

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2025

RE: S.B. No. 401  
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 401, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREARMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to include any firearm with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols and revolvers, and muzzleloaders, in the list of prohibited weapons.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Law Enforcement, Giffords, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America Hawai'i Chapter, Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America Hawai'i Chapter, Vet Voice Foundation, and forty-seven individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the National Rifle Association of Hawaii, Aloha Freedom Coalition, Pu'uloa Rifle and Pistol Club, Hawaii Rifle Association, SDM Training Group, Bows N Bullets, Young Guns, and numerous individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Honolulu Police Department.



Your Committee finds that fifty caliber firearms are exceptionally powerful weapons that pose extraordinary risks to public safety, law enforcement personnel, and critical infrastructure. These weapons are capable of penetrating light armor, vehicles, and buildings from significant distances, making them particularly dangerous in both urban and rural environments. Their prohibition aligns with existing restrictions on other weapons that present similar levels of risk to public safety. This measure will prohibit these powerful weapons to enhance public safety in the State while maintaining reasonable accommodations for legitimate historical and collecting interests.

Your Committee notes that a fifty caliber rifle can hit a target accurately from distances of one thousand to two thousand yards, and, depending on the skill of the shooter, can reach targets at an even longer range. Your Committee further notes that fifty caliber rifles can destroy or disable light armored vehicles, radar dishes, helicopters, stationary, and taxiing airplanes. Additionally, the destructive power of the fifty caliber rifle can be magnified by the use of certain types of ammunition that are legal under federal law, including armor-piercing, incendiary, and combination armor-piercing and incendiary ammunition.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Exempting shotguns from the prohibition against firearms with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher;
- (2) Specifying that this measure shall not prohibit possession of a firearm that is not a shotgun with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher obtained before January 1, 2026; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 401, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 401, S.D. 2.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,




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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes  
Committee on Judiciary  
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 401, SDI</b>	Committee Referral: <b>PSM, JDC</b>	Date: <b>2/27/25</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)			✓	
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.			✓	
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:             Original             Yellow             Pink             Goldenrod File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes