



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2351, RELATING TO FIREARMS REPORTING.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Julie Ebato, Administrator, Crime Prevention and Justice
Assistance Division of the Department of the Attorney General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) strongly supports this bill and offers the following comments.

This bill amends section 134-9.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), relating to annual reporting requirements on licenses to carry firearms concealed. The bill, among other things, deletes the reporting of demographic information of conceal carry license applicants including age, gender, and race; the reasons for revocation and denial; the analysis of denials based upon an applicants' failure to meet standards; recommendations to remedy any disparities in denial rates by age, gender, or race; and the number of violations of section 134-9.1, HRS.

To comply with the current statute, a statewide database would be needed to manage and maintain records related to the conceal carry application, review, and revocation process. The data needed for the annual report under the current statute must be collected at different points in the process—for example, when the application is submitted; when the application is subsequently granted, denied, or vacated; and, if applicable, when it is revoked during the four-year license duration. Because there are no resources to create a statewide database, the current statute creates an overly burdensome data-collection requirement for the county police, and an unattainable sixty-day deadline for the Department to vet the data submitted by the county police for

completeness and accuracy and to publish a report. Without a statewide database, the county police would need to manually enter the data collected twice, initially for their respective county police department purposes and a second time for submittal to the Department.

In addition to the problems associated with collecting the data, the Department does not have the resources to review case-specific narrative information to provide the analysis required under section 134-9.6 (a)(3), HRS. Under the current statute, the Department will be unable to provide an annual report with data that is vetted and complete.

The amendments in the bill will give county police departments more time to provide reportable data without time-consuming analysis of case-level records and will give the Department sufficient time to complete the annual report with its existing resources. An additional advantage to the amendments in the bill is that deleting some of the demographic information from the data to be reported will allow the report to provide data without attaching any unintended stigma to a particular age, gender, or racial group.

The bill also extends the date that the county police departments provide the data to the Attorney General from February 1 to March 31 of each year for the prior calendar year, allowing the county police departments additional time to provide the data to the Department.

Further, the bill deletes the reporting regarding the number of violations of section 134-9.1, HRS, Carrying or Possessing a Firearm in Certain Locations and Premises Prohibited. The report of these violations may require analysis of case-level records because violations of this section may be embedded in the narrative section of the police report. The analysis of case-level records will be overly time-consuming and place additional time and resource constraints on county police departments to complete the report.

We respectfully ask your Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • WEBSITE: www.honolulupd.org

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE CL-DNK

February 14, 2024

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2351, Relating to Firearms Reporting

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

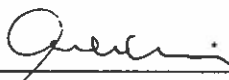
The HPD supports House Bill No. 2351, Relating to Firearms Reporting.

The HPD supports the language changes to the annual mandatory report submitted to the Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawai'i. The changes provide a clear method for license to carry data collection across all counties in the state.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 2351, Relating to Firearms Reporting. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police


Carlene Lau, Acting Major
Records and Identification Division

HB-2351

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:45:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JB	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure

HB-2351

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 9:11:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE