all bluster and no action.

Some weeks later, I was at a hearing at our State Capitol, where gun advocates (some of the same people I had seen before) opposed to ammunition limits brandished full clips, basically taunting the police officers who were there, to arrest them if the bill became law. There was a mention about threats to policy makers. Someone (?) tripped a fire alarm - there was confusion, and we were evacuated. I immediately left, because it seemed like an escalating situation.

Hawaii has farmers and hunters, and we have had a strong military presence for many years. These are responsible gun owners. We have good gun sense laws in our state, and it's often used as an example to the rest of the country. But we did have the first workplace shooting, and a strong trend towards domestic violence, and the burned out site of those homes on Hibiscus Drive still sit there. Flowers and tributes at the HPD station in Waikiki are not enough.

The shooter was a known danger to the community, and had been arrested and cited numerous times through the years. He had illegal weapons, and threatened his neighbors. Nobody did anything, until people were murdered and several homes were burned to the ground.

We have a chance to stop this insane behavior. Now. We can see what has happened in the rest of our country, and in the world. This is a very clear danger, and we have the power to prevent an escalation of this craziness.

Legislate to carefully control weapons of war, and those who advocate their use. We know what the dangers are. And we have the power to legislate solutions.

Mahalo,

3093 Pualei Circle #205

Honolulu, HI 96815
808 265-6215
vividchange@mac.com

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:13:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Skye Kahoali'i	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because as a disabled and trans woman of color, I am in a group that is more at risk of assault which can turn deadly, even if I am facing an attacker armed only with his fists. Any implement they may employ in addition only raises that threat exponentially.

Current law says I must retreat if retreat is available rather than defend myself. As a disabled person, I do not have effective retreat available **ever**, if I am outside my vehicle and even within it if I am unable to drive away because of being blocked in by an obstacle or obstacles. Current law says I must risk that assault, and even incur it for law enforcement to intervene or even investigate after the fact. Meanwhile ***I am the one in the emergency room, then possibly ICU, and even the morgue.*** People grieve, people mourn, people sympathize and perhaps much later (seven **years** in a recent case here on Maui!) a modicum of justice is meted out in a way that except in a very few instances, provides any adequate recompense for me who has to live with whatever after-effects of the trauma, both physical and psychological.

If the perpetrator is caught and convicted they spend their time in a place where they have all the means to survive with shelter, food, clothing, and educational opportunities as well as entertainment. If lingering injuries or conditions cause me loss of employment, a spiral down into financial and family ruin can often result. Suing the convicted perpetrator rarely brings relief unless they are wealthy or insured, something often quite unlikely. It took me over three years for my disability to be federally recognized...yet for my hypothetical case for someone like me, what becomes of them? They face ruin, and if lucky, merely physical rehabilitation and psychological counseling for PTSD. It all happens because the true "first responder" to any such attack is ***always*** the victim! And because my hypothetical victim, modeled on my circumstances, is not allowed to keep such an attacker at bay with the threat of deadly force.

I must note here that the threat of deadly force will often quell such an incident without injury on either side, with both parties going their separate ways without completing or continuing the incident further. I must note here also that the option to employ the use of deadly force does not necessarily **require** that it be taken. But it does give a potential victim the option to not be the one in the emergency room, the ICU, or the morgue.

We as a society have already established the principle that material things and possessions can be protected with the option of deadly force, else we would not arm either the police or security guards. I and other supporters want to extend those protections to life and limb, a protection that arguably should have preceded protection of property.

I can see little opposition that stands on anything but hysterical fear-mongering. Any such law enacted that recognizes this right of self-defense at ranges further than contact distance, will by logical temperance be accompanied by requirements for proper education on legal ramifications and proper employment of the deadly force option, as well as skills training. I note here that all of these measures are ***already in place***, but granting that option is left to the discretion of the Chiefs of Police of the police departments in each County.

The time for leaving my personal safety subject to that arbitrary discretion has passed. Their fine officers should not have to be constantly investigating incidents where innocents have been brutalized, maimed, or killed. They should instead, be arriving on scene to find that attack has either not occurred, or was unsuccessful.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:22:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Van	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT this bill. In the last hearing, the wording of the bill was changed to provide the people of Hawaii a clear Right to Self Defense.

For too long, Hawaii law-abiding citizens have been the victims of violent criminals. Laws seem to favor criminal actors over the rights of victims. Requiring them to surrender their property and/or run away rather than defend their home, business or property.

This Right to Self Defense bill now provides for law-abiding citizens to use force to protect themselves, their families, and loved ones from harm.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 11:01:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karina Maciel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Representative Scot Z. Mayatoshi, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Karina Maciel

Subject: Opposition of House Bill 534, Relating to Use of Force in Self Protection

Aloha! My name is Karina Maciel and I am a student at Kalaheo High School. I strongly oppose HB 534 and would like to ask you to vote no on this bill. The implementation of a “Stand Your Ground” law in Hawai’i is concerning, as “Stand Your Ground” laws have been shown to be inherently dangerous and even discriminatory.

The evidence that Stand Your Ground laws have done more harm than good has been seen in many states across the country. According to Giffords Law Center, an example of this is very evident in Florida, which was one of the first states to pass a Stand Your Ground law in their state legislature. Giffords states that “Florida’s stand your ground law escalated gun violence across the state. [Implementation] was associated with a 32% increase in firearm homicide rates and a 24% increase in overall homicide rates.” This demonstrates that Stand Your Ground laws actually exacerbate what they are supposed to diminish. They encourage citizens to “stand their ground” in threatening circumstances, and by doing so, actually increase the risk of violent altercations. These laws claim to protect property and the rights of law abiding citizens- but at what cost? If violence can be avoided, it should be avoided. Lives will always be more important than property.

Aside from being inherently dangerous, Stand Your Ground laws have also proven to be incredibly discriminatory. According to Everytown’s center for Research and Policy, Stand Your Ground laws disproportionately affect people of color. “Across all states, homicides in which white shooters kill black victims are deemed justifiable far more frequently than when the situation is reversed.

[However,] In Stand Your Ground states, homicides are deemed justifiable five times more frequently than when the shooter is black and the victim is white.” There is clear racial bias that occurs in the implementation and policing of the Stand Your Ground law. In a state like Hawai’i, which is incredibly diverse, a law that has such unequal effects and enforcement depending on race or ethnicity will not be beneficial to the public.

If HB 534 is passed, I believe it will be to the detriment of Hawai’i’s citizens. A law that encourages a person to use deadly force in public, even if such force can be avoided through retreat, will only serve to mitigate violence and create contention in our communities across the islands. Please vote no on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karina Maciel

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 11:14:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Matsui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Bill HB534. In recent years, criminals have become more and more brazen. They do so knowing Hawaii has poor self defense laws. Laws that haven't allowed victims to protect themselves. I have zero interest in being a hero or using a firearm against another person, but I will not allow myself or others I care about to be victimized. Laws shouldn't give criminals protection, leeway, or loopholes. Laws should give a potential criminal cause for hesitation before they even commit a crime. Laws should present sufficient consequences to deter them from turning to crime. Laws should give good citizens the right to defend themselves from predators. The police often react to a crime that has already been committed. Life happens fast, and citizens cannot depend on the police for protection, so give us the right to protect ourselves.

Thank you for your time.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 11:30:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Nii-jensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good morning esteemed Members of the House Committee of Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs ,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Honolulu. In the past years frightening home invasions, often praying on seniors, have become a common fixture on the news. Several instances have happened in my neighborhood. Currently, Hawaii Use of force precludes use of force for homeowners and/or occupants if:

- The actor knows that he can avoid the necessity of using such force with complete safety by retreating or by surrendering possession of a thing to a person asserting a claim of right thereto or by complying with a demand that he abstain from any action which he has no duty to take

By requiring this stipulation, we have seen kupuna tied up, forced to be captured in their own home, sitting with trepidation and fear of what will come next as their homes are ransacked. Putting the onus on homeowners/occupants to have faith that relinquishing their goods may protect them is a naive stipulation of law. Criminals who would break the law and into someone's home, may assuage homeowners by stating they will do them no harm if they comply, only to quickly renege on their words. We have seen this very situation happen, and we still we ask our citizens to first retreat, even further, comply with demands to surrender their possessions and hope harm does not come to them.

Passing bill 534 to allow use of force without retreat, allows law abiding citizens to defend their lives, homes, and property without fear of future prosecution or civil judgment. The hesitation that comes with the questions, 'have I attempted to escape? Are the demands of this intruder reasonable under the law,' can have deadly consequences. With passage of this bill, we assert that intruders need to hesitate in their bold intrusions as they are no longer protected by the law, and reassure law-abiding citizens that they can protect themselves without fear of prosecution if they have not fulfilled the ambiguous parameters.

I thank you for your time and hope you take this consituants thoughts into consideration.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 12:26:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Morin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill HB534 to be put into action.

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:39:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laughlin Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of HB534 and would ask you support passage of this bill.

Laughlin Tanaka

HB-534-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:51:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Adams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would like to submit testimony that I oppose bill HB534 "Stand Your Ground".

Stand Your Ground laws make it easier for people to use deadly force under "supposed" reasonable fears and let's be honest here, there are more and more UNreasonable people these days. Stand Your Ground in my opinion would undoubtedly increase violence and fatalities, undermine police, and result in more vigilantism. Again, I oppose bill HB534.