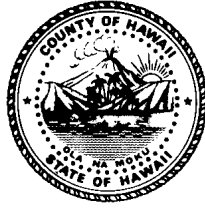


Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 4, 2025
TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB 893

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

I am writing to you in strong support of HB 893 which establishes prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles, expanding the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines.

Regulating assault weapons is crucial when it comes to community safety. These military style, semi-automatic firearms are designed to kill or target as many people as possible in very short amounts of time. Wounds caused by assault weapons are more severe and lethal than wounds caused by other firearms. Studies show that the federal assault weapons ban resulted in a marked decrease in the use of assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines in crime. Regulating access to these firearms will help prevent mass shootings, prevent injuries and minimize deaths.

As a County Council Member who has worked in the past to pass a law regarding public safety regarding concealed carry of firearms, I welcome a State law that will create standardization as well as hopefully strengthen firearm safety across the Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 893.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenn Kagiwada

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:20:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support of HB **893**.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:56:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa Kaku	Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e,

I am writing on behalf of myself and the thousands of members of the Hawaii Rifle Association to strongly **oppose** House Bill 893. This legislation is not only an unconstitutional overreach, but it also imposes unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens while failing to address the root causes of violent crime.

1. Direct Conflict with the Supreme Court’s *Bruen* Decision

The Supreme Court, in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), **rejected discretionary licensing schemes and undue restrictions on common firearm ownership**. The ruling held that **gun regulations must align with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation** and that governments cannot impose restrictions unless they are rooted in historical precedent.

Key findings from *Bruen* relevant to H.B. 893:

- **The government bears the burden of proving a firearm regulation is historically justified.**
- **Gun laws cannot require individuals to demonstrate a special need beyond ordinary self-defense to exercise their Second Amendment rights.**
- **The Second Amendment does not limit the right to bear arms to the home.**

H.B. 893 **ignores these constitutional safeguards** by attempting to ban commonly owned firearms based on arbitrary definitions of "assault weapons," despite their widespread lawful use across the country. The proposed ban on .50 caliber rifles and certain magazines further extends this unconstitutional overreach.

2. Unconstitutional Blanket Prohibitions

- **Firearms "in common use" are protected under the Second Amendment.** The Supreme Court has consistently ruled that weapons commonly owned by the American public for lawful purposes—including AR-15-style rifles and other semiautomatic firearms—**cannot be categorically banned** (*Heller*, *McDonald*, *Bruen*).
 - **Expanding the magazine ban is legally indefensible.** In *Bruen*, the Court emphasized that gun regulations must be based on historical precedent. There is **no historical basis** for prohibiting commonly used, standard-capacity magazines. The effort to limit detachable magazines for all firearms directly contradicts Supreme Court rulings.
 - **The ban on .50 caliber rifles is arbitrary and unfounded.** The inclusion of .50 caliber rifles in this bill **fails to address any historical precedent of firearm regulation**. These rifles are rarely used in crime and are primarily owned by lawful collectors, marksmen, and sports shooters. Their prohibition is **a clear overreach that lacks a compelling governmental interest**.
-

3. H.B. 893 Creates a Two-Tiered System of Rights

This bill explicitly carves out exceptions for law enforcement and military personnel, while depriving ordinary, law-abiding citizens of the same rights. Under *Bruen*, **the Second Amendment is not a second-class right**, and it cannot be subject to different standards than other constitutional rights.

H.B. 893 **violates equal protection under the law** by allowing one class of citizens (law enforcement and military) to own and use certain firearms, while denying the same rights to civilians. The Supreme Court has rejected this kind of **two-tiered constitutional framework** in *Bruen* and similar cases.

4. Public Safety Cannot Justify the Bill's Overreach

While proponents claim this legislation will enhance public safety, the Supreme Court **explicitly rejected public safety arguments as a justification for infringing upon the Second Amendment**. In *Bruen*, the Court stated:

"The Second Amendment is the very product of an interest balancing by the people and it surely elevates above all other interests the right of law-abiding, responsible citizens to use arms for self-defense."

Public safety concerns **must be addressed through enforcement of existing laws**, not by infringing upon constitutional rights. The reality is that criminals will **not** comply with this legislation, leaving only responsible gun owners burdened by excessive restrictions.

Conclusion

H.B. 893 is an unconstitutional and ineffective measure that contradicts Supreme Court precedent established in *Bruen*. The bill seeks to criminalize the ownership of common firearms, violates the principles set forth by the highest court, and disproportionately punishes law-abiding citizens without providing any legitimate public safety benefits.

For these reasons, **I strongly urge the Legislature to reject H.B. 893** and instead focus on solutions that respect constitutional rights while targeting criminal misuse of firearms.

Respectfully submitted,

Kainoa Kaku

President, Hawaii Rifle Association

2/3/2025



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Re: HB 893 Relating to firearms
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference
Thursday, February 6, 2025, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

On behalf of HCANSpeaks!, I am writing in support of HB 893, relating to firearms. This bill establishes prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles. The bill expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines and establishes exceptions

Research demonstrates that this bill is an important opportunity to protect Hawai'i's keiki. A [report](#) by Everytown for Gun Safety highlighted that prohibiting assault weapons and high-capacity magazines can help prevent mass shooting injuries and fatalities, as well as reduce the devastation of daily gun violence in America. A [study](#) published in the *American Journal of Public Health* found that attacks involving large-capacity magazines (LCMs) resulted in a 62% higher mean average death toll. The study also noted that the incidence of high-fatality mass shootings in states without LCM bans was more than double the rate in states with such bans, and the annual number of deaths was more than three times higher.

These findings underscore the importance of implementing restrictions on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines as effective measures to reduce firearm-related fatalities and injuries, particularly in the context of mass shootings.

As an advocate for the safety and well-being of children and families, I plead for action on gun violence prevention. I urge you to support HB 893, so that Hawai'i can continue to set a positive example for the rest of the country in prioritizing the safety and well-being of its children and families. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 893.**

Sincerely,
Noreen Kohl, Ph.D.
Policy Researcher and Advocate

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:38:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	The Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:37:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Kashiwai	Red Letter Industries	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it infringes on my Constitutional rights and the rights of my customers.



A Just Peace and Open and Affirming Congregation

**Testimony of the Church of the Crossroads IN SUPPORT OF HB 893
To the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Hearing: February 6, 2025, 2:00pm**

The Church of the Crossroads was founded in 1922 as Hawaii’s first intentionally multiracial church. We are a Just Peace Church of approximately 180 members. We have voted unanimously to support a ban on all assault weapons and large capacity magazines, and ask for your support in accomplishing this ban.

Hawai’i is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons ban that **fails** to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large magazines for those weapons. Our current law only applies to assault pistols/revolvers, and large detachable ammunition magazines (more than 10 rounds) for pistols.

U.S. assault weapons bans by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Status	By make or model	Semiauto rifles	Semiauto pistols	Shotguns	Features test	Magazine capacity
California ^[34]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
Connecticut ^[35]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
Delaware ^[36]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	17
District of Columbia ^[37]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
Hawaii ^[38]	In force			X		X	10 (pistols)
Illinois ^[39]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10 (15 for handguns)
Maryland ^[40]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
Massachusetts ^[41]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
New Jersey ^[42]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
New York ^[43]	In force		X	X	X	X	10
Washington ^[44]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10

Source: [Assault weapons legislation in the United States - Wikipedia](#)

These gaping holes in our assault weapons ban make no sense and endanger us all. Every year that we fail to pass a comprehensive assault weapons ban, we allow more and more assault rifles and large capacity magazines to be bought, amassed and used in this state. This bill would finally ban assault rifles, assault shotguns, and large capacity magazines for those weapons.

Hawai'i is not immune to mass shootings, as we know from our tragic history in that regard. Our schools drill our students each year on how to try to survive an active shooter situation. Yet our laws have gaping loopholes that facilitate gun violence.

Thoughts and prayers are not enough to combat gun violence. Action is needed. The legislature must do its part by enacting safer gun laws that can reduce future risks of gun violence.

The 1994 federal Assault Weapons Ban prohibited a wide range of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. It resulted in fewer mass shootings. Sadly, it was allowed to expire in 2004 and Congress has failed to re-enact it. Hawai'i can and should expand our own assault weapons law to fill this void.

Banning assault weapons and large capacity magazines is important because these weapons are uniquely designed to be capable of mass violence. Their potential for mass murder far outweighs any plausible use for hunting, recreation or self-defense. The rate of public mass shootings has tripled since 2011. The US now has more mass shootings each year than there are days in the year. We should do our best to prevent another mass shooting here. The sooner this ban is created, the sooner we can start reducing the needless spread of assault rifles and large capacity magazines in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Godbey Carson, for the Church of the Crossroads

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING: Thursday, February 6, 2025
PLACE: Room 325 State Capital and via videoconference



by

Hawai'i – American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA)

HB893 and HB125– Relating to Firearms

Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, thank you for providing this opportunity for Hawai'i - American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA) to provide testimony **in strong support of HB893 and HB125**, which address critical issues surrounding firearm safety and the prevention of gun violence in our state.

Hawai'i- ANA is the professional association for over 17,000 registered nurses who live and work in Hawai'i. Hawai'i nurses firmly believe that gun violence is not only a public safety issue but also a pressing public health concern that demands immediate and comprehensive action.

Overview of HB893 and HB125

HB893 aims to prohibit assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles from being brought into Hawai'i, prohibit their sale or transfer, amend existing prohibition to include these, expand the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines, and provide exceptions for police force and military. HB125 focuses on the requirement of businesses and persons who sell firearms to

others to provide a written statement to the purchaser on the requirement for safe storage of said weapon, outlining those requirements, and the consequences of failure to abide by the storage requirements. These measures align with the national priorities of the American Nurses Association (ANA) which our local chapter fully supports as a critical measure for the health of our community. ANA has consistently called for meaningful legislation to promote firearm safety, reduce gun violence, and address the public health crisis that firearms pose in the United States, the nurses in our community are no different and stand firmly with our national leadership on this critical issue. The ANA's position is clear: gun violence is a public health epidemic that requires evidence-based solutions and sustained commitment from policymakers, healthcare professionals, and community stakeholders (ANA, 2023).

The Role of Nurses in Addressing Gun Violence

As frontline healthcare providers, nurses witness the devastating effects of gun violence daily. The physical injuries, psychological trauma, and long-term health consequences are profound and extend far beyond the individuals directly impacted. Nurses also play a critical role in the aftermath of gun violence, providing care to victims and their families and addressing the broader implications of these tragedies on community health.

The ANA has emphasized that nurses must advocate for evidence-based policies to prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths. In particular, nurses are uniquely positioned to:

- **Promote Awareness:** Educating patients and communities about the risks of firearm ownership and safe storage practices.
- **Advocate for Legislation:** Supporting laws that regulate firearm access and usage to reduce the likelihood of accidental or intentional harm.

- Provide Trauma-Informed Care: Addressing the physical and emotional needs of gun violence survivors and their families.

HB893 and HB125 reflect these priorities by incorporating measures that align with public health frameworks for firearm safety and violence prevention. Frankly, gun violence is nursing business and we firmly support every effort our lawmakers are taking in HB 893 and HB 125 to safeguard our citizens, decrease the burden of trauma on our public health, and improve awareness of this problem.

The Public Health Impact of Gun Violence

Gun violence is a leading cause of death and injury in the United States, with over 45,000 firearm-related deaths reported annually (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2022). This crisis is not confined to the mainland; Hawai‘i is not immune to the consequences of firearm-related injuries and deaths. Research has shown that comprehensive legislative efforts, such as those proposed in HB893 and HB125, can significantly reduce the prevalence of firearm-related incidents (American Academy of Nursing [AAN], 2023).

According to the American Nurses Association, strong legislative action—including measures to regulate firearm access, enhance background checks, and promote safe storage—is essential to mitigating gun violence (ANA, 2023). Moreover, the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) has highlighted the importance of addressing firearm safety as part of a holistic approach to violence prevention, emphasizing the need for community-based initiatives and education campaigns (AAN, 2023).

The Importance of Evidence-Based Policy

HB893 and HB125 are grounded in evidence-based practices that prioritize public safety and health. The provisions outlined in these bills, such as prohibit assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles from being brought in to Hawai‘i, prohibit their sale or transfer, amend existing prohibition to include these, expand ban on high-capacity detachable magazines, and provide exceptions for police force and military and the requirement for safe storage at time of sale, have been shown to effectively reduce firearm-related injuries and deaths in other jurisdictions. For example, states with comprehensive firearm safety laws report significantly lower rates of gun-related fatalities compared to states with less stringent regulations (Giffords Law Center, 2023). Some examples of these improved outcomes related to legislative measures are provided here:

- States with the strictest gun laws, such as Massachusetts, have some of the lowest firearm death rates in the country. Massachusetts had a gun death rate of **3.4 per 100,000 people** in 2020, compared to states with weaker gun laws, such as Mississippi, which had a gun death rate of **28.6 per 100,000 people** (CDC, 2022). Child firearm deaths decreased by **23%** in states with child access prevention laws that require safe storage of firearms (Monuteaux et al., 2019).

Additionally, the ANA and other nursing organizations advocate for increased funding for research on gun violence, including studies on its impact on healthcare systems and frontline providers. These bills provide an opportunity for Hawai‘i to lead by example, demonstrating a commitment to data-driven solutions that address the root causes of gun violence.

Building a Culture of Safety Through Education and Training

Education and training are critical components of any successful gun violence prevention strategy. Nurses, as trusted members of their communities, are well-positioned to lead efforts to educate the public about firearm safety. The ANA's recommendations include implementing training programs for healthcare providers on how to discuss firearm safety with patients, particularly those at higher risk of gun violence (American Nurse, 2023).

HB893 and HB125 can enhance these efforts by incorporating funding and resources for educational initiatives. These initiatives could include:

- Community workshops on safe firearm storage.
- Training programs for healthcare providers to identify and intervene in situations involving potential firearm risks.
- Public awareness campaigns to promote a culture of safety and responsibility around firearm ownership.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Hawai'i-ANA strongly supports HB893 and HB125 as essential steps toward reducing gun violence and promoting public health in our state. These bills align with national nursing priorities and reflect the commitment of Hawai'i's policymakers to safeguard the well-being of our communities.

As healthcare professionals dedicated to protecting and improving lives, we urge this committee to pass these measures and continue to prioritize gun violence prevention as a critical public health issue. Hawai'i-ANA stands ready to collaborate with legislators, community leaders, and other stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of these important initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We are available to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have.

Citations:

- American Nurses Association. (2023). **Gun violence: A public health crisis.** Retrieved from [nursingworld.org](https://www.nursingworld.org)
- American Academy of Nursing. (2023). **Firearm safety and violence prevention.** Retrieved from [aannet.org](https://www.aannet.org)
- American Nurse. (2023). **The role of nurses in firearm safety.** Retrieved from [myamericannurse.com](https://www.myamericannurse.com)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). **Firearm violence prevention.** Retrieved from [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). **Firearm Mortality by State.** Retrieved from [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).
- Monuteaux, M. C., Azrael, D., & Miller, M. (2019). **Association of increased safe household firearm storage with firearm suicide and unintentional death among US youths.** *JAMA Pediatrics*, 173(7), 657-662. doi.org.

Contact information for Hawai‘i – American Nurses Association:

President, Dr. Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Chair of Advocacy Committee: Dr. Linda Beechinor, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Phone (808) 779-3001. 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825



February 4, 2025

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT OF HB893 RELATING TO FIREARMS

Hrg: Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 2:00pm

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

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy.

The Hawaii Public Health Association supports HB893 which prohibit semiautomatic assault rifles like the AR-15, which have been used in 9 out of 10 of the deadliest mass shootings in America. This measure is important because:

- Hawai'i has long prohibited the possession, transfer, and manufacture of *assault pistols*, which are semiautomatic handguns with two or more listed military features. However, **Hawai'i has not prohibited assault weapons that are rifles and shotguns—including the AR-15 and other semiautomatic rifles** that are much more frequently used in mass shootings. ○ All nine other states that prohibit assault weapons include rifles and shotguns with military features.
- Assault weapons like AR-15 rifles fire high-velocity ammunition that inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun. And semiautomatic rifles like the AR-15 are capable of firing rounds much faster than manually operated rifles, allowing shooters to fire a large number of powerful rounds in seconds.
- HB893 would close this dangerous gap in Hawai'i law, prohibiting assault rifles and shotguns with one or more military features that are capable of firing a high number of rounds in a short period of time.
- Importantly, like other assault weapon laws, the bill would allow people to keep the firearms they already possess and allow them to use them on property they own or work on, including for use as a wildlife control method on agricultural or rural property where feral ungulate management is an issue.
- **People would still be allowed to purchase most types of semi-automatic rifles, including common hunting weapons** like .22 rifles, semi-automatic rifles that do not use detachable magazines, and semi-automatic rifles without prohibited military features.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Kessler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Kessler
Executive Director

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:51:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Susan Trombley, I live in Kapolei and I am a gun owner from a hunting family, a retired teacher who had an 8th grade student in my classroom with a gun, the mother of a school shooting survivor that resulted in a student death and a grandmother. I'm writing because I support HB 893, which would prohibit dangerous assault rifles like the AR-15. Our state has strong gun laws, but we have a major loophole - we still allow citizens to purchase semiautomatic assault rifles like the AR-15. These weapons have been used in almost all of the deadliest mass shootings in America, which is why nine (9) other states ban them. We can't wait for a mass shooting to happen here in Hawai'i before we act.

Thank you,

Susan Trombley

To: Members of the Hawaii House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
From: Agustin Cabrera, Giffords State Legislative Manager
Subject: Support for HB 893
Date: February 6, 2025

Submitted via email

My name is Agustin Cabrera and I am a State Legislative Manager with Giffords, the gun violence prevention organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. I write to you today in support of HB 893, a bill that would add assault rifles and shotguns to Hawaii's existing list of banned assault weapons.

Assault weapons, especially assault rifles, are typically semiautomatic versions of weapons created for deadly battlefield purposes. They are designed and equipped with features that enable mass killing, including sustained, high-volume rapid fire shooting at large numbers of people in a short period of time. These unusually dangerous weapons also expose law enforcement officers to heightened risk from gunmen wielding increasingly high-powered combat grade weapons on civilian streets.

A growing body of research demonstrates that banning assault weapons can help to prevent gun violence, and mass shootings in particular

Studies of both the lapsed federal assault weapons ban and state-level assault weapons bans show that these laws help to reduce fatalities and injuries from mass shootings, as well as the use of assault weapons in crime. During the 10-year period the federal assault weapons ban was in effect, mass shooting fatalities were 70% less likely to occur compared to the periods before and after the ban.¹

Studies also suggest that state level assault weapons bans help to prevent gun violence.² For example, when Washington passed an assault weapons ban for people under age 21, there were significant decreases in the number of firearm incidents with assault weapons by this group, as well as an overall decrease in firearm violence in the state.³

¹ Charles DiMaggio et al., "Changes in US Mass Shooting Deaths Associated with the 1994–2004 Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Analysis of Open–source Data," *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 86, no. 1 (2019): 11–19.

² See, e.g., Mark Gius, "The Impact of State and Federal Assault Weapons Bans on Public Mass Shootings," *Applied Economics Letters* 22, no. 4 (2015): 281–284; Arindrajit Dube, Oeindrila Dube, and Omar García-Ponce, "Cross–border Spillover: US Gun Laws and Violence in Mexico," *American Political Science Review* 107, no. 3 (2013): 397–417.

³ Bhullar et al., "Washington State Assault Weapon Firearm Violence Before and After Firearm Legislation Reform," *The American Surgeon*, (2024).

Hawaii is the only state with an assault weapons ban that fails to ban assault rifles and assault shotguns

Hawaii's existing assault weapons ban only extends to assault pistols and fails to include a ban on assault rifles and shotguns. This is a major weakness in Hawaii's existing gun violence prevention framework; a framework that has placed Hawaii amongst the top of states working to fight against gun violence in the country. The availability of unusually dangerous weaponry like assault weapons and large-capacity magazines has fueled an alarming increase in high casualty mass shootings across the nation including those in Las Vegas and Orlando, at Sandy Hook and Robb Elementary Schools, and at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws broadly restricting assault weapons

Ten states (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Washington), as well as the District of Columbia, have enacted laws that generally ban the sale, manufacture, and transfer of assault weapons. Two other states (Minnesota and Virginia) have also enacted laws that place some additional safety requirements and regulations on assault weapons, though these regulations fall far short of the general ban on the sale and manufacture of assault weapons enacted in the other nine states above.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB 893. In the absence of federal legislation regulating assault weapons, states must take it upon themselves to protect their residents from mass shootings by regulating or banning the sale and manufacture of these uniquely dangerous weapons.

Respectfully Submitted,

Agustin Cabrera

Agustin Cabrera

State Legislative Manager | He/Him

c: (806) 335-5819

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

GIFFORDS

ABOUT GIFFORDS

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

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:11:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Akiyama	Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose HB893. The ban you are proposing will negatively affect thousands of law abiding gun owners but do nothing to take firearms out of the hands of criminals, who do not abide by laws.

Brady
840 First St. NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002



Testimony of Kelly Sampson, Senior Policy Counsel, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
Support for HB 893 Before the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
February 6th, 2025

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe and Distinguished Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Founded in 1974, Brady works to change the law, change the industry, and change culture to free America from gun violence. Our organization today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans across the country in the fight to prevent gun violence.

Hawaii leaders have persisted in prioritizing the safety and well-being of the people of Hawaii by enacting and implementing proactive, research-informed policy solutions that prevent gun violence, save lives, and spare entire communities from loss, trauma and cycles of violence.

Why Restrictions on Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines are Necessary

Assault weapons are weapons of war; in fact the only functional difference between an AR-15 and a military-issue M4 rifle is that the latter can shoot more than one bullet with a pull of the trigger.¹ By simply adding features like detachable magazines, barrel shrouds, pistol grips, forward grips, and bump stocks, shooters can easily conceal their semi-automatic weapons or turn them into weapons of war that fire a high volume of ammunition in a short period of time with deadly accuracy.²

A typical AR-15 bullet leaves the barrel of the gun three times faster than a typical 9mm handgun bullet.³ When it enters a human body, the .223 caliber bullet is designed to fragment and tumble. The high velocity of the bullet damages and destroys tissue as it travels, causing organs to become liquefied and

¹ Collins, M. (2022, March 22). *[What's the difference?]: AR-15 vs M4*. Pew Pew Tactical.

<https://www.pewpewtactical.com/ar15-vs-m4-difference/>

² *Id.*

³ Heather Sher, "What I Saw Treating the Victims From Parkland Should Change the Debate on Guns," *The Atlantic*, Feb. 22, 2018, available at <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/02/what-i-saw-treating-the-victims-from-parkland-should-change-the-debate-on-guns/553937/>.

catastrophic internal bleeding.⁴ With an assault-style weapon, even a firearms novice can perpetrate a mass casualty incident - in fact, many of the deadliest mass shooters were not particularly experienced with guns, and yet they almost exclusively chose these weapons.

Mass Shootings in Hawaii and Across the Nation

Mass shootings involving assault weapons can be extremely lethal and the death and injury counts of each mass shooting has risen in recent years. An analysis of mass shootings between 2009 to 2018 shows that in shootings where assault weapons were used, [six times as many people were shot](#) compared to those without them.⁵ Research shows banning assault weapons leads to a drop in gun massacres. In the 10 years the federal assault weapons ban was in place, [gun massacres dropped 37%](#) and after the ban expired in 2004, gun massacres skyrocketed 183%.⁶

Mass shootings are an American epidemic that no other industrialized country experiences at remotely the same level. The Gun Violence Archive reports that in 2019, 2020, 2021, and in 2022 there were more mass shootings than days in the year.⁷ While mass shootings account for a [small proportion](#)⁸ of [shootings](#) in the U.S. every year,⁹ the profound psychological harm and loss of life, coupled with the debilitating and long-lasting effects of these events, make it abundantly clear that mass shootings not only have a [devastating effect](#) on survivors, their families and friends, and their communities,¹⁰ but have inherently changed the psyche of [the country as a whole](#).¹¹

When civilians have access to these weapons of war, citizens of Hawaii know far too well what happens. As a national leader in gun violence prevention, it is imperative the Legislature acts to close dangerous gaps in Hawaii's existing assault weapons ban, which will save the lives of Hawaiians.

What HB 893 Does

- Bans the importation, sale, and transfer of assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles in the state of Hawaii.
- Expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines to include those that are designed to be used with any firearm.
- Allows individuals who lawfully own banned firearms to keep them in specific circumstances (at home, on property, at a licensed shooting range, etc.)
- Mandates the removal, permanent inoperability, or sale of prohibited firearms acquired through inheritance

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Brady. (n.d.). *What are assault weapons and high-capacity magazines?* Brady. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.bradyunited.org/fact-sheets/what-are-assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines>

⁶ United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. (2019, September 24). *Studies: Gun massacre deaths dropped during assault weapons ban, increased after expiration*. United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Retrieved November 16, 2022, from <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/dem/releases/studies-gun-massacre-deaths-dropped-during-assault-weapons-ban-increased-after-expiration>

⁷ Gun Violence Archive. (2022, November 15). Gun violence archive. <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/past-tolls>

⁸ UC Davis. (n.d.). *A few myths and facts about firearm violence - UC Davis*. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from https://health.ucdavis.edu/vprp/pdf-other/FirearmMortality_MythsFacts2019.pdf

⁹ Berkowitz, B., & Alcantara, C. (2021, May 12). *More than 50 years of U.S. mass shootings: The victims, sites, Killers and weapons*. The Washington Post. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/national/mass-shootings-in-america/>

¹⁰ Best, T. (2019, June 5). ABC News. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/trauma-anxiety-ptsd-mass-shootings-affect-mental-health/story?id=63491970>

¹¹ Brady. (n.d.). *The mental health impact of mass shootings*. Brady. Retrieved November 15, 2022, from <https://www.bradyunited.org/reports/the-mental-health-impact-of-mass-shootings>

Conclusion

The Hawaii State House has the power to stop accepting these uniquely American tragedies as commonplace by passing a ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines. These weapons of war have no place in the hands of civilians and gun owners and non gun owners alike overwhelmingly support this ban.

Brady is proud to support HB 893 and thanks Representative Tarnas's sponsorship of this bill. For the reasons described above, Brady urges the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs to support the passage of HB 893.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sampson
Senior Policy Counsel
The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:24:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Yuen	Pu'uloa Rifle and Pistol Club	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 839. This bill will make it illegal for hunters and competitive marksman to participate in lawful sporting events that require travel to and from other venues in around the world. My club participates in federally sanctioned national competitions using semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazines. The US National Matches were created in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt and the US Congress with the specific intent of promoting marksmanship competition with current military rifles and pistols to train civilian citizens in the use of arms if they are called to service in times of war.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:20:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Logan	Moms Demand Action - Hawai'i Chapter	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for hearing my testimony today in support of HB 893. Hawai'i has long prohibited assault pistols and I think it should set the same standard for assault rifles and high capacity magazines. My main issue with these weapons is that their gunfire is not survivable. I might stand a chance against another weapon, but not these. They can devastate a body in a second, and have been used in almost all of our country's deadliest mass shootings. This bill would allow people to keep the weapons they already own, and they would still be able to legally purchase a large variety of weapons suitable for hunting and feral wildlife control, including some semiautomatic rifles.

The bottom line is, military grade weapons do not have a place in civilian life for the average citizen. There's a vast amount of other guns available that meet the need for sport, hunting, or protection, we do not need access to rapid-fire military grade weapons. Please pass this bill to set a standard for safety across the state.

Mahalo,

Rachel Logan

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:03:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harrison Tarter	Vet Voice Foundation	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and members of the Committee,

My name is Harrison Tarter, and I am a former U.S. Army Cavalry Scout Platoon Leader who served in the 10th Mountain Division. I deployed to Afghanistan where I worked alongside fellow soldiers in one of the most volatile regions of the conflict. Today, I continue to serve my country as the program director of Vet Voice Foundation, advocating for policies that promote veterans' well-being and public safety.

I strongly urge this committee to pass House Bill 893 to prohibit military-style semi-automatic rifles in Hawai'i, and close a dangerous loophole you have had in your laws for nearly three decades.

Having served in a war-zone, I know exactly what these weapons are designed for: rapid, sustained fire to engage and neutralize enemy forces. They were never intended for civilian use, nor do they have a place in the Hawaiian Islands – outside of the military and law enforcement. In the military, we trained extensively on weapons like these under strict regulations, ensuring they were used responsibly in training and in war zones—not in grocery stores, schools, or places of worship.

Some argue that civilians should have access to assault rifles for self-defense or sport. But as a former cavalry scout, I can tell you that these weapons are not defensive; they are offensive instruments of war. Their ability to fire multiple rounds in seconds – as fast as you can move your trigger finger – makes them exponentially more lethal than traditional firearms used for home defense or hunting. The reality is, no one needs a military-style rifle to protect their home, and no deer or pig requires a 30-round magazine.

Gun violence is a national crisis, and veterans like me understand the importance of taking action before it's too late. We swore an oath to protect this country and defend the Constitution – including the 2nd Amendment – and that duty doesn't end when we take off the uniform. Passing this legislation is an opportunity to stand for common sense and prevent unnecessary tragedies.

Hawai'i has a proud tradition of allowing for gun rights while prioritizing public safety, which is why the state already has the fifth lowest rates of gun violence in the nation. Though it's worth noting that that ranking has slipped in recent years. By banning assault

rifles, you will be taking another critical step toward keeping Hawai'i safe. I urge you to pass this bill and protect the people of this great state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Harrison Tarter
U.S. Army Veteran**



Testimony of Deb Nehmad, Chapter Lead, Brady Hawaii
Before the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
SUPPORT FOR HB 893

February 6, 2025

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members,

In furtherance of Brady's goal to reduce firearm violence across Hawaii, the Hawaii Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is proud to offer its strong endorsement of HB 893.

For decades, Hawaii leaders have prioritized the safety and well-being of the people of Hawaii by enacting and implementing proactive, research-informed policy solutions that prevent gun violence, save lives, and spare entire communities from loss, trauma and cycles of violence. However, the data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of 2024 is disturbing:

- Every year, 34 people in Hawaii die by firearm suicide.
- Every year, 15 people in Hawaii are victims of firearm homicide.
- On average, 55 people in Hawaii are killed by gun violence each year and an average of 30 of those deaths occur in Honolulu County.
- Every 7 days, someone in Hawaii is shot and killed.

It's clear that work remains to be done. **Closing the loophole in our current assault weapons ban** should take priority. Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons ban that **fails** to ban assault rifles and large capacity magazines for assault weapons. We are not as safe as we should be.

Not one submission by those opposing similar legislation last year mentioned the role of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in mass shootings. They fail to mention that a 2023 survey by Pew Research revealed that about a third of K-12 parents nationwide are very or extremely worried a shooting could happen at their children's school. 37% are "somewhat concerned."

What follows are the general concerns raised during last year's deliberations. Information refuting these points is set forth below each point.

Assault weapons necessary and effective for self-defense and to protect family.

There is an abundance of research (not commissioned by the gun lobby) that concludes that:

- Defensive gun use is not widespread.
- Defensive gun use is not beneficial for society.
- Guns are not the most effective means of self-defense.

Assault weapons needed because there aren't enough police, and the police need help from the public

This assertion is directly contradicted by public statements on the federal assault weapons ban issued by The International Association of Police Chiefs when the federal ban was about to expire: "The IAPC is a strong supporter of the federal assault weapons ban since 1992 and its membership approved several reauthorizations of support in the years since. . . .as law enforcement executives . . . we understand that criminal use of assault weapons pose a grave risk to our officers and the communities they are sworn to protect."

The only way to stop a good guy with a gun is a bad guy with a gun.

If this were true, the US would be the safest country on earth. Instead, we have a gun homicide rate 26x that of other high-income countries.

Assault weapons ban is not supported by most Hawaii residents.

According to a poll of Hawaii residents in 2023, 78% of residents, including 64% of gun owners agree that allowing more guns in public makes it more likely that tense situations will escalate or that guns will be used to intimidate people. In addition, 76% of residents, including 61% of gun owners, agree that Hawai'i would be less safe if more people were allowed to carry guns in public. It is hardly a leap in logic to assume that most Hawaii residents would support gun safety measures in general and would support HB 893.

Assault weapons necessary for hunting and sports activities, essential to our culture.

The polls cited above indicate that most Hawaii residents would not agree with this assertion. In addition, guns had been BANNED in Hawaii since 1833, more than 60 years before the overthrow. Guns are clearly not part of Hawaii's historical culture.

Very small number of homicides involve use of assault weapons/ rifle and long guns.

While this appears to factually accurate up to this point, the proliferation of mass and school shootings on the continent indicates that, unfortunately, it may be only a matter of time in Hawaii and why take the risk?

Criminals will always find a way to get their hands on a gun.

Since 1994, laws like background checks have stopped gun sales to over 4 million people who legally could not own a gun. (US Bureau of Statistics, 2021).

In conclusion, BradyHawaii strongly supports passage of SB3196. Banning assault rifles and LCMs is important because they are designed to be capable of mass violence; their potential for mass murder far outweighs any plausible use for hunting, recreation, or self-defense. The sooner this ban is created, the sooner we can start reducing the needless spread of assault rifles and LCMs in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Nehmad
Chapter Lead, BradyHawaii
dnehmada@bradyunited.org



Submitted via web portal

RE: HB 893 (Tarnas): Relating to Firearms - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Everytown for Gun Safety, and the Hawai'i Chapters of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America are writing in support of HB 893.

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

HB 893 would strengthen Hawai'i law by prohibiting assault weapons that are rifles and shotguns. Hawai'i is unusual in regulating some, but not all, assault weapons, which is out of step with the other 9 states that regulate assault weapons of every type, including pistols, rifles, and shotguns. Hawai'i has long prohibited the possession, transfer, and manufacture of assault *pistols* in the state. **However, Hawai'i does not prohibit assault weapons that are *rifles and shotguns*, including the AR-15 and other semiautomatic rifles that are used in the deadliest mass shootings in our nation's history.** These rifles fire ammunition at such a high velocity that it inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun. Shooters who use these weapons can fire a large number of rounds over a short period of time, especially when the firearm is paired with a high-capacity magazine. **Research shows that prohibiting assault weapons can prevent mass shooting fatalities and active shooter events.**

HB 893 prohibits semiautomatic rifles and semiautomatic shotguns with **both** of the following two characteristics: **1) the ability to accept a detachable magazine, including a high-capacity magazine, and 2) one or more militarized features.** Militarized features include things like pistol grips (to enable one-handed firing), threaded barrels (to allow for the attachment of silencers), folding and telescoping stocks (to make the

weapon smaller for maneuverability or concealment), and forward grips (to enable more control when firing many rounds).

HB 893 would close this dangerous gap in Hawai'i law, prohibiting semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with military features that can fire dozens of rounds in seconds, thanks to their compatibility with high-capacity magazines. The state of Hawai'i already bans many high-capacity magazines, and HB 893 would reinforce that commitment to safety by prohibiting the sale of some of the most dangerous guns that use those magazines.

HB 893 is a targeted proposal that focuses on specific and highly dangerous weapons that are left out of Hawai'i's current laws. This bill permits more firearms than it prohibits, and it does not affect commonly used hunting weapons. In states with assault weapons bans, residents can still legally buy and own .22 rifles, many semi-automatic rifles without detachable magazines, manually operated rifles and shotguns, and many handguns. Residents of Hawai'i who currently own guns like the AR-15 to control feral wildlife **could keep those guns**, and residents who wish to acquire similar weapons for wildlife control could still get semiautomatic rifles that lack militarized features or have fixed magazines.

Hawai'i, a state with some of the strongest gun laws in the country, should address this deficiency in its gun laws and prohibit all assault weapons. For these reasons listed above, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action strongly support HB 893.

Sincerely,

Olivia Li
Senior Policy Counsel
Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action & Students Demand Action
450 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY 10163
oli@everytown.org

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:10:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Good afternoon. I am a mother, a member of this community and a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Hawai'i Chapter. I urge you to support HB 893 prohibiting certain types of assault weapons. 8 out of 10 of our deadliest mass shootings in the US have been with these types of weapons. When doctors described the children killed at an elementary school in Uvalde TX (21 killed) or Sandy Hook CT (26 killed) or the High School shooting in Parkland FL (17 killed) or the people massacred at the concert in Las Vegas (60 killed, more than 500 injured) - and you know I could keep listing these mass killings by assault type weapons in the US - those doctors described pulverized, almost unrecognizable bodies - bodies that could only be identified in some cases by the children's cartoons on their clothing or the tiny sneakers on their feet. And this is what happens when an assault weapon - a military-style weapon meant for war, for use against our enemies abroad - is allowed into our communities. You could say "Well, this has never happened in our beautiful state". They also said that in Uvalde TX and Sandy Hook CT and Parkland FL and Las Vegas NV... until it DID happen. Please protect us by passing this bill. Thank you.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:49:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica dias	Free Citizens of Mainalua	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSED to this bill. The Second Amendment shall not be infringed.



TESTIMONY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HB893, RELATING TO FIREARMS
Friday, February 7, 2025, 2:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 325 via Videoconference

Submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION by Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women
Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Committee Members

First, we strongly oppose gun violence and any illegal activities involving firearms.

We also strongly oppose HB893, RELATING TO FIREARMS for the following reasons:

1. The U.S. Constitution Second Amendment states, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.
2. While Hawaii has an assault weapons ban, HB893 proposes to prohibit the sale of assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles. According to gun experts, there is no such thing as an “assault” rifle or shotgun. The word assault is incorrectly used to incite fear. The correct terminology is tactical rifle or shotgun. The A in AR-15 stands for Armalite which is in reference to a design-type.
3. Any restriction on legal gun ownership is considered an infringement on our right to keep and bear arms and therefore is a violation of our Constitutional Rights.

Law abiding citizens obtain firearms legally by taking the required training. They follow all legal requirements to purchase, register, and possess firearms.

This bill does nothing to curb crime. May I respectfully ask you to ponder this question: What legislation have you created to strengthen the penalties for criminals who are illegally obtaining firearms and committing violent crimes?

Please vote NO on HB893. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Detwiler, President
Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:06:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beppie Shapiro	League of Women Voters of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this bill which strengthens existing protections against foreign influence in our elections. Please pass HB893.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Diane Wernet
Pahoa
96778

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Marya Mann
Kailua Kona
96745

An A.R. 15 is not a hunting weapon. Hawaii has the same level of gun ownership as Kentucky with far less gun violence. Why do you think that is --- part of it is our strict gun control laws here, which hasn't inhibited anyone's ability to go hunting. I think not. Please please please please ban AR 15s and require safe gun storage.

Andy Sheinis
Kamuela
96743

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Anna Doyle
Honolulu
96816

Gun violence is escalating in Hawaii and we need common sense laws to protect our population.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jim Cooper
Honolulu
96816

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Linda Boranian
Holualoa
96725

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Carla Protzman
Kula
96790

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Heatherly Bucher
Mililani
96789

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Michelle Gabriel
Kapolei
96707

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Eric McCarren
Honolulu
96821

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Julie Beers
Ewa Beach
96706

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Andrea Spangler
Kihei
96753

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Peggy Reising
Ewa Beach
96706

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Jill Greengrove
Paia
96779

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Nancy Kickertz
Kailua
96734

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Niki Miller
Kaneohe
96744

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jeff Dominick Esposito
Mililani
96789

Assault rifles have no place in our communities!

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Vicky Robbins
Pahoa
96778

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Judith White
Kapaa
96746

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Linda Legrande
Honolulu
96822

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jeanette C Evans

Kula

96790

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Pamela Teehan
Honolulu
96818

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Sara Bailey
Kaneohe
96744

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Janet Andrea
Keaau
96749

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

John Hugg
Kahului
96732

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Pamela Patrick
Kihei
96753

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gabrielle toloza
Kailua
96734

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Beverly O Winber
Honolulu, HI
96826

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

BARBARA GOMES

Kailua

96734

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Sheryl Gardner
Mililani
96789

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Michelle Takemoto
Honolulu
96821

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Nancy Conley
Honolulu
96815

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Bry Stein
Kihei
96753

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Patty Walker
Waikoloa
96738

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Michele Carvalho
Hilo
96720

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Robert Crone
Kailua
96734

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Lois Langham
Honolulu
96814

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Jo Lum
Honolulu
96817

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Christine Kaminski
Kaneohe
96744

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Louise DiGrazia
Kailua
96734

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lois crozer
kailua
96734

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MaryAnn Jones
Kapolei
96707

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Michele Hondo
Wailuku
96793

Guns are a hobby. And they kill. Assault weapons do not kill animals efficiently. Ban assault weapons.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Susan Lord
Honolulu
96825

Let's keep Hawaii safe.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Ellen Scherr
Honolulu
96815

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Christine Martinez-Suzukawa
Wailuku
96793

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Sherrill j Sturm
Kaneohe
96744

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Sandra Shane
Honolulu
96815

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Virginia Alatasi
Hauula
96717

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Natalie DeBiasi
Honolulu
96814

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Tamara Paltin
Lahaina
96761

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Ruthann Olson-Moore
Keaau
96749

Gun violence devastates families and communities.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Lily Swan
Hāna
96713

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Charlene Flanter
Honolulu
96816

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Jennifer Strumolo

Haiku

96708

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Tanya Ramseth
Koloa
96756

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Patricia Wright
Kailua
96734

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Lurline Bettencourt
Kapa'a
96746

As a resident of Kaneohe, and a mother of two, I beg you to strengthen our common sense gun safety laws. Please put the safety of our keiki and communities over a few gun enthusiasts.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Ashley De Coligny

Kaneohe

96744

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Delia Almares
Honolulu
96816

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Tami Dixon
Kaunakakai
96748

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Rachel Hodara Nelson
Makawao
96768

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Kealakai Hammond
Honolulu
96817

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April Ching
Honolulu
96822

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jennifer Swartz
Kalaheo
96741

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Cindy Mckean
Captain Cook
96704

I want my children to be safe!

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Ana Bravo
Honolulu
96825

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Bethany Stetson
Kaneohe
96744

We have to keep Hawaii Hawaii and protect our keiki.

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andrea suzuki
Honolulu
96813

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Carolyn Adams
Honolulu
96818

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Fia Richmond
Koloa
96756

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Jeanne Alford
Kamuela
96743

No civilian needs these weapons. Too many people have died senselessly as a result of their availability.

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Nchewi Imoke

Honolulu

96815

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Ralph Boyea
Keaau
96749

We lived in Santa Fe, TX when that school shooting occurred. The older sister of one of my child's best friends was killed in that shooting. We moved to Hawaii to get away from gun violence.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

HOLLY JACKSON
MILILANI
96789

The gun violence in the US is totally out of control. My kids are grown but I would not send kids to school these days.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Edie Valentine

Keaau

96749

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Kris Lambert
Kailua
96734

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Carolyn Witcover
Captain Cook
96704

Too many children have died. I worry for my grandchildren's safety.

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Judy Schermer
Kailua Kona
96740

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Caleigh Dillon
Waialua
96791

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Jen Lum
Ewa Beach
96706

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Amber Kawamura
Wailuku
96793

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Carlynn Wolfe
Honolulu
96822

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Amy Odom
Kailua
96734

One of the best things about Hawaii is the low rate of gun violence. We are one of the safest states and need to keep it that way, to protect our keiki.

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Erin deNeeve Baum

Waipahu

96797

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Delphine Homerowski
Honolulu
96822

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Marcela Montalto
Honolulu
96815

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Earl Kim
Honolulu
96813

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Erica K Yamauchi
Honolulu
96816

It shouldn't feel risky (or like gambling!) to send my kids to school.

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Miriam Kotubetey
Kaneohe
96744

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Joslynne Young
Kahului
96732

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Mary Ellen Williams
Honolulu
96813

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Denis Gueret
Kapaa
96746

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Larrilynn Paguyo
Aiea
96701

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Pedro Maynes
Honolulu
96816

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Berta Narbonne
Honolulu
96821

Please ban these weapons and keep my grandchildren safe. My daughter is a teacher and I am afraid of what our schools are becoming.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Lisa Mosbarger

Haiku

96708

Hawaii does not YET have the epidemic level of mass shootings and gun deaths that other states have. We need to keep it that way! Banning assault weapons is one huge step toward the goal of preventing gun deaths in Hawaii.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jill Tucker
Kaneohe
96744

Gun control will keep our communities, schools and citizens safer.

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Kathy Thomas
Kaneohe
96744

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Jayne Barton
Waialua
96791

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Javier Mendez
Honolulu
96817

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Lisa Imai
Honolulu
96821

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Julie Henig
Kamuela
96743

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Marcia Pasqua
Honolulu
96816

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Viva Medina

Haiku

96708

Please ban assault weapons! We dont need them and I don't want to live in fear. Keep HI gun laws strong and strengthen them even more! Thank you!

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Gabrielle Davidson

Anahola

96703

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Maribeth Anderson
Pahoa
96778

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Karin Olson
Kihei
96753

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Nita Tomaszewski
Pahoa
96778

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Bethann Paul
Kailua
96734

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Kaopuuokaha Weir
Honolulu
96825

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Karolle Bidgood
Kaneohe
96744

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Rachel Logan
Honolulu
96825

It's important to me that our state remains the safest in regards to guns. It's already such a great place to be a child, please make it a priority for it to be one of the safest.

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McKenzie Johnson

Koloa

96756

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Paul Soluri
Honolulu
96821

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Melody Peralta
Ewa Beach
96706

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Lauren Rolland
Waialua
96791

The number one cause of death for kids in the US is guns - it's the guns, it's the guns, it's the guns!

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Grace Wright

Kula

96790

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Crystal Galla
Kapolei
96707

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Jaime Manuwai
Kaneohe
96744

I am a teacher and have 2 young daughters who will be in school soon. There is no reason assault rifles should be owned by the public. I want to feel safe at my place of work and I want to feel safe while my kids are at school.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Chardene A Metcalfe
Kalaheo
96741

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Allyson Metzger
Kailua-Kona
96740

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Noel Trim
Kailua Kona
96740

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Roda Aggabao
Kapolei
96707

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Ivy Castellanos
Kaneohe
96744

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Heather Cutts
Honolulu
96825

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Cheryl Buckman
Hilo
96720

Our children are the most precious and vulnerable members of our society and should be protected. We need to do everything we can to keep them safe and away from harm.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Ana Hernandez

Ewa Beach

96706

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Ashley Katamoto
Kaneohe
96744

We must push more aggressively under this administration and not lose ground!

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Tina Stewart
Honolulu
96821

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Diana Castaneda
Waipahu
96797

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Julia Duquette
Honolulu
96813

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Corina Scoggins
Kalaheo
96741

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Dianne Higgins
Paauilo
96776

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Marilyn Means
Kapaa
96746

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Carol Abrigo
Mililani
96789

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Peter Anderson
Honolulu
96825

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Jacquelin Sabin
Kailua Kona
96740

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Jennifer Gutierrez
Ewa Beach
96706

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Derek Ahrens
Kapolei
96707

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Gina Willman
Kamuela
96743

Children should be safe at school!

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Ashley Wolfe
Haleiwa
96712

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Precious Yasay
Honolulu
96818

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Ellen Mount
Kailua Kona
96740

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Sam Guckenheimer
Captain Cook
96704

I lived most of my life in Louisiana and lived with gun violence. My children had best 2 friends in separate incidents, shot and killed on the streets. My husband committed suicide at home with a gun. My kids now live in a place where shootings are an almost daily occurrence. THIS HAS TO STOP.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Mary David
Honokaa
96727

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Gina Cacchioli
Kapolei
96707

I desperately want my children to be safe at school. That includes mental health; they shouldn't be doing active shooter drills or even worry about that. Kids are being traumatized just by the risk of active shooters. Assault weapons are unnecessary and giving them up is a reasonable sacrifice to keep kids safe.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Kimberly Simpson
PAHOA
96778

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Kelley Lacks
Keaau
96749

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Meredith Ing
Hilo
96720

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Ana Trovinger
Honolulu
96818

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Gabrielle Davidson
Anahola
96703

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Rodelie Beck
Kapolei
96707

Aloha, I care about secure gun storage and the banning of assault weapons because I as a healthcare provider I know that prevention of accidents and assault weapons is the best way to keep injuries and death rates from guns increasing in Hawaii.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jane Gallagher Felix
Kailua
96734

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Violet Kauhi
Haiku
96708

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Elna Nagasako
Honolulu
96822

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Jeanne Case
Kailua
96734

More guns = more deaths.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Larry Morris
Pahoa
96778

My name is Isabella McRae and I grew up in Hawaii. I support a ban on all assault weapons and support the secure gun storage law. In college I took a public health course and one of the classes stuck with me ever since I have graduated. Our teacher provided us with a graph and information that stated that states that have more stringent gun regulations generally have fewer deaths by suicide. Obviously there are a lot of nuances in the situation; however, it has been shown that if other lethal means are not readily available, more gun control equals less ability for people to access a lethal weapon to commit suicide. Safe storage is a clear example of a law that Hawaii could pass to reduce deaths by suicide. I am not saying that people will stop attempting, but I am saying that there may be less successful attempts by children and teens if this law is passed. I also support banning assault weapons. I grew up in a time where high school shootings occurred frequently. In the increasingly polarized political climate, as a visibly gender non conforming lesbian, I am concerned that weapons like assault rifles have been used to harass my communities across the unified states. A gay bar was shot up and pride events are regularly threatened by far right armed proud boy groups. While I have generally felt safe in my home state, I have been harassed for my sexuality. Placing a ban on assault weapons would make me feel safer in my community and help provide many students and queer people with a larger sense of safety in Hawaii. Thank you for receiving my testimony. Please support these bills.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Isabella McRae
Waipahu
96797

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Michael Berg
Wailuku
96793

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Valerie Iwata
Mililani
96789

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Erica Wigell
Kailua
96734

Don't let Hawai'i kids end up dead like so many mainland kids!

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Hali McCloud
Kailua
96734

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Mary Taiariol
Kalaheo
96741

Let's keep Hawaii schools and kids safe and support the right to bare arms but do it safely for those that want them. Let's keep Hawaii safe

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Caity Hansen

Kihei

96753

I fear for the safety of our keiki in our schools. I fear for everyone who just want to go places and not worry that there is someone with a gun ready to shoot everyone. There is absolutely no necessary reason to have an AK type weapon!!!, I fear for the safety of our keiki in our schools. I fear for everyone who just want to go places and not worry that there is someone with a gun ready to shoot everyone. There is absolutely no necessary reason to have an AK type weapon!!!

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Patricia Baker
Hanapepe
96716

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Adrya Siebring
Anahola
96703

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Shana Laririt
Makawao
96768

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Sierra Dunn
Kula
96790

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Dennis Dunn
Kailua
96734

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Christina Simmons
Kaneohe
96744

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Sungwon Choe
Honolulu
96822

It's common sense! Assault weapons are not 'defensive', they are weapons designed for mass murder! Please do anything you can to rid our nation of them!

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Francis Guy Mackenzie

Ewa Beach

96706

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Alzira Fernandes
Honolulu
96822

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Linda Damas
Hilo
96720

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Darlene Viggiano
Pahoa
96778

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Nicole TERGEOGLOU
Laupahoehoe
96764

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Dorene Campos
Kihei
96753

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Lori Kizer
Kapaa
96746

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Wanda Costa
Kapaa
96746

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Cedar Wilson
Laie
96762

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Laura Stocker
Ocean View
96737

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Patricia Montgomery
Lihue
96766

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Merri Keliikuli
Waianae
96792

I'm an RN in the Emergency Department. Let's stop preventable deaths.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jerelyn Hammer

Hilo

96720

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John Lewis
Waimanalo, HI 96795-1654
96795

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Marnie Honeycutt
Hilo
96720

There is ZERO reason for assault rifles on the streets of Hawaii. You know it, I know it. There is only one use for an assault rifle and that is to do serious damage to humans. Add to that guns laying around the house for children to get ahold of or those with emotional issues to use instead of their words. Please stop the carnage and PASS HB 893.

Elisa Stern
Kailua-Kona
96740

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Jazzy Bostock
Waianae
96792

I have two kids in school. I feel safer sending them to school if assault rifles are banned and guns are securely stored. It breaks my heart to see tragedies happening in public places due to negligent laws or lack thereof. Mahalo nui.

Pass HB 893.

McCall Char
Honokaa
96727

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Michael Steuber
Honolulu
96816

These are military style weapons. Please keep them off our streets.

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Terriann Mohideen
Kailua
96734

I don't feel that any of us are safe with kids getting access to unlocked guns or people with unknown mental status walking around with assault weapons meant for war.

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Amanda Myers

Kailua

96734

Hawaii has had a culture of resolving beef (primarily) with fists. The change to guns is increasing but not yet at the tipping point. If that happens the changes will be devastating - and impossible to reverse. Seriously, what is the compelling reason to not have laws regarding secure gun storage? How can the community take laws about fireworks seriously when there is not a ban on assault weapons? What is your vision of Hawai'i? If it has guns in it you are thinking of somewhere else and shouldn't be in government here. Pass HB 893.

Ruth Coules

Honolulu

96816

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rose Ferreira
ewa
96706

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Marguerite Koster
Honolulu
96814

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Mike Meyer
Kaneohe
96744

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Taylor Pettis
Lihue
96766

Rather than saying "It's my 2nd Amendment Right", why would you want civilians to have access to an assault weapon?

Please support HB 893.

Kuuipo Kanawaliwali
Hoolehua
96729

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Anita Randall-Packer
Kamuela
96743

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Danielle McBride
Koloa
96756

Responsible gun use is crucial to the public's safety especially in a time of political polarization when trust and morale is low. Misunderstandings happen without the extra psychological negativity and with this climate- gun safety is extra important. Nobody is asking to take rights away- but added security measures. That includes age appropriate rules.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Sarah Baker
Kailua

February 6, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: **Support for House Bill 893**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee:

My name is Charla Teves and I am a lifelong resident of Honolulu and a former member of the Hawai'i State Youth Commission. I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of HB 893 today because I care deeply about my Hawai'i and the safety and security of all of its residents.

When I was a high school student, I met a gun violence survivor at the state capitol who testified about his experiences and supported legislation to make our community safer. His powerful story inspired me to action and I became a volunteer with Students Demand Action in 2020. I continue to support legislation that will reduce gun violence and hope that you will too.

My generation has been exposed all our lives to reports of gun violence in schools, concerts, and other public venues. Passing an assault weapon ban will help ensure that Hawai'i laws remain some of the strongest in the country.

Please **support** this measure.

Thursday, February 6, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HB 893, Relating to Firearms

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Committee
on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

Please support House Bill 893, relating to firearms, which establishes
prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles and
expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Sincerely,
Lilly Ho
1099 Alakea Street
Honolulu, HI 96813



Feb. 5, 2024

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

My name is Erica Yamauchi, and I live in the Kaimukī area. As a gun violence survivor, business owner, mother of two children in our public schools, and adjunct faculty member at the University of Hawai'i, **I'm writing today in strong support of House Bill 893.**

Hawai'i has long prohibited the possession, transfer, and manufacture of assault pistols, which are semiautomatic handguns with two or more listed military features. However, Hawai'i has not prohibited assault weapons that are rifles and long guns, including the AR-15 and other semiautomatic rifles that are much more frequently used in mass shootings.

All nine other states that prohibit assault weapons include rifles and shotguns with military features. Assault weapons like AR-15 rifles fire high-velocity ammunition that inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun. Further, semiautomatic rifles like the AR-15 are capable of firing rounds much faster than manually operated rifles, allowing shooters to fire many powerful rounds in a matter of seconds.

HB 893 would finally close this dangerous gap in Hawai'i law, prohibiting assault rifles and shotguns with military features that can fire a high number of rounds in a short period of time.

Like other state's assault weapon laws, the bill would allow people to keep firearms they already own and allow them to use them on property they own or work on, including for use as a wildlife control method on agricultural and/or rural property. In addition, residents would still be allowed to purchase most types of semi-automatic rifles, including common hunting weapons like .22 rifles, semi-automatic rifles that do not use detachable magazines, and semi-automatic rifles without prohibited military features.

Our low incidence of gun violence here in the islands hasn't been by accident, but due to sound public policy and commonsense gun safety laws. On behalf of our three local groups and 2,000+ supporters across the islands, I urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Yamauchi".

Erica Yamauchi, Volunteer State Co-Lead

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:57:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Alexander	Self Defense Solutions Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We firmly oppose any more unnecessary firearms laws in Hawaii. Enough is enough. The people have a right to defend themselves!



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

**Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill
In SUPPORT of HB893**

Representative Tarnas, Chair
Representative Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 6th, 2025

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Hawaii has long prohibited the possession, transfer, and manufacture of assault pistols, which are semiautomatic handguns with two or more listed military features. However, Hawai‘i has not prohibited assault weapons that are rifles and shotguns—including the AR-15 and other semiautomatic rifles that are much more frequently used in mass shootings.

All nine other states that prohibit assault weapons include rifles and shotguns with military features.

Assault weapons like AR-15 rifles fire high-velocity ammunition that inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun. And semiautomatic rifles like the AR-15 are capable of firing rounds much faster than manually operated rifles, allowing shooters to fire a large number of powerful rounds in seconds.

HB 893 would close this dangerous gap in Hawai‘i law, prohibiting assault rifles and shotguns with one or more military features that are capable of firing a high number of rounds in a short period of time.

Importantly, like other assault weapon laws, the bill would allow people to keep the firearms they already possess, and would still be allowed to purchase most types of semi-automatic rifles, including common hunting weapons like .22 rifles, semi-automatic rifles that do not use detachable magazines, and semi-automatic rifles without prohibited military features.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

February 5, 2025

The Honorable David Tarnas
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 442
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas:

On behalf of the members of the National Rifle Association in Hawaii, I would like to communicate our strong opposition to House Bill 893 (HB 893).

HB 893 would drastically expand upon Hawaii's existing "assault pistol" ban to now include many commonly owned rifles and shotguns by instituting restrictions based on a "single feature" test. These firearms are widely used for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting, and have now been vilified due to cosmetic features. The legislation is poorly drafted and expansive in such a way that some of the "features" could be left open to interpretation that puts law-abiding citizens at risk.

Additionally, HB 893 would impose a ban on standard capacity magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. These so-called "high capacity" magazines are, in fact, standard equipment for commonly owned firearms that many Americans legally and effectively use for an entire range of legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or competition.

This legislation will have no impact on public safety as evidenced by the congressionally mandated study on the Federal Assault weapons ban that stood in place for a decade. Instead, this legislation will negatively impact law-abiding citizens who own more than 25 million AR and AK platform rifles throughout the United States for lawful purposes including self-defense, sporting, and hunting.

For the foregoing reasons and many more we request your opposition to HB 893.

Sincerely,

Keely Hopkins
State Director
State & Local Affairs
NRA-ILA



February 6, 2025

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Chair David A. Tarnas

Rep. Amy A. Perruso

Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe

Rep. Gregg Takayama

Rep. Della Au Belatti

Rep. Chris Todd

Rep. Elle Cochran

Rep. Diamond Garcia

Rep. Mark J. Hashem

Rep. Garner M. Shimizu

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa

Re: HB893 Relating to Firearms

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) addresses the social, political, and economic impacts of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities. We are a statewide partnership of domestic violence programs and shelters.

On behalf of HSCADV and our 25 member programs statewide, I respectfully submit testimony supporting HB893. **This measure would have a profound impact on public safety, survivors of domestic violence, their children, and the organizations that serve them.**

Perpetrators of domestic violence with access to guns use the threat of gun violence to inflict emotional abuse on their partners or escalate to homicide. The presence of a firearm in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%. Additionally, more than half of women killed by gun violence are killed by family members or intimate partners.¹ And the trend is worsening: in the ten-year period between 2008 and 2017, intimate partner homicides of women involving guns increased by 15 percent.²

In some cases, individuals who perpetrate domestic violence may also pose a risk of broader violence, including mass shootings. The use of assault rifles in domestic violence

¹ Campbell JC, Webster D, Koziol-McLain J, Block C, Campbell D, Curry MA, Gary F, Glass N, McFarlane J, Sachs C, Sharps P, Ulrich Y, Wilt SA, Manganello J, Xu X, Schollenberger J, Frye V, Laughon K. Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study. *Am J Public Health.* 2003 Jul;93(7):1089-97. Doi: 10.2105/ajph.93.7.1089. PMID: PMC1447915

² Fridel EE, Fox JA. Gender differences in patterns and trends in the US homicide, 1976-2017. *Violence and Gender.* 2019; doi: [10.1089/vio.2019.0005](https://doi.org/10.1089/vio.2019.0005). Data from this study were obtained by Everytown from the author James Alan Fox directly over email dated October 1, 2019 for this analysis.

situations can be a precursor to larger-scale acts of violence, as abusers with access to such weapons may escalate to targeting others outside the home, as seen in some high-profile mass shootings.

The 2024 New Year's Day island-wide police chase on O'ahu started with the shooting of an intimate partner who had access to an AR-15 rifle.³

The presence of assault rifles in domestic violence situations significantly increases the risk of fatal outcomes, enhances the potential for escalation, and can be used as a tool of intimidation or control. Efforts to regulate access to these weapons and promote safe firearm practices can play an important role in reducing the impact of domestic violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director

³ <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2024/01/03/police-suspect-islandwide-manhunt-was-armed-with-unregistered-ar-15/>

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:50:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I stand in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to this bill. This bill is unconstitutional, violates the **Heller, Bruen, Rahimi, and Caetano** Supreme Court decisions. Such blatant opposition to the nation’s supreme judicial branch calls into question the validity of this bill altogether.

District of Columbia v. Heller found that arms in common use for lawful purposes cannot be banned because of a fear of them being used illegally. Lawful purposes included among other things, self defense and sports shooting. Many of the so-called ‘Assault Weapons’ are in common use for legal purposes not only throughout the state, but also the rest of the nation.

New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen case found that states may not pass firearms laws that are not analogous to firearm regulations founded and enforced shortly after the founding of the country to be consistent with the intent of the 2nd Amendment. Should this bill pass, it will receive a legal challenge from grassroot Second Amendment groups both in and out of the state, and the burden of proof will be upon the State to find and cite such laws. There are no such laws to ban arms with specified features and such challenges have been filed across the country where similar laws have been found unconstitutional.

Caetano v. Massachusetts reinforced the Heller decision. The Caetano case involved a ban on Tasers and simular electric projectile self-defense tools and found that because they are in common use, they cannot be banned. Moreover,there are far more firearms in common use for lawful purposes throughout the country and state than there are tasers. To ban such a commonplace item already in lawful circulation is nonsensical.

This isn’t even taking into account that the current ‘Assault Weapon’ ban in Hawaii, which includes the 10+ magazine ban for handguns, which is being challenged in court and as mentioned, will likely succeed on the merits. The only courts that have upheld such bans are ones that are flat out ignoring Bruen and Heller.

This alone should be reason enough to kill this bill, the unnecessary expense of having to defend a blatantly unconstitutional bill that many other states with more money and experience have failed to do. Hawaii’s AG hasn’t successfully defended ONE of the unconstitutional gun laws that have been challenged, and they’re not about to start winning now. The only time they score a ‘win’ is when the Legislature changes to law enough to get it ruled Moot.

There is also the problem of what is described as a 'transfer'. If someone were to leave the state with a firearm covered in this bill, even temporarily, such as for hunting, sport shooting, or competition purposes then they would be in violation of the law. Those wishing to comply with the law will now be forced to leave their weapons in the state, putting them at a higher risk of being stolen by criminals even if properly secured. And this would also result in unsafe practices on the other end and unnecessary expenses. A competition shooter living in Hawaii will now need to find ways to store their high end and expensive weapons on the mainland where they will not be able to check on them to see if they've been stolen. This increases the chance for criminals, not just here in Hawaii, but on the mainland to steal firearms for their nefarious purposes.

The ban on .50 Caliber firearms is attempting to solve a problem that does not exist. We do not have gangs shooting at each other from long distances with .50 caliber rifles. The state has failed to produce any evidence that there is a threat posed by such arms over the past six years since a similar measure had been introduced. It is irresponsible to maintain any attempt to ban a device whereby there is no proven threat vector.

The Supreme Court also said in *Caetano* and *Heller* that bans on arms that are in common use for lawful purposes are unconstitutional. Just like tasers cannot be banned, .50 caliber arms cannot be banned and there are FAR more .50 caliber arms legally out there than tasers.

This bill is founded on pure ignorance, for lack of a better word. The author mistakenly believes that all .50 caliber guns are machine guns and can penetrate the armor of a tank from impossible distances or make commercial airliners explode with a single shot and has stated so publicly, and they think the guns can do this simply because the caliber is .50.

Of course this doesn't even begin to mention that passage of this bill will do nothing to stop criminals who want to acquire these weapons and accessories. Over a year ago now, the entire island witnessed how a convicted felon led HPD on a multiday manhunt and police chase through the island after shooting his girlfriend. The chase alone put many lives at risk, not only directly from the suspect's actions but indirectly, including two individuals who were, for lack of a better word, assaulted by police officers because one of them fit the description of the suspect. And this chase ultimately ended with two police officers seriously shot and wounded, one of whom will likely never fully recover from his injuries and his career in law enforcement is over. Who knows what else could have happened if the suspect did not end his own life when he did.

As I mentioned, this criminal was a convicted felon out on parole and had numerous firearms charges pressed against him after his release. Less than 6 months out of jail he got his hands on a machine gun and high capacity pistol magazines, and numerous other guns already banned by Hawaii law and some by Federal law. Rather than going right back to jail for his parole violation he was released on bail, and went on to terrorize the people of Oahu.

Had existing laws (such as Temporary Restraining Orders) been properly enforced, this event would have been mitigated since the individual would have been in prison rather than out on the

streets, somehow getting his hands on illegal weapons more easily than it would be for a law abiding citizen to legally acquire firearms at around the same time.. This failure is a state and law enforcement failure, not a failure of the private citizen.

HPD has stated previously in testimonies regarding banning magazines that they would have no real means to enforce the law and would only be used after the fact to press charges against someone. And considering how rarely someone is prosecuted when they are caught with a high capacity magazine proves even further that the existing law does not work. And there are more than enough vendors and private individuals on the mainland that will be more than willing to break state law and discreetly ship high capacity magazines to Hawaii.

Even most companies shipping guns to Hawaii do not go out of their way to comply with local law. I have purchased two handguns online, the first one I asked not to ship me the standard 15 round magazine as it would be illegal in Hawaii. They did not reply and sent me the illegal 15 round magazine and I surrendered it to the gunshop I picked my gun up at. The second handgun I purchased online didn't even give me the option to ask me to swap out the 15 round magazines included with the gun for those that would be legal in Hawaii and I had to spend extra money to get magazine blocks before I could take custody of the firearm.

This bill will do nothing to make Hawaii safer, and in a few instances will actually make Hawaii less safe. The ones who would obey this law are not the ones who would cause problems. We can barely enforce current laws and even then half the time when someone breaks a firearm law they aren't charged at all. We have children getting their hands on illegal firearms much more easily than a law abiding adult would be able to get a legal firearm. I have friends at Waianae High School who tell me that their security is more or less just for show now because they know of multiple students who carry illegally acquired firearms on campus. They didn't steal an unsecured firearm from their parents, they went to a black market dealer, flashed cash, got a Glock with a 'stendo' (32 round, high capacity magazine) and a 'switch' (illegal full auto conversion kit) for under \$1,000.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:07:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 893 which establishes prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles. Expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines. Establishes exceptions.

As an educator, community member, I support any and all paths to keeping our keiki and community safe. The horrors of what we see as the results of these weapons is nothing that any family or community should have to endure. This is about looking at everyone's rights not just a few who feel their need for one of these weapons.

Mahalo

C. Burghardt

Kou, Oahu

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:12:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support of HB 893

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee.

This measure moves in the right direction toward greater safety in our communities from death and injury from guns.

Please pass this measure.

Sincerely,

Nancy Moser

in Waikoloa 96738

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:30:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcus Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

This bill violates the Bruen ruling.

This is also being challenged in many other states who try to ban semi automatic rifles and shotguns.

This will cost HI more tax dollars in legal fees as this will be challenged.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 3:32:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 3:39:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Bordessa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support HB893. Assault weapons have no business being in the hands of citizens. They are not for protection, they are for killing many people in a hurry. We don't need that kind of mentality or access to these guns in the islands. Please push for a ban on these vicious weapons.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:02:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB893 is unconstitutional. Strongly oppose.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:19:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pitman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong opposition** to **HB893**, which seeks to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles, expand the prohibition on high-capacity detachable magazines, and impose further restrictions on law-abiding firearm owners. While public safety is a shared priority, **this bill unjustly targets responsible gun owners, restricts constitutionally protected rights, and fails to address the root causes of violent crime.**

Concerns with HB893

1. Unjustified Ban on Commonly Owned Firearms

- The bill defines "**assault rifles**" and "**assault shotguns**" based on **cosmetic features rather than actual function**. Many of these firearms operate identically to other legal firearms, making the ban **arbitrary and ineffective**.
- The **.50 caliber rifle** is rarely, if ever, used in crimes. It is a **precision long-range firearm**, primarily used for sporting, competitive shooting, and collection purposes. Banning it is a **misguided approach** that does not contribute to public safety.

2. Violation of Second Amendment Rights

- **HB893 effectively bans an entire class of firearms** that are lawfully owned by millions of Americans for self-defense, sport shooting, and hunting.
- The Supreme Court has affirmed in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *McDonald v. City of Chicago* (2010) that firearms "in common use" are protected under the **Second Amendment**.
- By criminalizing the mere possession of these firearms, **HB893 directly infringes upon constitutionally protected rights**.

3. Expanded Magazine Ban is Ineffective and Overly Restrictive

- HB893 extends the **ban on detachable magazines exceeding ten rounds to all firearms**. This severely impacts **law-abiding citizens who rely on standard-capacity magazines** for self-defense and sport shooting.
- Criminals do not obey magazine capacity laws, and **limiting law-abiding citizens' access to effective defensive tools only puts them at a disadvantage against violent offenders**.

4. Discriminatory Exceptions for Law Enforcement and Military

- The bill **grants exemptions to law enforcement and military personnel**, reinforcing the notion that **some citizens deserve greater rights than others**.

- If these firearms and magazines are deemed too dangerous for civilians, **why should they remain available to government agencies but not to the people they serve?**
- 5. **HB893 Fails to Address the Root Causes of Crime**
 - Gun violence is driven by **criminal behavior**, not the mere existence of certain firearms. **This bill does nothing to target illegal gun trafficking, gang activity, or repeat violent offenders.**
 - Instead of broad bans, lawmakers should **focus on enforcing existing laws, strengthening penalties for violent crimes, and improving mental health resources.**

Alternative Solutions

Rather than imposing **sweeping bans on law-abiding citizens**, the legislature should consider:

- **Enhanced penalties for violent offenders and illegal firearm traffickers** instead of restricting responsible owners.
- **Improving mental health services** to address one of the primary factors contributing to violent crime.
- **Better enforcement of existing background check laws** rather than creating new ineffective restrictions.

Conclusion

HB893 is an unnecessary and unconstitutional overreach that **penalizes responsible gun owners while doing little to deter actual criminals**. I urge this committee to **reject this legislation** and instead focus on policies that address crime at its source.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:19:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any and all anti-gun bills or legislation. Such measures do not effectively address the root causes of crime and public safety concerns. Instead, they disproportionately affect law-abiding citizens by limiting their ability to protect themselves and their families. As we all know, criminals do not follow the law, and further restrictions on responsible gun ownership fail to deter crime.

The real issues that need to be addressed are:

- 1. Soft-on-Crime Policies:** These policies allow repeat offenders back into society, perpetuating crime rates. Research shows that a significant portion of crime is committed by repeat offenders.
- 2. Mental Health and Suicide:** Mental health remains a critical issue that needs immediate attention. Suicide rates linked to untreated mental health challenges are a growing concern and require comprehensive solutions.
- 3. Drug Epidemic:** The drug crisis, particularly involving fentanyl, has devastating effects on our communities. My own family has been affected by this tragedy, as my cousin lost his life to a fentanyl overdose in a rehab facility on O’ahu two years ago.
- 4. High Cost of Living:** The economic pressures on families, where parents often work multiple jobs, leave little time for guiding and instilling values in their children. This socioeconomic strain exacerbates many underlying societal issues.

The Second Amendment was enshrined in the Constitution to guarantee the right to keep and bear arms for the protection of life, liberty, and freedom. It also serves as a safeguard against government overreach and tyranny. The language, “shall not be

infringed,” is both clear and intentional. Efforts to restrict this fundamental right undermine the very principles on which this nation was founded.

I urge you to join me in opposing anti-gun bills and instead advocate for policies that address the true underlying causes of crime and violence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Bronson Teixeira

Maui, Hawai'i

(808) 463-9438

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:20:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Asam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to HB893, which seeks to impose prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles, as well as expand bans on high-capacity detachable magazines. This bill represents a clear and direct violation of the Supreme Court rulings in *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, both of which reaffirm the constitutional right of Americans to keep and bear arms.

HB893 is an outright infringement on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. The arbitrary classification of certain firearms as "assault weapons" is misleading and ignores the reality that these firearms are commonly owned for lawful purposes such as self-defense, sport shooting, and hunting. Furthermore, banning .50 caliber rifles, which are rarely used in crimes, is an unnecessary overreach that will do nothing to enhance public safety.

Expanding the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines is yet another attempt to punish responsible gun owners while failing to address the root causes of violent crime. Criminals, by definition, do not follow laws, and restricting magazine capacity only disadvantages law-abiding citizens who may need such tools for self-defense.

Additionally, this bill represents a waste of taxpayer money, as it will inevitably face legal challenges that will cost the state significant resources in litigation. Instead of pursuing unconstitutional gun control measures, legislators should focus on enforcing existing laws against violent criminals and improving mental health services to address the factors that contribute to crime.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose HB893 and stand in defense of the constitutional rights of your constituents. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:25:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Fong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill HB 893. As supported by the Supreme Court, our second amendment right allows us to possess these firearms. Naming a something an "assault rifle" or "high capacity magazine" doesn't change the fact that it is a right. In fact if you were to research the magazines that this ban affects, you would find that they are actually "standard capacity magazines". Most firearms already come with more than 10 rounds. This is about as unconstitutional as any law could get. Please learn about firearms before making unconstitutional laws that will surely draw litigation against it.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:43:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lance Taniguchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lance Taniguchi and I am writing this testimony as a Hawai'i resident, and proud United States Navy Veteran. I am in complete opposition to this bill as it is an affront on our 2nd amendment rights to keep and bear arms. The legislators who drafted this bill are not qualified or experienced with firearms to draft a bill to prohibit "assault rifles" and "assault shotguns" as the bill is intended to completely disarm, disbar, and deter lawful peaceable citizens to exercise their 2nd amendment right. Bills like this that are drafted in the past were made without any proper research in weapon technology or mechanics and is arbitrarily made to betray peaceable citizens under the guise of "safety under law" which the government can never truly provide. Magazine restrictions only hinder peaceable citizens ability to defend themselves against a threat or multiple threats by limiting their ammunition. The idea of limiting magazine capacities is made by those who have never been in a violent situation where the threat of death or serious bodily harm may occur and should be made spontaneously out of naivety due to their privileged lifestyles.

These magazine bans and assault weapons bans are being stricken down in other cases across other states looking to be debilitated and disarm their citizens by the Supreme Court and would be in the states best interest to reject this bill and put focus on other needs in hawaii such as relief for Lahaina fire victims and housing needs. Seeing this be brought up year after year is constitutionally offensive from our officials who swore an oath to the constitution but yet betray it with legislation like this.

-Lance Taniguchi

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:48:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenny Wusstig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If this bill isn't a clear definition of tyrannical outreach by the government I don't know what is. It's bad enough it's costs more money to purchase firearms and all the accessories that are required to fully function. But to outlaw and unlawfully regulate is completely unnecessary.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:48:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:52:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it is unconstitutional and against our 2nd Amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:07:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Apaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Time and time again, this type of bill is introduced. Unconstitutional and against the 2nd Ammendment. Wasting taxpayer money on useless bills that will be challenged in court and shut down. Get to work on real bills that make a positive difference making Hawaii safe against the criminals who don't care about the law. This bill makes all of you look like uneducated, against the people and tyrants.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:15:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven T Takekoshi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

As a collector of historical military firearms this will end my ability to add to my collection and directly infringes on my right to "keep and bear," as many post 1950 military collectables are semi-automatic with the noted features.

These "assault weapon" bans have been tried and have generally failed. This will obviously be challenged in the courts and likely lose, as a citizen of Hawaii I would like my tax revenue to be utilized to solve immediate problems here in Hawaii. This is not one of these problems, I would bring your attention to the legislature's duty to provide for the general welfare of the citizenry, which I believe if you asked we would identify tax expenditures on reducing the cost of living, improving our abysmal education system, healthcare provider shortages, traffic (not the Fail Rail), etc. are priorities far ahead of defending likely unconstitutional special interest legislation.

Thank you.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:47:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Berg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These items are legal and available in the majority of U.S. states. Incoming soldiers and sailors should not be required to forfeit their property for no other reason than having the MISFORTUNE of being stationed here. Rifles of all kinds are responsible for fewer deaths each year than blunt objects yet this garbage bill keeps getting introduced year after year.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:53:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David P. Alvarado Jr.	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My name is David Alvarado Jr, and I am writing to you in order to convey that I am in strong opposition to HB893. As a law abiding citizen, and responsible gun owner, I fear that this measure and others like it only serve to hinder/hurt responsible gun owners like myself and only serve to empower criminals. I have a constitutional right afforded to me by the second amendment to protect life and liberty.

Thank you for your time, aloha.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:08:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cliff mello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB893, as it seeks to ban commonly owned firearms and expand restrictions on standard-capacity magazines, violating the Second Amendment and Supreme Court precedent.

The firearms targeted in this bill—so-called “assault rifles” and .50 caliber rifles—are in common use for lawful purposes such as home defense, competition shooting, and hunting. The Supreme Court has ruled in *Heller* that arms in common use are protected under the Second Amendment. Banning these firearms is unconstitutional.

Furthermore, banning standard-capacity magazines limits a citizen’s ability to effectively defend themselves and their families. The Supreme Court’s ruling in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022) further reinforced that firearm restrictions must be consistent with the text, history, and tradition of the Second Amendment. This bill fails that test.

Hawaii’s violent crime rate is not driven by law-abiding gun owners; it is driven by criminals who obtain firearms illegally. Passing another ban will do nothing to stop criminals who ignore gun laws but will instead disarm law-abiding citizens and strip them of their constitutional rights.

Rather than enacting unconstitutional bans, Hawaii should focus on enforcing laws against violent criminals and strengthening penalties for those who misuse firearms. Law-abiding gun owners should not be punished for the actions of criminals.

I urge you to reject HB893 and uphold the constitutional rights of Hawaii’s citizens.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:09:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this unconstitutional bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:12:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan M	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Prohibition of these types or any types of firearms only penalizes law abiding citizens from protecting themselves. It does not stop criminals who already don't follow the law to begin with.

Stop this catch and release program the state of Hawaii seems to love to enjoy. There are criminals with violent records that are repeatedly released with a rap sheet longer than a long's drugs receipt.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:26:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Jacox	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposed to this bill on the simple fact that a single characteristic supposedly causes a firearm to become an "assault weapon." I will agree that such actions as; restricting Large Capacity Magazines are a wonderful, helpful factor/tool in reducing gun violence in our State. I *disagree* that something as simple as a shotgun having a fixed magazine that carries more than 5 rounds of ammunition causes it to instantly become an "assault shotgun", nor do I believe a rifle, predominantly used for hunting to feed ones family and friends, being less than 30" in total length causes it to be an "assault rifle." The belief that a *single* characteristic causes a weapon to suddenly become more dangerous than its counterpart appears to be a folly to me. Thank you for your time and kokua!

Mahalo

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:29:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Fralick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill to ban standard capacity magazines! Has there ever been a crime committed with them and if so please explain! There are probably hundreds of thousands of these magazines in Hawaii and you will automatically make possession a crime, you will turn innocent people into criminals by the stroke of a pen, please do not pass this bill!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:37:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GENER MACARAEG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB893 Infringes on my 2nd Ammendment Rights and unfairly penalizes law-abiding citizens. This shifts the focus from criminal behavior to punishing lawful citizens. This bill does little to address the root causes of gun violence, focusing instead on over-regulating responsible gun owners rather than targeting criminal misuse of firearms.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:00:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilfred Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to HB893 in so much that the Legislature is once again trying to take away our 2nd Amendment rights. And in usual fashion the preface to this legislature once again states that our state has some of the most restrictive gun laws in the nation....yet there is still a drive to make it even more restrictive. The government needs to realize that laws that restrict law abiding citizens to obtaining the means to protect themselves, only harm the law abiding citizens like myself. Criminals do not follow laws & they will continue to obtain firearms on the black market, while leaving law abiding citizens defenseless.

Take for instance the desire in this law to limit the capacity on magazine size. In a defense situation, I want the most bullets I can carry without changing magazines to stop the threat. Most home invasions occur with more than one person, therefore I should have the means to stop as many of these criminals as possible without worrying about running out of bullets. And contrary to what is seen in movies or on TV, one bullet does not typically stop an assault from occurring.

The government should not dictate the means in which I want to defend myself, my family or my property. Period

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:02:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramiro Noguerol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:15:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. More government control and violation of the 2nd amendment.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:28:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARK HAHN	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The congressionally-mandated study of the federal “assault weapon ban” of 1994-2004 found that the ban had no impact on crime, in part because “the banned guns were never used in more than a modest fraction of gun murders.” (Urban Institute) Rifles of any type are used in only two percent of murders. (FBI) Subsequent research conducted by the RAND Corporation found no conclusive evidence that banning “assault weapons” or “large” capacity magazines has an effect on mass shootings or violent crime. Don't follow suit of the stupid states like California and New York. They have bans such as these and they only hurt the legal citizen gun owners. Their crime rates have only increased. Poor enforcement of current laws and prosecutorial sentencing is the answer. Those of us Hunters on the Big Island, Maui, and Molokai currently use these so called Assault weapons (all Semi-Automatic) to help curb the populations of invasive Pigs & Deer. Please don't follow suit of the stupid states and make Hawai‘i more like California.

Sincerely,

Mark Hahn

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:37:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it infringes on the rights of Hawaii's citizens to have commonly used firearms for both sport and self protection. Limiting the types of firearms we law abiding citizens wish to own will not help prevent or reduce crime. It just chips away more at our already limited 2A rights here in Hawaii. Thanks for your time.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:38:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Brigoli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Micah Brigoli, I oppose this bill and ask that you not pass it into law.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:40:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharee Orr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Any bill that defies federal and/or state constitution is wasting taxpayer money since it will go to court. This is one of those bills. Auwe. Stop wasting taxpayer money.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:43:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Duquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, this bill also doesn't make sense. It punishes law abiding citizens from adequately protecting themselves and their homes. A criminal, already doesn't follow the laws. That's why they are criminals, they won't follow this one either. This bill would only affect the law abiding citizens from protecting themselves and families from criminals. Why would anyone want that? Strongly oppose this bill, stop introducing laws that infringe on the constitution. We're already short on HPD personnel, allow your citizens the ability to protect themselves. Giving them lesser tools than criminals have access to give advantage to the criminals not your law abiding citizens. It makes no sense, introduce laws and bills that reward law abiding citizens that protect themselves and their communities instead of taking away their ability to defend themselves. Guns don't kill people, people kill people. Just like cars don't kill people, people kill people.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:59:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad Cummings	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill. Why are you trying to ban something that has been ruled in common use? Not to mention the 2nd ammendment. Why all these infringements? You literally state that Hawaii has been graded an A- and low per capital murder rate. So why do we need to be infringed upon further? We already have all these laws that we can't have more than 10 rounds yet criminals don't follow them. They continue to break every law that you make and we law abiding citizens get our rights taken away not the criminals. Murder, robbery, rape and every other crime committed to my knowledge are already illegal and yet criminals still do them... what will this bill accomplish besides futher restricting the rights of law abiding citizens? It WILL NOT affect any criminal period! Criminals will continue doing what criminals do and we the majority(law abiding citizens) continue to pay the bill. We get our rights stripped away and the criminals go free.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:02:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Pillori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill because standard magazines are more than 10 rounds and my safety is compromised by reducing these capacities. Responsible gun owners should not be compromised because of some criminal use.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:07:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert A Okuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB 893

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 893, which seeks to expand Hawaii’s current assault weapon ban to include commonly owned semi-automatic rifles and shotguns, .50 caliber rifles, and impose further magazine restrictions. This bill is yet another attempt to restrict the rights of law-abiding gun owners without addressing actual crime.

The term "assault weapon" is often misleading, as the firearms targeted by this bill are functionally no different from other semi-automatic firearms used for hunting, sport shooting, and self-defense. Millions of responsible gun owners across the country legally own and use these firearms without issue. Expanding the ban to include these commonly used firearms unfairly targets lawful citizens while doing nothing to deter criminals, who do not obey gun laws.

The inclusion of a magazine capacity limit is equally ineffective. Criminals do not follow magazine restrictions, and such laws have not been shown to reduce crime. Instead, these limits put law-abiding citizens at a disadvantage in self-defense situations.

Additionally, banning .50 caliber rifles is unnecessary, as they are rarely, if ever, used in crimes. This provision seems more like a symbolic effort rather than a solution to any actual threat in Hawaii.

Hawaii already has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, and further restrictions on law-abiding citizens will not improve public safety. Instead of punishing responsible gun owners, lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws against violent offenders.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote **NO** on HB 893. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Robert Okuda

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:08:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Landford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill this infringe my second amendment

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:09:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is an absurd bill. It would ban the majority of modern firearms and not allow family to inherit these firearms. This violates the takings clause of the Constitution.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:15:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, there is no such thing as a assault rifle and or a assault shotgun. And no one walks around with a 50 cal rifle.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:16:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Baguso	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 893, which seeks to prohibit the manufacture, possession, sale, and transfer of certain firearms, including assault rifles, assault shotguns, .50 caliber rifles, and detachable magazines with a capacity exceeding ten rounds. While I understand the concerns surrounding firearm safety, this bill imposes unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding citizens and does little to address violent crime.

1. Violation of Second Amendment Rights

HB 893 imposes broad and unconstitutional restrictions on firearm ownership, infringing upon the Second Amendment rights of responsible gun owners. The Supreme Court has reaffirmed in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022) that individuals have the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense. This bill severely limits that right by banning commonly owned firearms and accessories.

2. Lack of Evidence Supporting Effectiveness

There is no conclusive evidence that banning so-called “assault weapons” and standard-capacity magazines reduces crime. Studies have shown that rifles, including those targeted by this bill, are used in a very small percentage of crimes. Criminals who intend to commit violent acts do not follow firearm regulations, and additional restrictions will not deter them. Instead, HB 893 primarily impacts law-abiding gun owners who use these firearms for sport, competition, and self-defense.

3. Criminalizing Responsible Gun Owners

This bill turns otherwise responsible firearm owners into criminals simply for possessing legally purchased firearms and accessories. Many of these firearms and magazines are in common use and legally owned by thousands of Hawaii residents. Prohibiting their possession unfairly punishes individuals who have done nothing wrong.

4. Disproportionate Impact on Self-Defense and Home Protection

Many responsible citizens rely on standard-capacity magazines for self-defense, particularly in situations where multiple assailants are involved. Arbitrary limits on magazine capacity put law-abiding individuals at a disadvantage in defending themselves and their families against violent threats.

5. Better Alternatives Exist

Instead of restricting lawful firearm ownership, policymakers should focus on enforcing existing laws against violent criminals and enhancing penalties for gun-related crimes. Improving mental health services, addressing illegal firearm trafficking, and ensuring law enforcement has the necessary resources to combat violent crime are more effective measures to enhance public safety.

Conclusion

HB 893 unfairly targets responsible gun owners while failing to provide real solutions for crime prevention. It infringes upon constitutional rights, lacks empirical support for effectiveness, and places undue burdens on law-abiding citizens. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

Travis Baguso

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:17:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Donaghy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a U.S. Citizen, I am opposed to this measure. It is an infringement on my constitutional rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:41:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To whom this may concern, I am in opposition of this bill as it would turn law abiding citizens and businesses in to criminals. Hawaii has one of the lowest gun crime rates in the United States. This bill won't stop criminals from acquiring these tools. It will only affect legal gun owners and businesses.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:43:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Roa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the people oppose

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:44:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No more law regulating lawful owners. Supreme Court will overturn this regulation. Nintendo wast time.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:44:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No more regulations. The Supreme Court of the United States has already made their ruling in these issues. More gun regulations on law abiding gun owners are unnecessary and extreme.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:48:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:48:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison T Wolford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation aimed at banning assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles in Hawaii. While the intention to enhance public safety is commendable, I believe this proposal is misguided and does not effectively address the underlying issues. First and foremost, the proposal fails to acknowledge that Hawaii already has some of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation as stated in the proposal. These achievements demonstrate that the existing laws are already effective in promoting public safety. Furthermore, the proposed ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines is based on the assumption that these firearms are inherently more dangerous than other types of firearms. Banning these specific firearms would do little to reduce overall gun violence and would instead penalize law-abiding gun owners who use these firearms for legitimate purposes, such as sport shooting and self-defense. In conclusion, while the goal of enhancing public safety is important, the proposed legislation on banning assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles is not the most effective solution. I urge the legislature to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative measures that respect the rights of responsible gun owners while addressing the underlying issues contributing to gun violence. Alison Wolford

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:49:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gian Vicuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. All this bill does is incapacitate law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves. Criminals have never had any gun laws apply to them. Not only is this a blatant disregard of our 2nd amendment right but it does nothing to keep law-abiding citizens safer.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:51:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Iler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I oppose HB893 for seeking to further infringe upon US Citizens' rights to keep & bear fire arms; which infringement has greatly complicated and deterred the exercise of 2nd Amendment rights of late. The ban on capacity of rounds greater than 10 is a randomly generated number to deprive firearms users of their inherent right to the capacity of their ammunition. This new law is an overreaching initiative by a legislature bent on tyrannical leanings to deprive its citizen populace of the ability to keep and bear arms in the spirit of the 2nd Amendment. Hunting, self defense, competition, recreation are legitimate purposes to possess rifles and shotguns with various capacity features. To redefine "high capacity" magazines, which have heretofore been common, standard equipment, and vilify their use is directly meddling with gun ownership rights under the 2nd Amendment and would be defined by the framers of our Constitution as "infringement". The 2nd Amendment right to bear arms was designed at a federal, national level to enable citizens to responsibly keep and bear arms without the restrictions and infringements of an overreaching state legislature.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:58:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Dixon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:59:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
elijah thierbach	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:13:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Uchiyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:17:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Pepper Shiramizu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello!

I am writing testimony in opposition for this bill. This is a bill similar to CA and how they structure their rifles. As a person who has lived there for a number of years and exercised my 2nd amendment right. If you look at how a “featureless rifle” is set up. With it’s “fin grip.” It makes the rifle less safe then if it was just a regular pistol grip just like the manufacturer had designed it to be. Looking at this bill HB893, it would remove the hand guard making the hot barrel to be exposed which is dangerous for people to hold, making the rifle less safe to use.

I don’t think a person who is planning to break the law, is going to follow these rules in this bill... This is only going to hurt law abiding citizens and discourage people to exercise their 2nd amendment right. A right that is granted to us.

Thank you.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:21:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyce Dodge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I support this common sense bill prohibiting assault rifles, assault shotguns, .50 caliber rifles, and high-capacity detachable magazines. These weapons are not for hunting, or self defense, or any other use except killing as many people as fast as possible. No one in their right mind would want such weapons. The US has a terrible gun violence problem due to lack of common sense laws regulating guns and ammunition. Most other countries in the world have much lower gun violence deaths and injuries, and lower associated costs for health care, and emergency and mental health services related to gun violence. Other countries have figured out how to prevent this problem with sensible gun laws, kind of like our car seatbelt laws, and motorcycle helmet laws, and no smoking laws. Furthermore, in the US, more young people and women are killed, injured, or otherwise affected by gun violence than over 90% of the rest of the world (statistics from The Commonwealth Fund, October 30, 2024). Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children in the US. Firearm violence is a public health crisis in the US, and this bill is one step towards addressing this unacceptable situation.

Mahalo,

Alyce Dodge

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:21:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

It violates our constitutional rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:24:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Namiki Roberts	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Honorable Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Re: Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB 893 Relating to the Ban on Assault Rifles, Assault Shotguns, and .50 Caliber Rifles

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in **strong opposition** to **HB 893**, which seeks to expand Hawaii's current assault weapons ban to include assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles. I respectfully urge the Committee to **immediately defer this bill** for the following reasons.

Key Concerns with HB 893:

A Proposal Rejected Year After Year:

This bill has been introduced **almost every legislative session for the past decade**, and each year it has been met with **overwhelming public opposition**. Thousands of law-abiding citizens, veterans, competitive shooters, hunters, and legal gun owners have consistently provided testimony against such proposals. The Legislature has repeatedly heard the voices of Hawaii's residents who oppose this type of overreaching legislation, yet the same bill continues to resurface, disregarding the will of the people.

Criminalizing Law-Abiding Citizens:

This bill would turn **responsible, law-abiding firearm owners into criminals overnight** simply because of cosmetic features on their legally owned firearms. The definitions of "assault rifle" and "assault shotgun" are overly broad and focus on external characteristics rather than functionality, arbitrarily classifying common sporting rifles and shotguns as "assault weapons."

Ineffectiveness in Reducing Crime:

There is **no credible evidence** to suggest that banning these types of firearms reduces violent crime. In fact, the **2019 study by the Department of Justice** found that most crimes involving firearms are committed with handguns, not rifles or shotguns. Hawaii already has some of the strictest gun laws in the country and one of the **lowest rates of gun violence**. This bill would not make Hawaii safer but would instead penalize responsible gun owners.

Violation of Constitutional Rights:

The proposed legislation infringes on the **Second Amendment rights** of Hawaii's citizens. The **U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008)** affirmed that individuals have a constitutional right to possess firearms for lawful purposes, including self-defense. Moreover, in ***New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022)**, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that gun control laws must be consistent with the nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation. This decision set a new standard, emphasizing that laws infringing on Second Amendment rights require strong historical justification. **HB 893 fails to meet this standard** and would likely face serious legal challenges if enacted.

Additionally, **similar laws across the country are currently facing legal challenges**, and even **Hawaii's own assault pistol law is being actively challenged in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals**. Enacting HB 893 would likely result in costly litigation for the State, with a high probability that the law could be overturned as unconstitutional.

Unfair Burden on Lawful Owners:

The bill places **onerous restrictions** on current firearm owners, forcing them to either render their firearms inoperable, transfer them out of state, or surrender them to law enforcement. These measures are **unfair, unnecessary, and punitive**, targeting individuals who have complied with all existing laws.

Disproportionate Impact on Competitive Shooters and Hunters:

Many of the firearms targeted by this bill are commonly used in **competitive shooting sports** and **hunting activities**. The legislation would negatively affect Hawaii residents who participate in these lawful and regulated activities, depriving them of tools essential to their sports and hobbies.

Conclusion:

Given the bill's history of repeated rejection, its broad overreach, the overwhelming opposition it has faced year after year, and the **current legal challenges facing similar laws nationwide**, I urge the Committee to **immediately defer HB 893**. The focus should be on **enforcing existing laws** and addressing the root causes of crime, rather than punishing responsible citizens who have done nothing wrong.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Andrew Namiki Roberts

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:54:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Diringer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this legislation, as the Hawaii legislature must fall in legal line with multiple Federal District Courts' rulings in allowing all capacities of firearms magazines, as they're protected by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. Any piece of legislation submitted this is clearly UnConstitutional, degrades the legitimacy of the Hawaii state government in the eyes of the public, as it shows a willingness to trample citizens rights, much like the actions of colonizers to this island decades ago. Hawaii is part of the United States, and its long past due that Hawaiian lawmakers cease citing "Hawaiian culture" as a reason to restrict certain rights protected by the U.S. Constitution, while allowing other activities that are clearly dangerous, and refusing to enforce laws governing said activities. In addition to the fact that this proposed restriction tramples citizens' federally protected rights, restrictions of the like are statistically proven as ineffective in preventing violent crime, a preponderance of which is committed by those regardless of the goods available to them on the legal market.

Especially given the state of Hawaii-Honolulu County doesn't enforce laws already on the books-like those governing fireworks, any law governing anything short of airborne explosives, smuggled onto an island prone to wildfires, passing through multiple government processes, is an ineffective waste of legislative effort and taxpayers monies.

In an age where societies are polarized by political views, every citizen should be free to practice all of their God given rights, protected by our Constitution, especially those that allow them to defend themselves from oppressive governments, and violent criminals alike.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:03:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle E. Sagun- Apilado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:07:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Ishii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha My Name is Raymond Ishii and I am strongly Oppose to HB893 as it is a violation of my god given right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. I am a retired State Deputy Sheriff with 32 years of service to the people of Hawaii, and the one thing that this bill is guaranteed to do is to persecute and harass the law abiding citizens of the State. It will not have any effect of crime because criminals do not obey the law.

The Constitution of the United State of America starts with the phrase

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

It goes on the establish the 3 equal branches of government the Legislative, Executive and Judicial. It establishes our system of judgement where we are guaranteed the right to face our accuser and have a trial of our peers. It establishes the laws of interstate commerce, and the rules and procedures to run our great nation. But there was a problem with it, The Constitution did not protect We the People of the United States from the Government of the United States. There was nothing in it to prevent our newly form Republic from becoming tyrannical like the British Crown that they had fought a war to gain our freedom. Our Founding Fathers demanded limits on the power of the Government and to guarantee the individual liberties of the citizens which lead to the writing of the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights.

As written in the Declaration of Independence "We hold these truths to be [self-evident](#), 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](#).—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the [consent of the governed](#),—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the [Right of the People to alter or to abolish it](#), and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

That the rights of the People are given to us by our Creator, and the Bill of Rights in order of importance to guarantee our god given rights.

The 1st Amendment guarantees we the people of right religious freedom, freedom of speech, our right to peaceably assemble and to petition the government to redress our grievances.

This Amendment was written because many of the settlers to our great republic were persecuted for their religious beliefs, they were denied the right to free speech and to peaceably assemble

The 2nd Amendment simply states

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

The 2nd Amendment is the teeth of the Bill of Rights, this right empowers the People to prevent our government from becoming destructive by giving the People to ability to alter or abolish as state in the Declaration of Independence.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the people mentioned in the 2nd Amendment are the citizens of our great Republic, and the Bill of Rights are to place limits of the Government, not the People.

HB893 as written is a misguided attempt to infringe on my rights to keep and bear arms. It address the thousands firearms in common use and attempts to demonize them by some how making common firearms accessories seem evil. It will make the tens of thousands of the most popular type of standard capacity magazine illegal. It will deprive me the use of my property as guaranteed by the 5th Amendment, and will prevent me from passing on my possessions to my heirs.

HB893 if passed with turned thousands of law abiding, tax paying citizens, all of whom have passed a rigorous criminal and mental health background check by the Police Departments into felons overnight. This is the epitome of a tyrannical government our Founding Fathers fought against.

I strongly Oppose HB893 ad beg you to vote No.

Thank You

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:19:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zon Sullenberger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose HB 893

Bans of these types of firearms have already been declared unconstitutional by the SCOTUS. Why pass unconstitutional legislation and subject the state to untold legal fees defending an unconstitutional law. Vote against this nonsense.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:23:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

These restrictions excessively burden the public who have a right to self-defense from having access to their tools where ever they may face a dangerous confrontation. Why do you feel it necessary to limit the public’s ability to defend themselves when the aggressors, criminals, have no such limitations? Criminals can do anything but we the public have limitations? Who are you protecting with these ordinances anyway? I have the right to the same arms that most of the country has.

Perhaps you should read the 2nd Amendment and the 14th Amendments before you jump to the wrong conclusions regarding the rights of the People who you are violating.

Why spend the taxpayer’s time and money defending laws that are clearly against the U.S Constitution or even passing these ordinances in the first place? Everyone has the right to self-defense not just the criminals who break the laws and seem to have access to firearms with few consequences. The police do not have the responsibility to ensure the safety of the individual citizens and most of us can’t afford private armed guards. Most of us have a difficult time affording our basic daily needs. What about the people who deal with dangerous individuals every day at the bus stop who protects them? This proposal will embolden the criminal element in our neighborhoods. They will know we can’t defend ourselves things will only get worse for the public. Limiting the types of tools will not solve any issues, there should be no limit on types of tools or their parts.

We must own the most effective tool for self-defense that we can obtain with our limited financial abilities. The current rules in place for the concealed carrying of a firearm are very burdensome for the public. Each individual, tax payers who pay for everything, deserve the ability to exercise the rights guaranteed by our creator and codified in the U.S. Constitution. I don’t understand why you believe it necessary to turn our rights into privileges with this proposal. Do not pass this bill. Each legislator who votes in favor of this

proposal votes against our constitutional rights and should be held accountable. Do not change our existing laws to make them more restrictive for the taxpaying people of Hawaii. Do not pass this bill. These bans need to be repealed.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:29:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
anthony dean	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose any law that restricts my constitutional rights as an American. The 2nd amendment clearly state that "it shall not be infringed." As public servants, you must follow the constitution and stop trying to mess with our rights. You people already took away to many rights and keep making it harder for local families to stay in Hawaii.

Anthony Dean

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:31:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill that infringes on our 2nd Amendment rights. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE NO** on this Bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:35:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryota Takuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Legislature,

I write to express my strong opposition to House Bill 893, which seeks to further restrict what are commonly referred to as "assault weapons." While the intent to enhance public safety is commendable, I believe this bill, in its current form, fails to address the root causes of violence and infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

Arguments Against HB893:

Constitutional Concerns:

The Second Amendment guarantees the right to bear arms for the purpose of self-defense. HB893 seems to broaden the definition of assault weapons in a way that could potentially classify many commonly owned firearms used for hunting, sport shooting, and personal protection as illegal. This would not only infringe on constitutional rights but could also lead to legal challenges, which might drain state resources without a clear public safety benefit.

Effectiveness of Gun Control Laws:

There's considerable debate regarding the effectiveness of banning specific types of firearms in reducing crime. Criminals, by definition, do not abide by laws, and thus, such bans might only disarm law-abiding citizens, potentially leaving them at a disadvantage. According to information available online, even after amendments, previous versions of similar legislation in Hawaii have been criticized for not effectively addressing gun violence.

Selective Enforcement and Compliance:

With Hawaii being an island state, there's a risk of creating a two-tier system where only those who can afford to travel or have connections can access firearms not banned under the law outside of the state. Enforcement could become selective, potentially leading to discriminatory practices.

Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens:

Many who own the firearms targeted by HB893 are responsible gun owners who use these for recreational purposes like hunting and competitive shooting. The bill could criminalize these activities for those who do not comply with the new restrictions, affecting a community that contributes positively to society through sports and conservation efforts. Banning firearms for certain currently legally allowed features, appearance, and calibers does not reduce gun crime, and rather gun crime is reduced with proper law abiding citizens for use of these exact firearms against would-be criminals.

Alternative Solutions:

Instead of focusing on the type of firearm, resources should be directed towards mental health support, education on responsible gun ownership, and enforcement of existing laws against illegal gun trafficking and use. Enhancing background checks, promoting gun safety education, and supporting programs that address socio-economic issues contributing to crime could yield better outcomes in reducing violence.

In conclusion, while the goal of reducing gun violence is a shared one, HB893 appears to be a blunt instrument that does not address the complexities of gun ownership and crime. I urge you to consider these points and seek alternative, more balanced approaches to truly enhance public safety without unduly infringing on the rights of Hawaii's law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryota

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:50:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Cardenas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

I'm writing in **Opposition** to SB893, I have recently became involved in the local shooting sports and have been a long time target/recreation shooter

The items that are being proposed to be banned would unfairly punish and criminalize many ordinary citizens that are just like me, law abiding members of a hobby/sport that is often misunderstood and unfairly painted with a broad brush.

None of the proposed changes will adress the current issues we are seeing and will only serve to unfairly/unjustly punish many of us that already follow the currently established laws

Thank you for your time

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:00:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB893.

Adding things to an already strictly written bill doesn't do anything but make it harder for law abiding citizens to own firearms which is protected by the Constitution of the United States of America. And what is the Constitution of the United States of America? It's the Supreme law of the land. And with that I oppose HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:09:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rozalynn Marae Erickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is not pragmatic with the actuality of self-defense. "Bad guys" with guys who intend to inflict harm on innocent civilians don't follow laws. This has been proven over and over again, even in the places with the strictest gun laws. This law would turn law-abiding citizens into felons overnight who want to only protect themselves and their loved ones from those who intend to do harm. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:13:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Yuen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it does not increase safety but further restrict my constitutional rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:31:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrian Flack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The proposed prohibitions on so-called “assault rifles,” “assault shotguns,” and .50 caliber rifles, as well as the expansion of bans on high-capacity detachable magazines, represent a clear and unconstitutional infringement on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans. Recent Supreme Court decisions, particularly *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* (2022), reaffirm that firearm regulations must be consistent with the historical understanding of the right to keep and bear arms. This proposal fails that test.

The Second Amendment guarantees that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” The Supreme Court’s decision in *Bruen* established a clear standard for evaluating firearm regulations: any restriction must be “consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.” This means that unless a law is grounded in historical precedent from the time of the Founding, it is unconstitutional.

1. No Historical Basis for Banning Commonly Owned Firearms

- The firearms targeted in this proposal—semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles—are in common use by civilians for lawful purposes, including self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting.
- *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) held that banning firearms in “common use” violates the Second Amendment. The *Bruen* decision reaffirmed this principle, making it clear that broad bans on commonly owned firearms are unconstitutional.

2. Unlawful Expansion of Magazine Restrictions

- High-capacity magazines are widely owned and used for self-defense, home protection, and competitive shooting.
- There is no historical tradition of restricting magazine capacity; therefore, such restrictions fail the *Bruen* test.

- Recent federal court decisions, such as *Duncan v. Bonta* (2023), have found that bans on high-capacity magazines violate the Second Amendment under *Bruen*.

In *Bruen*, the Supreme Court struck down New York's restrictive concealed carry law, ruling that gun regulations must be historically justified. The decision emphasized that modern firearm restrictions must align with historical traditions of gun ownership. The proposed prohibitions do not meet this requirement because:

- There is no historical tradition of banning entire categories of commonly used firearms.
- There is no precedent for restricting magazine capacities based on arbitrary limits.
- Firearm restrictions must be evaluated based on whether they respect the individual right to self-defense—a right that these bans severely infringe upon.

Conclusion

This proposal is a direct assault on the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens and contradicts clear Supreme Court precedent. By banning commonly used firearms and restricting magazine capacity, it imposes unconstitutional limitations on the Second Amendment. Given the legal clarity provided by *Bruen*, any such restrictions are bound to be struck down in court. Lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws and addressing criminal misuse of firearms rather than infringing on the rights of responsible gun owners.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:47:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benel Piros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose due to the fact that WE as LAW ABIDING citizens are subjected to more infringement on our rights where criminals DON'T follow any Laws period.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:58:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles-Michael victorino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Hawaii House Bill 893 (HB893), which seeks to impose restrictions on commonly owned firearms, including the AR-15 style rifles. Bills like this are not only problematic in their disregard for the Second Amendment but also face significant legal challenges, with many similar laws already being contested in lower courts and before the U.S. Supreme Court. In many instances, such restrictions have been found to be unconstitutional, as they infringe upon the fundamental rights of law-abiding citizens.

One of the most concerning aspects of HB893 is that it targets the AR-15, which is the most popular sporting rifle in America. It is used for a variety of legitimate purposes, including target shooting, hunting, and home defense. The AR-15 is not some "military-style weapon" as it is often described in political rhetoric, but rather a widely used firearm that millions of Americans own responsibly. Banning such a firearm would effectively criminalize a lawful, widely practiced activity, all while failing to address the root causes of violence or crime.

Furthermore, for many Americans, particularly those in rural or economically disadvantaged areas, owning a firearm like the AR-15 is one of the most cost-efficient ways to ensure personal safety. For people who cannot afford expensive security systems or who may live in areas with limited law enforcement presence, an affordable and effective firearm is a critical means of self-defense. HB893 undermines this right by limiting access to firearms that many responsible citizens rely on for protection.

The bill also violates the Second Amendment by determining which types of arms we are permitted to purchase. The Supreme Court has consistently reaffirmed that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to keep and bear arms, and that right extends to modern firearms commonly owned by law-abiding citizens. By attempting to ban a firearm that is legal and constitutionally protected, HB893 would directly contravene this fundamental right.

Rather than pursuing overreaching restrictions that punish responsible gun owners, Hawaii lawmakers should focus on addressing the actual issues of gun violence through more targeted, effective measures that respect the Constitution and the rights of citizens. I urge you to oppose HB893 and consider the long-term impact such legislation would have on both the rights of gun owners and public safety.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:59:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Hammond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Sigh, Here we are again. Year after year, our legislature, YOU, continues introducing bills restricting our rights. Rights that have been confirmed by SCOTUS repeatedly. I have submitted many letters full of information regarding why this bill is unconstitutional. Pages of explanation.

How almost every gun is semi-automatic, so this would be a default ban on firearms, ergo restricting our rights.

Not only that, but Hawaii has some of the lowest gun use rates, so why ban guns?

Please stop this assault against our rights and freedoms.

I strongly OPPOSE this bill and ask that you don't let it pass the committee.

Mahalo,

Eric Hammond

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:07:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vladimir Cabias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen I strongly oppose HB893 as it is an egregious violation of the 2nd Amendment.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:13:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradd Haituka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to this flawed bill. This bill is in direct violation of the supreme court decisions that consider these firearms protected under the second amendment of the United States Constitution.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:05:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893. This bill is an infringement on the second amendment of the Constitution of the United States, and article one, section seventeen of the Hawai'i Constitution and is therefore, unconstitutional. HB893 is a solution for a problem that does not exist.

Semiautomatic firearms, .50 caliber firearms, and standard capacity detachable magazines are tools, required by the people; the militia, to be able to keep and maintain the security of a free state. As United States citizens, it is our inalienable, God given right, and our obligation, to have the best means to defend ourselves and our loved ones, from terror and tyranny, whether it be foreign or domestic. Taking away our right to bear arms, will lead to the failure of democracy, disrupt and destroy our rule of law, and will eventually lead to the ultimate destruction of not just our home state of Hawai'i, but also to the United States of America, in its entirety.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:33:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Holcomb	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why do the authors of this bill want to disarm citizens and put us all at the mercy of government violence? Is it because they are planning on doing something really despicable and are worried about getting shot when their true intentions are revealed?

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:48:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill is unconstitutional. The ban would include any semi automatic rifles and shotguns with detachable magazine. This would ban the most commonly owned and used legal rifles in the United States. These semi automatic firearms are currently in common use by law abiding citizens for legal self-defense and sporting purposes. They are very practical to own and operate and if you visit the firearm range on Oahu you will see that they are extremely common and likely outnumber non-semi automatic rifles.

This ban would also expand the ban on pistol magazine capacity of ten rounds, and now include all magazines that are over 10 rounds. The pistol magazine capacity limit of ten rounds is already hard enough, and really has no impact on public safety, but is a major inconvenience to legal law abiding gun owners. The limit also impacts the safety of law abiding gun owners if they were to use a firearm for self defense. Most semi automatic firearms come STANDARD with magazine capacities in excess of 10 rounds. Safety is diminished when law abiding gun owners are required to use reduced capacity magazines for self defense against the possibility of multiple attackers, or attackers armed with standard capacity magazines. This law would seek to expand the burdensome and ineffective ban on magazines over 10 round capacity to a new category of firearms, and it should not be passed. With the increase in brazen violent crime in Hawaii we should be doing more to empower the people of Hawaii to protect themselves, rather than hinder them.

This bill is all around unconstitutional and I strongly oppose all aspects of it as written. But the most egregious part of the bill is that from what I read it seems there is no grandfather clause for law abiding gun owners who already own firearms or magazines that would be part of this bill. Some law abiding gun owners who have a passion for shooting, hunting and collecting of firearms may easily have tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of firearms and magazines that would be banned by this bill. And also some law abiding gun owners might have only one or 2 firearms altogether, and very little extra disposable income (especially during this pandemic), and if you were to ban the only firearms they owned without a grandfather clause, they would not be able to purchase another firearm for hunting or self defense.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:07:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlee Kamakaala-Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure.

This law would ban the most common firearms in the United States. I am a female and the type of firearms that would be banned such as an AR15 type rifle, are the most effective for me to defend myself. They have low recoil and are lightweight, and rifles are easier to learn to shoot effectively than a handgun.

This assault weapons, and magazine capacity ban is very similar to legislation in other states, which have already been ruled unconstitutional. Especially with the new guidance from the Bruen SCOTUS decision. Therefore this law will likely be ruled unconstitutional eventually in court and will cost the state lots of taxpayer \$ to defend in court. And will eventually be reversed, but the law abiding citizens will suffer if this law passes until that time.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:47:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rob Mihada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose any bill that infringes upon the Second Amendment because it directly undermines the constitutional right to bear arms, a fundamental freedom that is essential for self-defense and individual liberty. Restricting this right not only jeopardizes personal safety but also weakens the checks and balances designed to protect citizens from government overreach.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:56:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert E Reuter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone that is trying to go for law enforcement I find this law greatly insulting to everyone. Since actual assault weapons are currently all banned to the general public this law should not even have a reason to exist. However the law exist because elected officials have never bothered to educate themselves and figure out what an assault weapon is even though they want every weapon to be registered. I'm sure if anyone that has bothered using any part of their brain would wonder why an AR type weapon marked as Semi-Automatic only to find out if doing one google search would reveal that Assault weapons are different from ones available to civilians. I will admit if a law like this was passed I would honestly lose all interest in trying to help protect hawaii and enforce the laws to protect the people and would pursue my career elsewhere. Any politician reading this should please treat people like people and give them the actual defined weapon they are proposing to band before even attempting such a law again. It is extremely shameful and insulting to mistitle an item you are attempting to ban and shows zero trust and fear mongering tactics.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:11:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roch Leblanc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose House Bill 893 as a responsible gun owner.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:59:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Soriano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Just stop trying to Control what free Americans can do!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:25:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barry Aoki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Please OPPOSE this bill in its entirety. Being in law enforcement, this bill will not prevent or reduce crime. This bill will infringe upon the Second Amendment rights of citizens who are legally entitled to exercise firearms ownership. There are currently challenges in other states with similar laws making their way to the US Supreme Court. Criminals will not follow any laws that you enact and criminals are not following current laws. Allow the law abiding citizen the right to defend themselves against criminals. Please OPPOSE this bill in its entirety. Thank you.

Barry Aoki

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:04:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Robertson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose. This is a terrible bill. My wife and I hunt axis deer in Maui County to help feed ourselves and the community with high quality protein. We hunt with .50 caliber muzzleloaders sometimes, and sometimes with AR15 style rifles in several calibers. Why would you take away kupuna ability to hunt for food? Also for bird hunting with shotguns....How do you define "assault" shotgun?

Mahalo for your consideration. No no no

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:45:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernice Jarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to its unconstitutional according to Bruen SCOTUS decision and that semiautomatic weapons are in common use for law abiding purposes like self defense and sporting.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:45:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Akui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly opposed!!!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:54:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koa Carter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Any bill that would ban shotguns and commonly used rifles, simply by a single feature test is wrong. This would take away too many guns that people here rely on to hunt for food to feed their families. This is a violation of the second amendment right to bear arms.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:57:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha! I am writing to express my opposition to this bill as it is a direct violation of the second amendment to the constitution. Hawaii already has some of the strictest firearms laws in the country and all this bill does is essentially make it more difficult for legal, law-abiding citizens to practice their second amendment rights. Most, if not all firearms enthusiasts own some of these firearms for hunting or sport shooting. To deny them the right to own these firearms goes against the constitution of our country and of our state.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:04:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Froese	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates my second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:07:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allan Sebastian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislators,

Good morning.

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second ammendment rights.

Thank you for your time.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:09:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Dodo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Whom It May Concern,

I oppose HB893 as it violates my constitutional rights for the 2nd Amendment: the right to keep and bear arms. As an Army Veteran, I swore to defend and protect the constitution of the United States and the American way of life. I rely on the 2nd Amendment to not only protect myself but my loved ones and property. Something that our forefathers have fought bravely and sacrificed themselves to protect these rights.

Mahalo for taking the time to hear my testimony.

Aloha,

Josh

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:14:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Hiraoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB893 as this bill goes against our second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:14:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Fields	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:15:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Miyao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose HB893.

Thank you for all you do for the people of Hawaii!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:21:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second ammendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:24:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifford Chee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Please respect my 2nd Amendment rights. I have served my Country/Community and have enjoyed target shooting for over thirty years and have always been a responsible firearms owner. Elements of this Bill would label me a criminal.

Please focus on the real criminals committing crimes in our neighborhoods, not the law-abiding citizens that enjoy the shooting sports. I work hard to be a good citizen...please treat me as such.

Thank you for your service to the State of Hawaii

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:27:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claudia Pokipala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again violates my right to bear arms should I agree to bear these firearms. This is another loss of our constitutional right which would lead to more loss of our freedoms. We already need to register all our firearms and are not the ones committing crimes. Go after those that are actually in violation of the law already in effect. Which by the way, is already questionable.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:33:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Okinishi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill HB893 is a direct violation of our constitutional rights and violates our 2nd amendment.

Second Amendment was meant to leave citizens with the ability to defend themselves against unlawful violence. Such threats might come from usurpers of governmental power, but they might also come from criminals whom the government is unwilling or unable to control.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:37:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Ellorin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second ammendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:39:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarrod Goode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it violates my second ammendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:39:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachariah Helenihi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:44:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maxx Kohlmeister	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is anti 2nd amendment and will only affect law abiding citizens and gun owners and will have 0 affect on criminals.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:45:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jadelyn soares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to HB839 because it violates our second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:47:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Fujii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB893 because it violates our second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:52:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Ilo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stongly oppose. Lets concentrate on crime and not look for ways to turn legal gun owners in to criminals!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:55:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shepard Shill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it's a infringement on our rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:55:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rey vento	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It violates my 2nd amendment rights!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:56:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm an amputee and the best way I can defend my self and my family is with an ar15. Banning that would leave me defenseless and have to use a gun that is more difficult for someone with a disability to use. This would violate my second amendment rights. I will sue if this passes.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:56:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Guns do not belong in our streets and among us!!!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:58:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Norris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to share. I am a firearms safety instructor and a life time hunter. I oppose this bill. These firearms are not an issue here. This is illegal and will be struck down in court. Please stop trying to gain control we the people are not the ones committing the crimes. These laws only hurt those who try to obey them (us) criminals will never obey and they are the ones causing the problems.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:00:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle HIromoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

These higher capacity magazines are actually standard capacity.

Thank you

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:01:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel Merle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Have served in the Hawaii army national guard for 6 years and I'm a certified range safety officer. I am proficient in many fire arms and this bill violates our 2a constitutional right. Why must we fight every year to explain this to our elected officials? We need these rifles to protect us from foreign or domestic threats. It's unconstitutional what your trying to pass.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:03:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily McKinley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is unconstitutional and an infringement on our rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:03:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Goldberg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose, this is a major over reach.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:03:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bunnie Harrington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB893. Those who are writing these bills seem to be uneducated on firearms and ammunition. I feel that if a bill is going to be written on infringing one's CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTED RIGHTS, they themselves should have to be educated on said subject. Take classes like the law abiding citizens have taken, just to ask for permission to possibly purchase a firearm. But remember, it will take weeks to get an answer.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:15:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Harrington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:16:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alando Saradpon-Hill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose these bills because it is a violation to every American right and to the second ammendment. To make criminals of people ,LAW ABIDING CITIZENS that jumped through the ridiculous hoops You've made us go through to own them just for outright take OUR property away? When your government can spend billions of dollars on a stupid railway but has to beg Washington DC for money that BARELY helped Lahaina? Or not help the homeless issue plaguing the islands? This bill is pathetic at best.i will be forwarding this today to the Supreme Court and Washington DC . The incompetent leaders of this government is appalling . What you are doing is criminalized LAW ABIDING CITIZENS.I WILL NOT SUPPORT THIS COMMUNIST BEHAVIOR

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:18:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Lia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates my constitutionally protected rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:18:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose bill HB893 because it violates our 2nd amendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:23:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Baldonado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose measure HB893. Restrictions on responsible gun owners only makes instant felons out of law abiding citizens, further jeopardizes people's safety and their Constitutional Right to bear arms and defend themselves, and empowers the criminal – who is not listening to the laws to begin with. Gun control penalizes the citizens who are listening to and following the law in a State that is already one of the most restrictive on this issue.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:24:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Howell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB893 is a blatant infringement on (We The People's) 2nd amendment right to keep and bear arms . (Oppose).

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:26:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Drye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello and thank you for your time. I highly oppose of this bill. It is our Constitutional right to own and bear firearms. Please remove this bill. Thank you. Aloha

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:27:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **OPPOSE** this bill.

1. **Unfairly Penalizes Law-Abiding Citizens:**

Responsible gun owners could face fines and criminal charges for minor storage violations, even without any harmful outcome. This shifts the focus from criminal behavior to punishing lawful citizens.

2. **Strict Liability Risks:**

The bill imposes automatic legal liability if an unsecured firearm is misused, even if the owner wasn't negligent. This creates severe financial and legal risks, discouraging lawful firearm ownership.

3. **Vague and Subjective Language:**

Terms like "a location that a reasonable person would believe to be secure" are unclear and open to interpretation, leading to inconsistent enforcement and legal uncertainty.

4. **Ineffective for Real Safety Concerns:**

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:27:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strontly oppose

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:28:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Farrow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the Bill. There are no assault rifles, assault shotguns. The term "assault rifle" is often conflated with "**assault weapon**", a U.S. legal category with varying definitions which includes many semi-automatic weapons. This use has been described as incorrect and a misapplication of the term.

This bill will not stop a criminal from obtaining and using any type firearm and is a waste of tax payers money. It is better to train citizen who pass strict training to be armed to defend against criminal who use firearms to commit crimes. Law-abiding citizens don't commit crimes with firearms. They are victims of such crimes. Per HPD, Chief Logan, CCW citizens are not the ones committing or violating the current guns laws.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:29:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Deponte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:33:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John-Manell Jake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I JohnManell Jake oppose bill HB893. It Violates my Second Amendment RIGHTS!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:33:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:33:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamil moreno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it's going against our right to bear arms.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:34:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J S	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"..shall not be infringed."

Opposed

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:36:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I very enthusiastically support HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:37:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i has long prohibited the possession, transfer, and manufacture of assault pistols, which are semiautomatic handguns with two or more listed military features. However, Hawai'i has not prohibited assault weapons that are rifles and shotguns—including the AR-15 and other semiautomatic rifles that are much more frequently used in mass shootings. All nine other states that prohibit assault weapons include rifles and shotguns with military features.

Assault weapons like AR-15 rifles fire high-velocity ammunition that inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun. And semiautomatic rifles like the AR-15 are capable of firing rounds much faster than manually operated rifles, allowing shooters to fire a large number of powerful rounds in seconds.

HB 893 would close this dangerous gap in Hawai'i law, prohibiting assault rifles and shotguns with one or more military features that are capable of firing a high number of rounds in a short period of time. Importantly, like other assault weapon laws, the bill would allow people to keep the firearms they already possess, and allow them to use them on property they own or work on, including for use as a wildlife control method on agricultural or rural property where feral ungulate management is an issue.

People would still be allowed to purchase most types of semi-automatic rifles, including common hunting weapons like .22 rifles, semi-automatic rifles that do not use detachable magazines, and semi-automatic rifles without prohibited military features.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:38:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce F Braun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Oppose

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:38:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose hb893 in its entirety. You see what happened when you ban something, ie, fireworks. The people fight back. I would hate to see the people fight back if these commonly used firearms are banned.

Im a avid shooter and my whole family shoots, I mean everyone all down to my 10 year old grandson. Instead of banning these firearms, classes should be held and teach the youth how to handle a gun, teach them the rules of being a responsible gun owner and what can happen when they brake the rules. Hawaii is the most restricted state in the America on our 2A rights and I oppose all new and existing rules and laws.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:42:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i has long prohibited the possession, transfer, and manufacture of assault pistols, which are semiautomatic handguns with two or more listed military features. However, Hawai'i has not prohibited assault weapons that are rifles and shotguns—including the AR-15 and other semiautomatic rifles that are much more frequently used in mass shootings. All nine other states that prohibit assault weapons include rifles and shotguns with military features.

Assault weapons like AR-15 rifles fire high-velocity ammunition that inflicts greater damage to the human body than a round from a typical handgun. And semiautomatic rifles like the AR-15 are capable of firing rounds much faster than manually operated rifles, allowing shooters to fire a large number of powerful rounds in seconds.

HB 893 would close this dangerous gap in Hawai'i law, prohibiting assault rifles and shotguns with one or more military features that are capable of firing a high number of rounds in a short period of time. Importantly, like other assault weapon laws, the bill would allow people to keep the firearms they already possess, and allow them to use them on property they own or work on, including for use as a wildlife control method on agricultural or rural property where feral ungulate management is an issue.

People would still be allowed to purchase most types of semi-automatic rifles, including common hunting weapons like .22 rifles, semi-automatic rifles that do not use detachable magazines, and semi-automatic rifles without prohibited military features.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:45:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it violates my right to bear arms. I go to the mainland for firearms training that is women only classes and this would prohibit me from doing so with my rifle as I cannot bring it back into the state.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:55:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dedrick Pang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it's an infringement on our constitutional rights, of the second amendment.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:56:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it is against our Constitutional Rights as citizens to obtain firearms no matter what caliber or designation you folks call them!! Further more GUNS do not kill people, PEOPLE kill people!!!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:57:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Those who have proposed this legislation and who vote in favor of it are in direct violation of the oath they took to uphold the constitution, the highest law of the land. They need to be held accountable and removed from office.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:00:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gavin Heideman	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this piece of proposed legislation. HB893 and bills similar to it.

You start the bill with proclaiming that the laws are the sole cause of the low crime rate. That we the people have no credit in that regard and we need to pass more laws. Our kind nature, our geographical benefits- you can't jump over multiple states after committing a terrible offense. We are like a big family and we watch out for the bad ones. You can't take all the credit. And we do not need to impose more laws on people who don't commit any crimes.

You're not going to stop any criminals, they won't be affected by this or any other law you pass. It is a problem with the system, not people exercising their rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:00:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Cruz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill! I wish to keep my second amendment without any restrictions! How dare you try and take that away from us.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:01:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
william metzger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is crucial that you pass this bill. Our keiki and community deserve no less.

mahalo,

William Metzger

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:11:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Oya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this!

ALL of the items mentioned in this bill are in "Common use"

There are so many laws on the books already. NONE of them stop CRIMINALS from doing bad things. Making new laws won't stop them either. Murder, assault, rape, theft, kidnapping etc. all illegal but they still happen. You're only making it hard for the law abiding citizens to protect themselves. Can you GUARANTEE the public's safety? Nothing bad going happen to us?

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:14:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB893. Stop whittling away at the Second Amendment. You shall not infringe is clearly spelled out. You took an Oath to protect The United States Constitution. Honor your Oath.

Thank You,

Noelavon Wiegandt

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:21:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB893. The types of firearms described in the bill are among the most widely owned types in existence. A ban on the possession, transfer, or importation fails the Bruen "common use" test and thus will subject Hawaii to the costs of litigation which it will lose, as this bill is contrary to the right to keep and bear arms, acknowledged in Bruen as a "first class right".

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:23:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:24:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mr. & Mrs. O'Neill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 893. This is in direct violation of our Second Amendment rights.

Regards, Steve and Linda O'Neill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:24:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a hunter of wild game here in Kauai Hawaii. I oppose this idea.because its a constitutional right to bare arms in the United States. No matter what size caliber. if the military can use it we the people should. I use 50 caliber for hunting muzzleloader to put food on the table to feed my family. Maybe you guys should research more about what hunters use here in Hawaii.we already have one of the most strict laws in the country .

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:25:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ross Akiona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why take away from the law abiding, need to find a way to get the illegal guns off the streets. Not take away from the good people who don't break the gun laws. The penalties should be higher for people who break the existing laws. I believe this bill is unconstitutional and will get backlash if passed.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:28:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Yamada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill.,

We already have too much firearm restrictions in Hawaii. Magazines over 10 rounds are needed for self defense, recreational shooting and hunting.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:28:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We are the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law (Haw Rev Stat. 134-8) that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns, and large capacity magazines for these weapons.

Our strong gunlaws have saved lives in Hawaii. I firmly believe that. Now let's close the loophole and make Hawaii even Safer for all of us.

Mahalo

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:29:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren kulberg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unfair to lawful citizens whom have worked hard to be able to to lawfully aquire and have minded every regulation insofar, and yet this bill seeks to make us "criminals" and continue to move the goal post.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:30:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mayson P Asano Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill

I'm a law abiding Native Hawaiian, active hunter, and retired military veteran, trained and certified in various fire arms. Served the military for 21 years to protect and preserve the constitution and the rights thereof. To reduce the freedoms and rights of what many local and native hawaiians who fought for in its entirety is nothing short of being offensive. Shame on those who may not share the joy or right of bearing arms and impose on the law abiding citizens your feelings to infringe on others your personal beliefs. This Bill is full of speculated merits as to why this Bill should be accepted.

I ask, what right do we infringe upon next? Maybe our freedom is speech by banning Olelo Hawaii again.

Mahalo

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:32:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Norberto Dumo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Regarding HB893 which I Oppose infringes on my 2nd amendment right as a law abiding citizen. If these gun laws are passed then truly the criminals will be happy. It seems like these bills are targeting law abiding citizens and not the criminals who are the ones breaking the laws. When someone is injured/killed by a drunk driver no laws are created to ban any alcohol or motor vehicles the driver is held responsible so why isn't it the same here. Laws should be specific to the criminals. Hawaii already has one of the strictest gun laws and if there are crimes committed with a firearm in Hawaii they are not with a firearm that are owned by a law abiding citizen.

Thank you

N. Dumo

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:33:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:34:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB 893. Assault wapons and high capacity magazines have no place here in Hawaii. Their only purpose is to kiill a lot of people as fast as possible. Weapons like these were never envisioned by the founders of our nation when they wrote the Bill of Rights. Please pass this bill.

Maholo,

Bruce Anderson

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:44:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roarke Clinton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for military use on battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:46:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Miyashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Srongly Oppose,

The firearms aforementioned in HB893 will take away my right to defend my family in my home. The ban on "High-Capacity" magazines puts law abiding citizens at a disadvantage to criminals that will not abide to the same laws.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:47:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Galen J. Pao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear JHA Committee:

I, Galen J. Pao, as a private citizen, oppose HB893. The 2nd amendment of our Constitution clearly states the right to bear arms shall not be infringed.

These so called "assault weapon" bill ban you are trying to impose falls under the right to bear arms. The 2nd Amendment does not make exceptions to arms that has been improved and implemented over time. These weapons you call "assault" weapons are just weapons that fall under modern times. Singling out certain types of firearms to fit your agenda is illegal.

Until the 2nd Amendment is repealed, your powers to circumvent our Constitution is illegal.

Regards,

Galen J. Pao

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:55:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurie hamano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill into action.

Laurie H. Hamano

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:59:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Assault rifles have NO PLACE in Hawaii. I strongly support HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:59:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Kaneohe writing in strong support of HB 893. As a mother of two and someone who deeply cares about the safety of our keiki and communities, I believe it's a no-brainer to make our common-sense gun safety laws stronger. The people of Hawaii take pride and comfort in having a stronger gun safety record than the mainland. Please consider the safety of the majority of our island residents over the wishes of a small group of gun enthusiasts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ashley de Coligny

Kaneohe, HI

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:00:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ioppose this bill. These firearms are widely used for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting, and have now been vilified due to cosmetic features. Additionally, HB 893 would impose a ban on standard capacity magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. These so-called “high capacity” magazines are, in fact, standard equipment for commonly owned firearms that many Americans legally and effectively use for an entire range of legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or competition. We have 2nd amendment right and you are trying to trample on them! No!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:05:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MICHAEL ING	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:06:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: HB893.

I am submitting this testimony in SUPPORT of HB893, Banning Assault Rifles in Hawaii.

STOP the Mass killings of children and innocent by-standers by banning assault weapons, esp. rifles, in Hawaii. Your last chance to STOP a mass killing on Oahu. Or you can let it happen and say "how could something like this happen on Oahu" and use empty words of condolence to the families of those killed.

BAN ASSUALT RIFLES ... NOW. Thank you for reading and acting on my testimony.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:09:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry Bruckner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would outlaw commonly owned weapons whose standard magazines exceed the arbitrary 10 round limit. Such a mindless limit does nothing to further public safety.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:14:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB 893 - Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands. It is critical this bill gets passed. Thank you

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:15:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL

This Bill would impede my constitutional right.

Unneeded and Unnecessary Government Overreach

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:16:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:17:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Frey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:22:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the members of the Committee,

Banning military-style assault weopens on our streets is common-sense gun legislation that will make our islands more safe and secure. As an educator and a parent, I urge you to support this crucial legislation in a time of increasing gun violence.

With aloha,

David Ball, Waialae-Kahala

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:24:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill !

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:26:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill !

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:26:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AR=Armalite Rifle, not "assault rifle." Stop limiting options for law abiding citizens to defend themselves, and do better at enforcing existing laws and protecting Hawaiians.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:29:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill !

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:30:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Arzaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 893. This bill makes every firearm illegal by definition. It also makes every legal gun owner a criminal. Infringes on my right as a citizen to legally own a firearm.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:31:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Swanson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:33:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David P Vea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony OPPOSING this bill.

It appears that every year we waste tax payer money, time, and effort when politicians try to introduce legislation that is vague, poorly written, and most importantly clearly **UNCONSTITUTIONAL**. I could understand if you were testing the waters because the politicians have not seen clear guidance or interpretation of the law but a quick search will reveal that all your proposals contained in this bill has already been determined by the Federal Courts as Unconstitutional, Unreasonable, and or Over Reaching. Rifle bans, and Magazine Capacity ban decisions have already either been struck down at the Federal Circuit level or currently scheduled to be heard by a Federal Circuit Judge and or at the Supreme Court. Therefore, you already have clear guidance on what is worth pursuing and should not arbitrarily hope one of these proposals will sneak through and stick. If you pursue this type of legislation and sneak it through, it will be challenged and as already demonstrated, it will not withstand Constitutional scrutiny at a Higher Level review and you will have again wasted tax payer dollars and time when you should have been fully aware of the results.

Moreover, this type of consistent disregard to the Rule of Law seen in recent 2A decisions and the obvious past opposition from your community by pushing legislation that gets knocked down every year is an insult to your constituents and the will of the people. Especially when this type of proposed legislation does nothing for the safety and well being of the people.

Please do your due diligence and you will find a number of these UNCONSTITUTIONAL Decision Determinations in California, New Jersey, Illinois in 2024. As a proud Resident that grew up in these islands, we should be known for our Aloha and not the state that promotes non-sensical rules and regulations.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:37:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D Y	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Madam and Sirs,

This letter is to ask you to not impose, to not diminish, to take away anymore of the people's freedoms. Protect the Constitution. Honor it. No more to striping away rights and new gun restriction proposals is exactly that. The rights of "We the people" weren't given by you and should not be restricted by you. We live in a state that is already one of the most strictest states in the nation regarding gun laws and ownership. Passing any more will not make any change, but turn many law abiding citizens into criminals. You'll have many overnight. Laws will not stop the acts of a madman. Assault is an action, it could be done with bats, sticks, knives, hammers, vehicles and even empty handed, I don't see you go after those. Inanimate objects are harmless without the intentions behind it. On the flip side they can be used for good. Tools to build, fix and repair, sport, family time and protection. Please don't go forward with ANY gun control measures, they will not stop violence, they will only harm law abiding citizens as myself. Whatever amends to terms you want to make will not do anything to criminals. Again, it'll only affect law abiding citizens. It's a slope this country is already sliding down. Let the people be who are - Americans. Free. Not your subjects.

Sincerely,

Daniel Yoro Sr.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:48:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I would like to thank this committee for the opportunity to submit testimony opposing HB893. I am a military veteran (21 years active duty), a competitive marksman, and I am licensed by HPD to carry a concealed firearm in the state of Hawaii. I have extensive firearms experience and have carried weapons in both my professional life and off-duty / as a civilian for nearly three decades.

As stated in Section 1. Of HB893, Hawaii currently has some of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation and a low number of gun deaths per capita. This law, if passed, would place an additional and onerous burden on law-abiding gun owners while having a dubious effect on crime. There is little evidence from HPD, Everytown For Gun Safety, or the CDC to support the notion that .50 cal rifles, high-capacity rifle magazines, or shotguns with a capacity of greater than 5 rounds are a contributing factor to firearms related offences in Hawaii.

I challenge the members to show evidence that the items / firearm features regulated by this bill would have prevented a crime committed in our state. However, these tools **are** employed by law-abiding citizens at least monthly in competition or training courses held across the state. Various clubs and organizations that meet at the Koko Head Shooting Complex legally use high-capacity rifle magazines and “assault” shotguns nearly every week.

Other “features” identified in this bill such as a “pistol grip or thumbhole stock”, or “a protruding grip that can be held by the non-trigger hand”, etc. on rifles and shotguns make the firearm more controllable and thereby safer. In fact, the state approved firearms safety and concealed carry course teaches that “Modifying my grip and/or sights are modifications that *increase* safely.”

Thank you for your time and attention. I believe that human life is precious, and any firearm related death is a tragedy. As such, I would encourage our lawmakers to focus their attention on evidence-based legislation that addresses the existing problems within our communities.

Targeting firearms based on features such as a shroud that "...encircles the barrel and permits the shooter to hold the firearm with the second hand **without being burned**" [SECTION 2, 1. (3) (E)] are not making our citizens safer. Please vote "NO" on HB893.

Respectfully,

Michael S. Duff

Wahiawa, Hawaii

I sincerely apologize if this testimony has posted twice. Problems with my server and the fact that we no longer receive an email confirming our testimony was submitted necessitated a second attempt.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:48:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KAIKA SASAOKA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill! Our second amendment right "shall not be infringed."

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:51:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Toledo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These gun laws are not needed. We already have some of the strictest gun laws in the nation and these will do nothing. Whens the last time a crime was committed with a legally registered, owned and possessed .50 cal gun in hawaii? When was the last time a crime was committed with a legally owned registered and possessed gun in hawaii? All these laws are doing is attempting to make it more difficult for and criminalize already law abiding citizens, and they will accomplish nothing to stop illegal gun activity. Focus on the housing crisis, homelessness, cost of living, the dependency on welfare, the drug problem and other real problems. We don't need more laws for a problem that is virtually non existent.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:51:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands.

TESTIMONY OF ELLEN GODBEY CARSON IN SUPPORT OF HB 893
To the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Hearing: February 6, 2025 at 2:00pm

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, including persons victimized by gun violence. While now retired, I still believe this is a critical goal in our state.

I support HB 893’s ban on assault rifles and shotguns, .50 caliber rifles and large capacity magazines (LCMs).

Hawai’I is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons ban that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and LCMs for those weapons, as shown below:

U.S. assault weapons bans by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Status	By make or model	Semiauto rifles	Semiauto pistols	Shotguns	Features test	Magazine capacity
California ^[34]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
Connecticut ^[35]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
Delaware ^[36]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	17
District of Columbia ^[37]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
Hawaii ^[38]	In force			X		X	10 (pistols)
Illinois ^[39]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10 (15 for handguns)
Maryland ^[40]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
Massachusetts ^[41]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
New Jersey ^[42]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10
New York ^[43]	In force		X	X	X	X	10
Washington ^[44]	In force	X	X	X	X	X	10

Source: [Assault weapons legislation in the United States - Wikipedia](#)

Hawaii long ago banned assault pistols/revolvers and detachable LCMs for those weapons, but in a dangerous political compromise, allowed the proliferation of assault rifles and LCMs for rifles. This invites mass shootings and violence within our shores.

The NRA and gun clubs are vocal, but they are a small minority and do not reflect the great majority in our community on this issue. The vast majority of Americans SUPPORT banning assault rifles and high-capacity magazines.

The NRA and gun groups argue that their Second Amendment rights are violated whenever limits are placed on guns and ammunition. That is untrue. The U.S. Supreme Court has clearly held that the Second Amendment right “is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.” *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 626 (2008).

State Assault Weapons Bans have been upheld by multiple federal courts of appeal and the Supreme Court has declined to overturn the many challenges to those bans. So every other state banning assault weapons includes assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines, while Hawaii fails to fill those gaping holes in our laws.

The 1994 federal Assault Weapons Ban prohibited assault rifles, assault pistols and LCMs (over 10 rounds) for them, until it expired by its own terms in 2004. Sadly, the national political climate has not allowed the re-enactment of that ban on a federal level, despite studies showing its effectiveness. The Giffords Law Center reports that:

Studies have found that the federal ban on large capacity magazines helped to prevent violence and the use of high-capacity magazines in crime during the 10 years in which it was in effect. During the 10-year period the federal assault weapons and large capacity magazine ban was in effect, mass shooting fatalities were 70% less likely to occur compared to the periods before and after the ban. While the federal assault weapons and large capacity ammunition ban was in effect, the number of high-fatality mass shootings fell by 37%, and the number of people dying in such shootings fell by 43%. When the ban lapsed in 2004, there was a 183% increase in high-fatality mass shootings and a 239% increase in deaths from such shootings.

<https://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/large-capacity-magazines/>

Banning assault rifles and LCMs is important because they are designed to be capable of mass violence; their potential for mass murder far outweighs any plausible use for hunting, recreation or self-defense. The sooner this ban is created, the sooner we can start reducing the needless spread of assault rifles and LCMs in Hawai'i.

Ellen Godbey Carson,
Honolulu, Hawaii

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:55:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Chase	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly \\\ **Oppose** /// this bill with the utmost prejudice. This bill you are trying to impose is not to the will of the people. It is also not the norm or precedent that is set for the United States of America the country we are apart of, what you are attempting to do with this bill is an outlier of ideology, out of the 50 states I believe it is 9 states total that have enacted or attempted to enact bills of this nature. All those states continue to be brought to court from citizens upset that these bills were ever allowed to be enacted. And in several cases they have all be decided to be unconstitutional by the lower courts of those states.

I ask you the representatives why are you try to enact this legislation? What is the rationale for the bill as it pertains to the State of Hawai‘i? Are you using your oppinion as to why you are trying to enact this bill or is your rationale based on the facts? If you are saying its for crime; what are the factual numbers for the State of Hawai‘i crimes commited with each individual firearm, not as a whole lump sum but as each piece you are trying to ban with this legislation? What are the overall number of crimes commited without a firearm for the state, how do they compare?

You as representaives have an obligation to look for the truth based on the facts and to share with the constituents, the people, you represent why you are trying to do what you are doing.

You will make law abiding citizens criminals with this legislation. Many law abiding citizen use these type of firearms you want to ban with this bill to hunt. I know for a fact that they are used for hunting. Oahu make rules for the rest of the islands with out looking to get the opinions of the outer islands people, not the representative, the poeple. Go to Puna, go to Kau on the Big Island ask the Mauna Kea hunter. Ask the guys that hunt upcounty Maui, Molokai, Lani. find out from the people this bill will affect. The store and businesses this will bill will affect.

I again Strongly Oppose.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:56:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and committee members,

I stand in strong support for HB893 to ban assault weapons and extended magazines. There is a rising incidence of gun related crimes and shootings across the state. Steps must be taken now to control future escalation of gun crimes. As a nurse and healthcare provider who served 30+ years in the Army, I can attest to the extreme damage of assault-style weapons on the human body.

Hawai'i must ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony on this important topic.

Against HB893 Assault Weapons Ban

I am here to testify against HB893, specifically the ban on semi-auto rifles and shotguns, and their parts. I am also against the 10-round limitation.

My wife and I have a rifle and shotgun. We are both NRA certified (now expired) rifle and pistol instructors.

These restrictions leave upstanding citizens significantly, disadvantaged in their own home, against violent criminals who are willing to commit violent crime, will certainly not obey lesser laws of carrying weapons.

I have been working as a federal law enforcement agent/officer for the past 20 years. My wife would be passing the same background database checks as me. Whenever a firearm is purchased, the purchaser already goes through the same database checks as any law enforcement officer/agent.

Rather than limiting upstanding citizens in their 2nd Amendment Rights and their right to self defense, Hawaii should focus on laws that target criminals and their criminal behavior.

Laws should be changed as follows:

1. Increasing the penalties of felons, especially violent and repeat offenders;
2. Limit the authority of the parole board, which is much, much too lenient.
3. Bail/bond guidelines needs to be drastically overhauled, making bond significantly higher for felons, especially violent and repeat offenders.
4. Drug court is a sham, a farce and is much too lenient. Prison or at least inpatient/in-custody rehab is much, much more effective than out-patient, and is needed for harsher drug addictions like cocaine, meth, and opioids.
5. Hawaii's judicial system is much, much too lenient, and much more lenient than, for example the US federal system. Hawaii's criminal system needs to administer much longer, tougher sentences.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. K. Fujimoto, S/A

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:58:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawn Lathrop	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a military veteran and law, abiding citizen of the United States and the state of Hawaii, I find this bill to be incredibly offensive as well as disgustingly overreaching in its fascism and violation of our countries second amendment. First off no one seems to be able to define what a "assault rifle "actually is. If you try to use the caliber of round that is fired, you fail miserably because there are many hunting rifles that are bolt action or even lever action. They use the same rounds as a semi automatic rifle with a pistol grip. Speaking of which a pistol grip on a rifle does not give it any sort of advantage over any other rifle other than comfort for the shooter. Furthermore, Paris fled such as AR 15s have been used for home defense as well as sports shooting, competition, target shooting and even hunting for decades. Taking this bill and turning it into a law will not make anyone any safer! Gun crimes are committed by criminals who do not follow the law. Gun owners like myself obey the laws and do not hurt anybody. There's absolutely no reason to make a law that restricts what firearms we wish to own and possess. What is the purpose of this bill? For our Democrat controlled state government to exercise more control over its citizens? To give legislators in Hawaii the feeling of more power over those that they wish to control? If this bill passes in the name of equality of fairness Member of law-enforcement, especially those who provide security for lawmakers and legislators in Hawaii should be allowed to use any of the same firearms that are covered in this bill. This bill is nothing more than another attempt at power, hungry politicians to push towards fascism and a dictatorship in our state.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:59:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl oncea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands. I am VERY MUCH in favor of this bill! We are so special and we need to keep our islands safe and special.

Cheryl Oncea

808 342 2515

Against HB893 Assault Weapons Ban

I am here to testify against HB893, specifically the ban on semi-auto rifles and shotguns, and their parts. I am also against the 10-round limitation.

My husband and I have a rifle and shotgun. We are both NRA certified (now expired) rifle and pistol instructors.

These restrictions leave upstanding citizens significantly, disadvantaged in their own home, against violent criminals who are willing to commit violent crime, will certainly not obey lesser laws of carrying weapons.

My husband has been working as a federal law enforcement agent/officer for the past 20 years. I would be passing the same background database checks as him. Whenever a firearm is purchased, the purchaser already goes through the same database checks as any law enforcement officer/agent.

Rather than limiting upstanding citizens in their 2nd Amendment Rights and their right to self defense, Hawaii should focus on laws that target criminals and their criminal behavior.

Laws should be changed as follows:

1. increasing the penalties of felons, especially violent and repeat offenders;
2. limit the authority of the parole board, which is much, much too lenient.
3. Bail/bond guidelines needs to be drastically overhauled, making bond significantly higher for felons, especially violent and repeat offenders.
4. Drug court is a sham, a farce and is much too lenient. Prison or at least inpatient/in-custody rehab is much, much more effective than out-patient, and is needed for harsher drug addictions like cocaine, meth, and opioids.
5. Hawaii's judicial system is much, much more lenient, than, for example the US federal system.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Fujmoto

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:06:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RICHARD HOLIBAUGH	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, and thank you for reading my testimony. I urge you to oppose HB893. If enacted, it may subject THOUSANDS of legal State of Hawaii residents to a new law which may result in a felony charge. Hawaii already has numerous firearms laws which in order to legally acquire and possess require background checks, limited expiration dates for permits to acquire, and mandatory registration. My concern with this bill is current, legal firearms owners may be subject to prosecution for a misinterpretation of the law. In addition, the ban on rifle magazines which exceed 10 rounds will again subject thousands of legal owners to prosecution. Thank you for reading my testimony.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:07:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear State Legislature,

I'm a long term Oahu resident, military spouse, mother and grandmother, and voter. I also lost a dear friend, Kristine Cass and her daughter Sandra, to gun violence on 8/20/2011 in Honolulu. I enthusiastically support HB893 and ask you to do the same.

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands.

Sincerely,

Linda White

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:13:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill and HB125. These important safety measures are needed NOW, before we have any serious events that these bill would likely have prevented from happening. Gun safety measures are usually reactive, after a preventable tragedy. Let's be proactive and pass these reasonable requirements now, before there is post-disaster public outcry for them.

Mahalo!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:20:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marianne R Bickett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this bill. The tragedy of firearms is clear: who needs assault weapons? Why? We need to make our world safe for our keiki and innocent bystanders. It's time, please, please pass all legislation limiting firearms, information about firearms, and funding any needed money to enforce these laws. Let's make Hawai'i truly the land of Aloha.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:21:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Velazquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To be frank, this is simply a violation of our 2nd Amendment rights applied to all law abiding US citizens. There was once a time where I would defend Hawaii gun laws. While disagreeing with them, I would state my respect for politicians who, at the very least, committed themselves to rooting their ban on handgun magazines of 11 or higher in statistics. I can no longer respect Hawaiian gun laws with this bill. The attempt to blanket ban all semi automatic rifles, standard capacity magazines and shotguns shocks me.

Statistics isn't on your side. Studies have repeatedly shown that gun control across America has not accomplished its goal of reducing gun violence. Criminals do not obey the law, regardless of how much you choose to outlaw. The only people to be affected by these firearm restrictions are law abiding Americans. I have never committed a crime yet this bill aims to punish me along with a vast majority of gun owners. When legal gun owners become disarmed by you, criminals (who don't care for the firearm ban) will have more and better opportunities to take advantage of us.

There are no statistics based around gun violence in Hawaii being committed with .50 caliber rifles. I can't find any statistics based around gun violence in Hawaii being committed with "assault rifles", there is simply no data. A vast majority of gun crimes across America are committed with handguns not rifles. As a matter of fact, Hawaii in the year 2022 had the 2nd lowest gun violence across the country. In 2023, Hawaii had 64% less gun violence than the national average. Note how "assault rifles" weren't banned during those years.

I am often labelled a conservative when it's discovered that I am a gun owner. I am often labelled a communist when conservatives discover that I voted for democrats. It is my personal belief that owning a fire arm isn't about left or right but simply the American choice. However, this bill furthers the denigration of your party. I am exhausted with defending your actions when it comes to gun control and I am simply embarrassed to have voted in your favor. I regret arguing on the party's behalf and I am ashamed this garbage has finally wormed its way onto the islands.

Everything shows that Hawaiian gun laws are fine where they currently stand, yet this bill aims to further disrupt the lives of law abiding Americans.

Please reconsider any further gun restrictions and thank you for your time.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:24:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to keep our communities safer.

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:29:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Byron R Graper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:30:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this. No explanation needed

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:34:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Why is Hawaii last in so many categories? Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands. They must be banned.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:37:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron Burkey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This legislator directly violates my 2nd amendment rights and completely disregards the safety of individuals, while at the same time making thousands of law abiding citizens felons overnight. Nothing here will stop the access criminals have to illegal weapons such as ghost guns while limiting legal citizens who go through the long and tiresome process of acquiring firearms

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:44:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
troy samura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second ammendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:47:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph moncier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:54:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alvin jay Viernes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

THIS BILL IS ILLEGAL, YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS MESSING WITH OUR GOD'S GIVEN RIGHTS....AS A LAW ABIDING CITIZEN, I AND WE THE PEOPLE RESPECTFULLY OPPOSE 🗨️🗨️🗨️ THIS BILL HB893....CRIMINALS DONT AND NEVER WILL FOLLOW ANY GUN LAWS!!!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:55:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah van Aardenne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it violates our second ammendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:57:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in opposition to this bill because it violates my 2nd ammendment right. The only people that will suffer are the hard working citizens who follow the law

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:57:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Canham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a USAF (Vietnam) veteran, I carried and used an M16 assault rifle for a year. I know what assault rifles can do and I know that they do not belong in the hands of civilians--as so many tragic slaughters throughout the country sadly attest. I strongly support HB 893 and hope that you do as well.

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Remedy this now, please.

Yours,

Stephen Canham, PhD

Kaneohe, HI

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:59:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh Wiegand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is harmful to the citizens of Hawaii. Semi-automatic rifles are extremely important tools in invasive ungulate wildlife management by licensed hunters, a potentially life-saving tool in home and self-defense and a way for people to target shoot and practice rifle proficiency much cheaper than utilizing expensive bolt-action rifle ammunition.

With the cost of living in Hawaii constantly going up, a semi-automatic rifle allows Hawaii residents to have a weapon that can be utilized for all three of the above uses, at a fraction of a cost of having to buy separate rifles for each different application.

Hawaii already has some of the lowest gun violence numbers in the country and passing this bill would only take weapons out of the hands of law-abiding citizens.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:02:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:06:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darren Haalilio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed the bill HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:11:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 893.
it is a law-abiding citizen's rights to own a functioning firearm.

respectfully,

George Garcia

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:14:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan Fergerstrom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 in its entirety. It does nothing for public safety and it's a clear infringement on the 2nd amendment.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:16:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elai horn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Right to bear arms

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:20:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian kelly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB893 because it will violate our second amendment rights which "**Shall not be infringed**".

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:25:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tad Sumida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:28:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not pass HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:40:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richy Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** HB893 as it provides no logic and is a outright violation of the 2nd Amendment right that is given to all citizens of the United States, and will impose great strain on a significant number law abiding Hawai'i citizens of the United States by turning citizens into criminals overnight.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:42:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sione Moniati Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In a state where gun violence is not an issue this bill seems like a waste of time. The many people that do have these types of firearms have them legally. The people that are getting in trouble while having these types of firearms are the people that are going to jail for crime anyways. Banning certain firearms doesn't limit the criminals, it only limits the people who have guns legally. More effort, money, and time need to go towards investigating the illegal smuggling of firearms, drugs, and other things. With that more time needs to be put into investigating the people in our state government that are attached and corrupted by illegal activities.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:46:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Pikini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This violates my 2nd amendment rights as I citizen of the USA.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:50:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dyson Astrande	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second ammendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:57:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This law will be in violation of the US Constitution, 2 Ammendment.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:00:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas M. McCamley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

According to the office of the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii, for years now there have been more lawfully registered guns in the state than the total resident population, yet Hawaii continues to rank at the very bottom of gun crime nationally according to FBI statistics.

This is entirely due to the law abiding character of gun owners here, not the incessant unconstitutional measures that the ruling party inflicts upon its lawful citizens. HB 893 is a typical example of such a law, whose sole purpose is to torment and void inalienable rights, as it blatantly has no bearing on any aspect of the public good.

Depending on the survey, somewhere between 40% and 70% of the population here is seriously considering leaving the state due to decades of anti-business, anti-growth and anti-constitutional governance, yet as HB 893 shows, there clearly are legislators who feel that their time would be better spent attacking our Bill of Rights instead. We call on those legislators who retain a sense of working for the public good to vote against all bills of the ilk of HB 893, and keep the focus on pulling this state out of crisis.

Thank you

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:02:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bergin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill directly opposes the 2nd Ammendment and would not hold up if taken to Supreme Court.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:10:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Gallagher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a direct violation of our 2nd amendment rights. The reason we have these firearms is not to hunt or for home protection, it is to always ensure that our government stays in line and remind you that we the people are in charge of the government, not the other way around.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:11:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Revells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opose this measure on the ground it's interfering with my 2nd Amendments rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:13:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:15:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradle Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 893 (HB893), which proposes to establish prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles, as well as expand the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines. I believe that this bill infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens in Hawaii.

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. This fundamental right is essential for the protection of individual liberties and self-defense. By imposing bans on specific types of firearms and magazines, HB893 unduly restricts the ability of law-abiding citizens to exercise their constitutional rights.

Additionally, there is insufficient evidence to suggest that such bans would effectively reduce crime or enhance public safety. Criminals are unlikely to comply with these regulations, and the burden of compliance will fall disproportionately on responsible gun owners. Instead of targeting law-abiding citizens, efforts should be focused on enforcing existing laws and addressing the root causes of violence, such as mental health issues and socio-economic factors.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court has consistently upheld the individual right to bear arms in landmark cases such as *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *McDonald v. Chicago*. The recent decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* reaffirmed that the right to keep and bear arms extends beyond the home and includes the right to carry firearms in public for self-defense. HB893 contradicts these rulings and undermines the constitutional protections afforded to citizens.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the passage of HB893 and to uphold the Second Amendment rights of all citizens. It is crucial to protect our constitutional freedoms while also addressing public safety through effective and targeted measures that do not infringe upon individual liberties.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:17:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blanca Larson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:17:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns, and large-capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings across the US. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:18:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erek Riccobuano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Labeling a firearm as an "assault rifle" is often a strategic move to stigmatize and restrict any guns one disagrees with, regardless of their actual function or design. It's a clever linguistic tactic to sway public opinion and push for broader gun control measures.

The right to bear arms, enshrined in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, is fundamental to the principles of personal freedom and self-defense. By restricting this right, legislators are undermining not only our constitutional freedoms but also our ability to protect ourselves and our families. Such laws can lead to an imbalance where only law enforcement and criminals have access to firearms, leaving law-abiding citizens at a disadvantage. This not only contradicts the historical intent of the amendment but also potentially increases vulnerability in situations where immediate self-defense is necessary. Legislators should reconsider these restrictions, understanding that responsible gun ownership, coupled with education and regulation, can coexist with the maintenance of public safety.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:20:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need less violence.

Mahalo

Barbara Best, Wailuku

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:23:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:24:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sterling Michael Hao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern

as an American Citizen and the son of a soldier who paid the ultimate price with his life. I whole heartly believe that to bears arms is in fact a RIGHT and should not be infringed. I own friearms and I follow the law to the "T" . the focus should be on stopping illegal purchases and those who intend to break the law. I oppose HB893 as I am a law abiding citizen who in this dangerous times have the right to protect myself, my family and my belongings.

Thank You for Your Kind consideration

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:25:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maialisa Talbott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I firmly oppose this proposal.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:26:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
charles Ferrer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 893.

The firearms being targeted are some of the most popular for self-defense, sporting, and lawful use. Banning them infringes on law-abiding citizens' rights

The majority of violent crimes are committed with handguns, not rifles. FBI crime statistics consistently show that rifles account for a small percentage of gun homicides

I urge you to reject this misguided legislation that infringes on constitutional rights while doing little to enhance public safety. Instead, let's focus on policies that hold criminals accountable and protect law-abiding citizens

Instead of targeting responsible gun owners, lawmakers should focus on mental health resources, gang violence, and repeat offenders, which are the true drivers of violent crime.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:31:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Higa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to oppose assault pistol ban that includes commonly owned rifles and shotguns.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:41:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Medley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

893 HB RELATING TO FIREARMS.

2A rights doesn't discriminate against types, lengths, magazines or caliber. Stop infringing our rights OPPOSE! OPPOSE! OPPOSE!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:41:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Hoffman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Assault weapons and large capacity magazines should not be in the hands of civilians.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:42:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to Hawaii House Bill HB893

Aloha,

As a staunch defender of the Second Amendment, I strongly oppose House Bill HB893. This bill, if passed, would represent a significant encroachment on the fundamental rights of law-abiding citizens of Hawaii to bear arms for protection, sport, or any lawful purpose.

Constitutional Infringement: The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution clearly states that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." This right has been affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in landmark decisions like *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010), and most recently in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022). These decisions underscore that the right to bear arms is an individual right, applicable to all states, including Hawaii, through the Fourteenth Amendment.

HB893, with its restrictive measures on firearms, directly conflicts with these constitutional protections. By limiting where citizens can carry firearms, even with a license, this bill essentially nullifies the right to self-defense in public spaces where it might be most needed.

Historical and Legal Context: Hawaii's own legal history has been subject to scrutiny when it comes to Second Amendment rights. The recent ruling by the Hawaii Supreme Court in *State v. Wilson* (2024) attempted to reinterpret the state's constitutional right to bear arms in a manner that contradicts the federal interpretation. However, this interpretation has been criticized and does not align with the broader legal consensus as established by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Furthermore, cases like *Teter v. Lopez* (2023) in the Ninth Circuit have shown that even in Hawaii, attempts to broadly restrict the bearing of arms are often found unconstitutional. The Ninth Circuit's ruling in this case reaffirmed that the Second Amendment extends to all bearable arms, not just those used for self-defense in the narrowest sense, challenging the restrictive approach of HB893.

Public Safety and Rights: The argument often made for such stringent gun control laws is public safety. However, the right to bear arms is not just about personal defense; it's about the liberty to protect one's life, family, and property. Laws that disarm law-abiding citizens do not disarm criminals; they only make potential victims more vulnerable.

Moreover, the effectiveness of these laws in reducing crime is questionable. Crime statistics from states with more permissive gun laws often do not support the narrative that stricter gun control leads to safer communities. Instead, what we see is responsible gun ownership contributing to safer environments when coupled with education and proper legal oversight.

Conclusion: HB893 is not only an affront to the Second Amendment but also to the principles of freedom and personal responsibility that are foundational to our society. It creates an environment where only the law-abiding are disarmed, potentially turning them into easy targets.

I urge you to consider the long-term implications of passing such legislation. Instead, we should focus on solutions that respect constitutional rights while enhancing safety through education, responsible ownership, and addressing the root causes of crime rather than infringing on the rights of the citizens.

Please vote against HB893 to uphold our constitutional freedoms and ensure that the people of Hawaii can continue to exercise their rights to keep and bear arms without undue restriction.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry Duclayan

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:43:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah-Lyn Lokelani Jacobson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Shall not be infringed!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:46:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alden Mattos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Alden Mattos Strongly oppose this bill. Hawaii's government needs to stop proposing bills that violates are constitutional rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:47:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

... submitting testimony in opposition.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:49:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean J deMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sean J DeMello and i am in opposition to bill 893 due to the fact that this is an infringement of my Constitutional right to bear arms.

The Second Amendment is not a second class right.

thank you.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:51:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett McHenry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This again, is not in accordance with the 2nd Amendment of the United States constitution. You swore to uphold the constitution and this clearly is in violation of that.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:54:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass HB893. The citizens of Hawaii deserve to be free of assault weapons We deserve to feel safe

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:55:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke malczon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose. Leave our gun rights alone.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:07:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
s shimoda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893. This bill would instantly make the majority of gun owners in Hawaii criminals. This is unacceptable.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:11:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter J Long III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony with **ABSOLUTE & UNEQUIVOCAL OPPOSITION** to the **CATEGORICALLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL** proposal, HB893

This ridiculous bill seeks to outlaw most semi automatic rifles, many of which are the most widely owned and used firearms in the State and country as a whole!. All because of cosmetic adaptations that make it “scary looking.” It also effectively extends the magazine ban for pistols to **STANDARD** capacity magazines of many rifles. These proposals have already been struck down in the Supreme Court of the United States as well as Circuit Courts across the country!

Almost every firearms owner in the state has some variant of an AR15 rifle, it is absolutely **IN COMMON USE** by law abiding citizens in the state and thereby protected by the US Supreme Court case ‘District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)’ I would also add that over the last several years, thousands of responsible citizens have become new firearm owners due to the unbelievable government encroachment during the COVID pandemic. Many of those firearms are precisely the ones mentioned in this bill.

You, as state legislators who have taken an oath to uphold the US Constitution as well as the Constitution of the State of Hawaii are attempting to criminalize the possession of a tool that millions across our state and nation depend on to protect themselves and their families, simply because the tool “looks scary”. This bill is nothing more than an attempt to criminalize millions of responsible firearms owners is order to create an illusion of safety. It will only hurt the segment of the population you think you are attempting to protect. Criminals do not follow laws, will not rid themselves of their semi automatic weapons, and will remain on par with the government as the exclusive owners of semi auto firearms. In a world of politicians who want nothing more than the eradication of individual liberties, wealth and power and criminals that only want wealth and power, that’s a pretty scary proposition to law abiding citizens that simply want to be left alone and raise their families.

This faulty bill will also outlaw millions of **STANDARD** capacity magazines that are already widely in use within the state. Again, lawfully owned property that, with the stroke of a pen, becomes contraband, and a felon of the, now, responsible owner.

This proposal is in poor taste as it seeks to criminalize law abiding citizens and addresses a NON ISSUE in the State of Hawaii. This is fear mongering at the expense of citizens' civil rights.

I urge the Legislature to REJECT this proposal.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:13:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this ban. I do not see how banning these items will prevent criminals from acquiring weapons and using them for harm.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:27:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB893 I am a lawful citizen of the USA and the state of Hawaii I am not a criminal I sometimes travel to different states to hunt and want to hunt with my semi automatic rifle that is registered to me why are you trying to deny me of my right to go to another state with my rifle and return with it. You are penalizing lawful citizens go and take the guns from criminals not us law abiding citizens this is slap in the face for us.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:40:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Coralie Matayoshi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tragically, Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns, and large capacity magazines for these weapons. Assault weapons have been used in too many mass shootings including at schools. Their military features are designed for battlefields, not civilian use. There is no good reason to allow assault weapons and ammunition in Hawaii, and even if there were, these reasons couldn't possibly outweigh the potential threat to human life.

Please support HB893 to make Hawaii safer for everyone, especially our children.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:46:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Marvin	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

My name is Chris Marvin. I am a resident of Honolulu and a decorated Army combat veteran. I am strongly in favor of House Bill 893 to close the loop hole in state law regarding assault weapons.

As part of my military training, I learned to carry, care for, disassemble, clean, reassemble, load, aim, shoot, and troubleshoot an M-16. When I went to combat, my weapon was upgraded to the newer M-4 rifle. Both of these firearms, issued to me by the US Army, are comparable to the civilian AR-15, and many other military-style semi-automatic firearms that are currently legal to buy and possess in Hawai'i.

There are two other crucial lessons I learned about my military combat rifle. First, from the moment it came off the assembly line until I pulled the trigger in Afghanistan, the purpose of my rifle — and every rifle like it — was to take human life. Because of this, I also learned a deep respect for these weapons, a respect based upon a rational fear of the power they hold and the power imbued upon me when in possession of these weapons.

This committee and all legislators in Hawai'i should heed these two lessons with grave sincerity.

Every legislator needs to know that a military-style semi-automatic rifle – which is legal in Hawai'i – can send 5.56 millimeter projectiles at three times the speed of sound into a human body with startling accuracy at a rate of up to six rounds per second. Once these rounds hit a human body – say an elementary school student or a police officer (whose body armor is likely to be pierced by the small, high-velocity round) – that projectile will tumble through the body cavity, ricocheting off bones, changing direction, eviscerating organs, exiting through a gaping hole, and leaving a path of destructive trauma that greatly increases the likelihood of death.

When you hear about a mass shooting on the mainland and they say three people were killed and ten were injured, there is a good chance the shooter did not use a military-style semi-automatic rifle like the AR-15. When you read that 16 were killed and only two were injured, you can assume it was a military-style semi-automatic rifle. These weapons are good at many things, but one thing they are not good at is leaving behind injured survivors.

HB893 is being heard in the same committee room as three bills to strengthen our fireworks prohibition laws. All of those bills were proposed in the wake of a tragedy. All of those bills are too late to save the five lives that were lost and the 20 people who were injured.

Unless we act now to prohibit military-style semi-automatic rifles, it is very likely that we will be in a room like this in the not-too-distant future trying to pass this same law in the wake of mass shooting tragedy.

What happened in Salt Lake was an accident by people in search of enjoyment who loved all those gathered around them. Now shift the paradigm to an individual set on doing harm, who walked into that same gathering with an AR-15. The news reports would be telling us about 20 dead and five wounded, not the reverse.

If the man in Waianae who tried to drive a front loader with barrels of fuel into his neighbor's carport had simply walked in with a military-style semi-automatic rifle – which one can legally purchase in this state – the death toll of that incident would have been over a dozen.

And when this happens at a beach park, shopping mall, church, sporting event, or – god forbid – a school, this legislature will step right up and ban these dangerous weapons.

Why are we waiting? Why can't we enact a law that the vast majority of Hawai'i residents support before tragedy strikes?

Over three-quarters of the state's residents support a prohibition of military-style semi-automatic rifles. That includes nearly two-thirds of gun owners. So when the gun extremists testify, know that they only speak for themselves and their small group of hobbyist friends. They don't speak for most people in Hawai'i, and they shouldn't be given undue influence by legislators, who have an obligation to their constituents. Plain and simple, three out of four of us don't want them possessing weapons of war on our islands.

What's more, this is a law that the vast majority of Hawai'i voters think we already have on the books. Because the state bans "assault pistols," many people believe that we have a comprehensive assault weapons ban on the books. Citizens are shocked to find out this is not true. They are dismayed to learn that their legislators have not put one of the easiest and most popular gun safety laws on the books to protect our keiki.

Every other state that has gun laws as strong as Hawai'i's bans assault weapons. We have allowed ourselves to fall behind on this measure. Hawai'i ranks 7th in the country in gun law strength. (We have fallen from as high as 3rd in recent years because of the lack of this specific law.) Of the top 11 states, nine ban military-style semi-automatic weapons. Colorado is on a path to do so this year, and when they do, Hawai'i will be left alone as the only state that claims to be a national leader in gun violence prevention that fails to prohibit these deadly weapons. Weapons that put the "mass" in mass shooting.

Passing this bill is simply closing a loophole in a bill the state passed decades ago before the Clinton-era federal assault weapons ban expired. This action is long overdue.

The gun lobby will email you and call you – they may even fly in from the mainland to tell you – that these weapons are necessary for hunting or for ranchers in rural areas. This is a blatant lie. This is propaganda created and delivered by the very companies that manufacture and sell these guns. They will twist the truth and invent lies as part of their profit-driven motives.

The weapons that will be prohibited by this law are meant to kill human beings, not cows, pigs, or deer. There are dozens and dozens of other weapons that are more suitable for hunting and ranching needs. Hunters and ranchers don't require the high cyclic rate and muzzle velocity that comes with a military-style semi-automatic rifle. Those features are reserved exclusively for people with the intent to kill humans.

I took my M-4 to Afghanistan knowing that at times my job would be to suppress and kill the enemy. I knew and respected the power that I wielded. I humbly and urgently ask this legislature to know and understand the power you wield – the power to protect the citizens of Hawai'i from the tragic toll of gun violence at the hands of military-style semi-automatic rifles that have ravaged other states before it is too late.

Please don't make us sit through a hearing like this in a future session in the wake of a mass shooting. Protect us now!

Mahalo piha,

**Capt. Chris Marvin
U.S. Army, retired**

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:06:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kent Kurihara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This testimony is in OPPOSITION to adding any further restrictions on. The government continues to overstep it's authority in attempting to regulate rights protected by the Constitution. While there are many ways to argue this, the easiest way to relate this to other protected rights would be to say "There is freedom of religion, but the Government has the right WHICH religion is allowable, and HOW you practice it will be regulated". It's an absurd argument which completely ignores the rights of the citizens.

Kent Kurihara

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:12:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:14:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Hoapili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to this Bill HB893 because it goes against our second amendment rights To bear arms

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:14:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Li Lundin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the extension of Hawaii's assault weapons ban to rifles, long guns and large capacity magazines.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:16:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Agliam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:19:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Vasquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Your playing with my 2nd amendment rights 🙄

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:23:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lloyd Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is aggregious and infringes on 2A rights from the constituion. Hawaii already has the stric test gun laws in the nation and any additional laws are unnecessary and infringe on the "Right to Bear Arms" please do nto pass this needless legislation. Many of us in the Gun Community posses weapons with large capacity magazines and these laws will no stop criminal from owning ans using them. They only limit law-abiding citizens from protecting themsleves and excercisign their rights.

Mahalo for letting me tesify.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:25:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clark Landrum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Grape shot was invented in the early 1700s far before the 2nd amendment was ratified, the caliber used for grape shot ranged from .458 up to .62 and each shot (pull of the trigger) contained upwards of 20 of these .458-.62 ball bearings . The devices that fired these charges were not just owned by rich naval forces but also quite frequently by the common man with evidence , calibers much larger than .50 cal have been used for hundreds of years and in great volumes . I understand that "50 cal " may sound scary to you but I promise the Hawai'i State gov these firearms have been around for a very long time(Before the 2nd amendment was written) and there are many lawful reasons for owning a 50 caliber firearm. Suggesting that the 50 caliber is an assault weapon or criminal device is proving you are more than out of your waters, it is completely incoherent and not abiding by the practical understanding we have of firearms

if you ban the .50 caliber you will be banning:

All armalite 15s chambered in 50 beowulf

All pistols in 50 ae

Countless hunting rifles

Not 50 bmg machine guns because those are already banned

Not the barret semi auto 50 cal which is the only 50 caliber rifle in use by the US military (already banned by name)

I would also like to ask if you know what a 50 caliber fire arm is ? are we talking about the 50 ae, which is a round used for pistols ? are we discussing the 50 bmg round or even the metric equivalent 12.7x 108? are we discussing the 50 beowulf?will you be able to tell the difference between .50 and .510? are you going to train all officers on how to exactly measure a chamber or round using calipers and precision micrometers? will your officers understand when they are encountering an error with their measuring equipment ? All firearms except for a few exceptions are fully modular allowing the user to mix and match different caliber sizes , this includes the extremely popular AR15 , the AR15 easily accepts 50 caliber rounds with no knowledge or tools needed. Will you be able to inspect every single ar15 across every island to make sure it is not a 50 caliber ? You will cause an immense amount of confusion, heartbreak, strife and at the worst

radicalization if you pass this bill. You will stop zero crimes but instead jail people who are passionate Americans who live here for freedom, we do not live in America for scrutinization of the difference between 1 or 2 millimeter .

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:30:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gavin Lohmeier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly oppose this bill. infringes on our second ammendment rights. they are not assault rifles, they are semi-auto rifles. they are not high capcity magazines, they are standard capacity magazines

sincerely,

Gavin Lohmeier

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:37:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:39:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose- This seems to be a continuation of the wish to over ride the Constitution. Again-criminals will get and use whatever type of gun they want. UNTIL THOSE BREAKING THE EXISTING LAWS HAVE CONSEQUENCES- AND KNOW THEY WILL, THEN ADDING ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE LAW ABIDING CITIZENS IS MISGUIDED. Please do the work that needs to be done in cutting out crime that seems to be ever-increasing and the drug problems that help cause it. Put our tax dollars towards that, not infringing on the constitution.

Thank you

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:41:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nestor L Robles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to Hawaii HB893

I oppose Hawaii HB893 because it represents an unnecessary and harmful overreach that could infringe upon individual rights and undermine foundational legal principles. Specifically, my concerns stem from several key areas:

- 1. Violation of Constitutional Rights:** If the bill infringes upon any rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution—particularly those outlined in the Bill of Rights—such as freedom of speech, the right to bear arms, or due process, it risks conflicting with established U.S. Supreme Court rulings. For example, in *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010), the Court extended Second Amendment protections to the states, affirming that state laws cannot infringe upon these federally protected rights. Any effort to circumvent or restrict these rights should be scrutinized carefully to ensure it does not violate constitutional principles.
- 2. Lack of Necessity and Effectiveness:** In many cases, laws that target specific issues without addressing the root causes can create more problems than they solve. The bill may be an overreaction to a problem that could be better addressed with more targeted, thoughtful measures that respect both individual freedoms and the public good. Simply passing a law without solid evidence of its necessity or effectiveness may lead to unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens while failing to resolve the underlying issues.
- 3. Federal Precedent and Supremacy Clause:** The U.S. Constitution’s Supremacy Clause (Article VI) establishes that federal law takes precedence over state law in matters of constitutional significance. If HB893 conflicts with federal law or U.S. Supreme Court precedents, it could be struck down as unconstitutional. For instance, if HB893 proposes restrictions that conflict with Supreme Court decisions like *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), which reaffirmed the individual right to bear arms, the bill could be challenged on constitutional grounds.
- 4. Potential for Unintended Consequences:** The implementation of HB893 could have unintended consequences, particularly in the form of over-criminalization or the erosion of personal freedoms. Laws that overreach often lead to unnecessary legal complications and a disproportionate impact on vulnerable or marginalized groups. Additionally, overzealous enforcement could undermine public trust in government institutions and foster a sense of injustice among citizens.

5. **Public Opinion and Community Impact:** It's crucial that any legislation reflects the values and needs of the community it aims to serve. Without robust public dialogue and engagement, HB893 risks imposing policies that may not align with the values of Hawaii's diverse population. Laws should be crafted with care, ensuring they are truly in the public interest and not based on political or ideological agendas.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:47:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Sakaue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Per the 2nd Amendment, no firearms should be banned!!! Especially by the Corrupt State of Hawaii!!!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:51:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Mejia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Hawaii HB893. This bill is poorly written. It looks like a roll-over of SB3196 from 2024.

Section 134-4(f) states a date of July 8, 2024 when the current year is 2025. Section 6 of HB893 also states that this Act does not affect rights & duties mature before it's effective date, how is this explained? The wording is vague.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:57:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Mckay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **strong opposition** to **HB893**, which seeks to prohibit assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles, as well as expand the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines. This bill is yet another attempt to **infringe upon the Second Amendment rights** of law-abiding citizens in Hawai‘i, and I urge you to **reject** this unconstitutional measure.

HB893 Harms Law-Abiding Citizens, Not Criminals

This legislation will **not** make our communities safer—it will only restrict **responsible gun owners** while criminals continue to ignore the law. Instead of targeting criminals, **HB893 punishes responsible gun owners who use these firearms for self-defense, sport shooting, and hunting.**

- **The term "assault rifle" is misleading.** These firearms function no differently than many legally owned semi-automatic rifles used by hunters and competitive shooters.
- **The ban on .50 caliber rifles is unnecessary.** These firearms are rarely used in crimes and are primarily owned by enthusiasts and collectors.
- **Restricting magazine capacity will not stop violent crime.** Criminals do not follow magazine laws, but law-abiding citizens are left at a disadvantage when defending their homes and families.

HB893 is a Violation of Constitutional Rights

The **Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution** states that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” This bill directly violates that right by making it harder for citizens to **defend themselves.**

- The **U.S. Supreme Court** has ruled in **District of Columbia v. Heller** and **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen** that restrictive gun control laws are unconstitutional.
- Hawai‘i already has some of the strictest gun laws in the country. **Further restrictions do nothing to deter crime but make self-defense more difficult.**

Gun Control is Not Crime Control

Instead of attacking the rights of law-abiding citizens, Hawai'i's lawmakers should focus on **tackling real crime issues**—such as repeat offenders, illegal gun trafficking, and gang violence. **HB893 does not address crime—it only restricts those who follow the law.**

I urge you to **oppose HB893** and stand for the **constitutional rights of Hawai'i's citizens**. Our state should be focusing on enforcing existing laws, not creating new ones that strip away freedoms from responsible individuals.

Vote NO on HB893.

Mahalo,

Tamara McKay



HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:03:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin h	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We don't need more frivolous or unlawful laws. This won't solve anything and goes against our rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:05:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason A. Mejia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Hawaii HB893. This Bill will criminalize the thousands of law abiding & legal firearms owners in the State of Hawaii. These legal firearms owners already followed the rules and laws to legally obtain their firearms and this bill does nothing to account for that.

HB893 will only FUEL the underground black market for firearms, just like the prohibition & black market of fireworks. **THIS WILL GRAVELY JEOPARDIZE PUBLIC SAFETY!**

Instead of attacking and criminalizing the legal & law abiding firearms owners, please put more effort into catching criminals & stopping the criminal activity that already exists here in Hawaii.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:06:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen please stop trying to pass laws to take away my gun rights year after year.

Aloha,

I am providing written testimony in **opposition** to HB893.

HB893 attempts to redefine the term “assault rifles” and “assault shotgun” to be banned along with standard capacity magazines. This bill will drastically increase restrictions on firearms and parts that are not an issue in Hawaii. I, and all other legal, law-abiding firearms owners, have done nothing but practice strict, lawful, and responsible firearm ownership. I find it incredibly frustrating that every year brings further attempts to criminalize law-abiding gun owners rather than enhancing penalties and punishments for illegal possession and use of a firearm.

The provision to ban detachable magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds does nothing but instantly criminalize law-abiding firearms owners. There are likely hundreds of thousands of legally owned standard capacity magazines in the hands of Hawaii residents. There is no grandfather clause and thus, anyone who doesn't know about HB893 will face misdemeanor charges, potentially felony implications.

Under HB893 “assault rifles” and “assault shotguns” cannot be brought into Hawaii. This means no firearms owner can travel to the mainland for competition, certification training, or safety classes since they will not be able to return with said firearms. Limiting those who would seek proficiency and safe operation of firearms is downright nonsensical.

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), through the *NYSRPA vs. Bruen* decision (2022), recently established “text, history, and tradition” as the new standard for jurisprudence regarding the Second Amendment. HB893 provides no historical analogs to justify its consideration. Reaching further back, the SCOTUS decision in *District of Columbia vs. Heller* (2008) noted that arms in common use for lawful purposes cannot be banned. There are an estimated 20 to 44 million legally owned “assault rifles” used for lawful purposes in the United States, which more than qualifies as “in common use.” Magazines are also considered arms by definition and thus a ban on standard capacity magazines is, by and large, an arms ban. HB893 demonstrates a blatant disregard of numerous SCOTUS decisions and should not be considered for approval.

Mahalo.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:11:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Casey Richmond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Please support the constitutional rights of your constituents and vote NO. mahalo. Chanara Richmond HD42

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:14:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue Hornik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please plug this yawning Assault weapons loophole to keep our children safe! Hawaii is the only state that has an assault weapons law that doesn't ban assault rifles, assault shotguns, and large capacity magazines. We've witnessed massacre after massacre perpetrated by these weapons and it's time to act before tragedy hits. Weapons designed for war shoot multiple rounds rapidly to kill as many enemies as possible. They have no place in our communities.

Please help us support HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:32:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas McCormick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose because it violates my second ammendment rights!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:36:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am asking you to support this bill today. We have had an assault weapons law in Hawaii but it fails to ban assault rifles, shotguns and large capacity magazines for these. So many very tragic mass shootings have happened with these weapons. Do we really want that to happen here? In one of our schools? These are military weapons, not for civilian use.

Please support this very important bill. Thank you.

Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:56:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Weissman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our schools.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:00:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sadly, this bill not only infringes on our
Constitutional Second Amendment Rights,
it also uses the "Hot Button" designations
so dear to political theater!

As a responsible gun owner I am offended by the
almost total lack of knowledge and research shown in
preparation and framing of this proposed bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:00:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Joiner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must extend the bill to ban weapons of mass destruction in Hawaii. There is NO place and no good reason to have battleground weapons in our community. If anyone out there can name ONE reason why our citizenry needs one of these around the house, let them go before the cameras to explain it. If they can't explain it, send them off to fight a war somewhere.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:05:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teina Anthony	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Second Amendment Rights

Chairman, members of the committee, and fellow citizens,

I come before you today to express my unwavering support for the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and to advocate for the preservation of our fundamental right to keep and bear arms. This right, enshrined in the Bill of Rights, is not merely a privilege but a cornerstone of American liberty, ensuring the ability of individuals to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

The Founding Fathers, with their deep understanding of tyranny and oppression, recognized the necessity of an armed citizenry. The Second Amendment was not intended solely for hunting or sport but as a safeguard against government overreach and as a means of self-defense. History has repeatedly shown that disarmed populations are vulnerable to both crime and despotism. The right to bear arms is an essential check on the potential abuse of power and a key component of a free society.

Beyond historical context, the practical benefits of firearm ownership are evident. Each year, countless Americans use firearms for self-defense, often without firing a single shot. Law-abiding gun owners prevent crimes, deter violence, and protect their loved ones. Studies indicate that defensive gun uses outnumber criminal gun uses, underscoring the importance of responsible firearm ownership. Restrictive gun laws disproportionately affect law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminals, who, by definition, do not follow the law.

Moreover, the right to self-defense is a natural right. Law enforcement, while crucial to maintaining order, cannot be everywhere at all times. Individuals must have the ability to defend themselves when faced with imminent threats. The right to keep and bear arms levels the playing field for the most vulnerable members of our society, including women, the elderly, and those living in high-crime areas. This issue is particularly relevant in places like Hawaii, where violent crime has been on the rise. Citizens must be able to protect themselves in the face of increasing threats and ensure their personal safety when law enforcement response times may not be immediate.

Opponents of the Second Amendment often advocate for stricter gun control measures, believing they will lead to greater safety. However, empirical evidence suggests otherwise. Jurisdictions

with the most stringent gun control laws often experience higher rates of violent crime. Criminals are emboldened when they know their victims are defenseless. Instead of targeting law-abiding gun owners, policymakers should focus on enforcing existing laws, addressing mental health concerns, and ensuring that criminals face swift and just consequences for their actions.

In conclusion, the Second Amendment is a fundamental right that must be defended. It empowers citizens, deters crime, and upholds the principles of liberty upon which our nation was founded. I urge this committee to reject any measures as suggested in this proposed bill that infringe upon this right and to stand firm in support of the constitutional freedoms that define America. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Teina Anthony

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:05:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kynan Oishi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am and have always been a law abiding citizen, serving our state in the Army National Guard and have been in Lahaina during the disaster, as well as at the Inauguration 4 years ago to deter rioting in our Nation's capital.

This bill, whom would only affect law abiding citizens such as I, seeks to demonize a community that has nothing but aloha for our homes. Semi-Automatic weapons are NOT capable of firing more than one bullet per trigger pull, and therefore is NOT and Assault Weapon.

Most of the crime committed in our beautiful home islands was by felons with handguns. The same felons who were not deterred by our laws against murder, rape and robbery, and therefore will not be deterred by a bill such as this.

HB893 will simply only be unconstitutional punishment to a community that has done no wrong, and does not wish to do wrong. Should state legislators, whom serve the people, wield the powers granted to them by their charges as tools to censure the innocent? Many tragic traffic deaths are caused by alcoholic beverage consumption above the legal limit, so therefore should we shut down every single bar and nightclub after 9pm, and impose restrictions on all liquor for all citizens?

A ban of firearms does little to curb the rising crime rate. Due to high cost of living, lack of affordable housing, and a seemingly impotent justice system and lack of care from legislators whom are more focused on punishing the innocent, our communities suffer the consequence of inaction and apathy. HB893 is little more than a token hand wave to a burgeoning societal and economic issue that fails to address the underlying issues plaguing our ohanas and our home.

I stand in opposition to this bill, not because I wish for nothing to be done, but because it does nothing to solve our current issues in Hawaii. It instead deprives upstanding citizens who love our island home of their rights to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I implore the House to

please consider the rights of the people afforded by the American Constitution before voting on this bill commences.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:13:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gary post	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The proposed gun bans are unconstitutional.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:29:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB-893.

This bill expands upon Hawaii's existing "assault pistol" ban to now include commonly owned rifles and shotguns by instituting restrictions based on a "single feature" test. These firearms are widely used for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting, and have now been vilified due to cosmetic features. Additionally, HB 893 would impose a ban on standard capacity magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. These so-called "high capacity" magazines are, in fact, standard equipment for commonly owned firearms that many Americans legally and effectively use for an entire range of legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or competition.

Respectfully, I STRONGLY encourage you to vote NO on HB-893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:45:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Just another infringement (on an already endless list of previous infringements) on our god given and constitutionally protected 2nd amendment rights by needlessly making it more difficult for law abiding citizens to exercise their right while making them criminals without committing a crime. Legislators need to stop writing and pushing unconstitutional bills. Those who do should be considered unfit for their positions and grounds for their removal. If anything, the law needs to provide for civil and criminal penalties for government officials whose restrictions such as these cause citizens to not be able to defend themselves against criminals who ignore such restrictions along with all others.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:50:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Kastle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:56:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William R Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 893. This bill expands upon Hawaii’s existing “assault pistol” ban to now include commonly owned rifles and shotguns by instituting restrictions based on a “single feature” test. These firearms are widely used for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting, and have now been vilified due to cosmetic features. I oppose a ban based on cosmetic features.

Additionally, HB 893 would impose a ban on standard capacity magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. These so-called “high capacity” magazines are, in fact, standard equipment for commonly owned firearms that many Americans legally and effectively use for an entire range of legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or competition.

Mahalo for allowing me to Oppose this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:57:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaunani Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I WILL ALWAYS OPPOSE ANY BILL THAT GOES AGAINST MY CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHT AS A UNITED STATES CITIZEN.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:59:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caleb Cantrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this bill because it violates my second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:02:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

I oppose HB893.

Kind regards,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

District 45, Wai'anae Resident

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:02:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iric Viscarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear, Legislators,

I'm opposing HB 893, I'm always a believer and a supporter of second amendment rights of all law abiding citizens!

Iric Viscarra

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:04:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifford Deanson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed HB893 because it violates our second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:13:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I as a citizen and a Hawaii National Guardsmen feel that this goes against our very own constitution by taking away our rights to the 2nd amendment. Our second amendment is a right not a privilege and why should we be punished to the right to defend ourselves. This questions my decision to defend and serve our country.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:19:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond McGuire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB893 is a far reaching, anti-firearm bill that makes even hunting firearms illegal. There is no need to ban what is defined in this proposal. I support firearms safety, but this proposal seems to be more about taking away and limiting people than making things safer. I strongly oppose HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:20:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Aguiar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB893 because it imposes on my 2nd amendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:20:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Alexa King-Foley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to this Bill because it is an infringement on the Second Amendment. If law-abiding citizens are restricted by such a law, they may be unable to defend themselves against criminals ignoring such restrictions.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:24:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles jury	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Against my rights, and the 2nd amendment.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:30:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:32:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Im oppose to bill HB 893.Banning magazines will not bring down crime.People will still buy high capacity magazines to protect themselves and family.Our government has already failed to protect us with more police.Less police more crime.What are you going to law abiding citizens who already possess it,break into there house?That is tyranic and communist.Oh forgot hawaii is run by communist.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:41:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Yoshicedo, DVM	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB893 and the ban on assault weapons in Hawaii. There is no good reason for any citizen to possess an assault weapon. Having these high capacity weapons in circulation only endangers innocent people and children in our community. Please keep Hawaii safe and pass this important legislation.

Aloha,
Jill Yoshicedo, DVM
Kailua, Oahu

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:48:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylor Bishaw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB893 due to it violating my second amendment rights as a U.S. citizen. Gun dont kill people, people do

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:59:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikolas Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 as it is an offense to my rights as a United States citizen as this bill completely violates my second amendment right to "...keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:05:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Fukuhara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!

Please dont let this bill pass!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:25:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:27:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Shall not be infringed!!!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:30:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. My 2nd amendment rights "Shall not be infringed"

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:36:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Cavitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in today with great dissatisfaction as a law abiding citizen who owns firearms and parts that HB893 would immediately cause me to be a criminal for the simple ownership of said items if this bill were to become law. This is ridiculously unconstitutional and should not even be heard in this body. I am ashamed to see such arrogance by supposed law makers attempting to subvert our God given rights in order to please political agendas and those who support the destruction of this nation.

I will do my best to educate you all of the realities of what is being proposed in this bill and how much harm it will actually cause, while I guarantee it will not prevent a single crime of violence.

This bill is a mashup of multiple failed bills in past years that has received thousands upon thousands of opposing testimonies, yet somehow keeps leaching its way into bills heard year after year. This is truly an assault bill, yet the assault is on the comfort, well being and pursuit of happiness of those who abide by the law and legally own firearms in Hawaii. HB893 will make all but 2 firearms I own illegal to possess. Despite my firearms never harming a single person or being used in any crimes, I would become a criminal for simply not allowing my rights to be stolen from me by uneducated politicians.

One major concern I have is rhe term "Assault Weapon" is a political statement and not a fact or a true definition. It is incredibly one sided political statement that is used by politicians on one side to cause fear of those without rational knowledge of the tools that which are firearms. In it of itself, a firearm is incapable of assaulting someone on its own. It is a tool that has the ability to sit without the ability to control itself. A human being can load a cartridge and acruate a part to cause the bullet, propelled by gunpowder, to exit through a barrel and at something it is pointed at. A person can be an assaulter or be assaulted but a firearm cannot in its own capacity be an assault weapon. Yes, a firearm of any dimension, caliber, magazine capacity, material or design could be used to assault someone. That includes all firearms that this bill does not prohibit as well. To call a firearm an assault rifle shows blatant lack of knowledge or concern or ability to research the reality of the topic. This misuse of terminology alone proves the malicious intentions of the authors of this bill to cause fear and mislead unknowing individuals. I am

personally left hurt year after year as I waste time, am put into a deep state of fear that I will be forced out of Hawaii as a result of standing up for my rights that are not granted by the state or this government, yet understood as inalienable and something that both the Hawaii state constitution and the United States of America's constitution state ever so clearly that this particular right, "SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED." This bill is designed to make criminals out of law abiding citizens. This would allow more people to be arrested and lose their rights to possess firearms and make it easier for total control of the population. I am not a conspiracy theorist. This is happening in our face every year through this legislative body. It is not the right of this government to take away an inalienable right. It is in fact your duty to protect that which is being attempted to be stolen via bills like HB893.

As written in the bill, Hawaii has the 3rd lowest firearm death rate as of 2022 and this bill is simply not needed to prevent harm of others with firearms in this state. Many of the parts listed in this bill that will be made illegal to own are in fact tools used to create a safer shooting experience for the one using the tool and I would argue for those around them as well. The parts such as an adjustable stock for example are something imperative to safe shooting and handling for the thousands upon thousands of law abiding shooters in Hawaii. My arm length is not the same as my wife, my mother, my father or my sons. The adjustment allows for proper handling of the firearm when aiming. I would think anyone with half a brain could understand that not having proper handling of a firearm in use would put all in danger. The part being banned called a handguard is imperative to the person firing the weapon to not be burned as the barrel puts out intense heat that could scald and mame the individual firing the weapon. Are you telling me that my son should be burned if I take him to learn to hunt or to a firing range? The muzzle device so ignorantly referred to as a flash suppressor is not always the case. I shoot competitively, hunt, shoot recreationally at the range and teach firearm safety. The many various firearms I have use multiple types of muzzle devices, theaded onto the barrel for a multitude of reasons and many arguably are for safety. Many shooters use a compensator or something to reduce recoil. When shooting for USPSA competition shooting events we are timed and move avoid the range. At these events I shoot with many active Police officers and military members as well as law abiding citizens who enjoy the hobby and some do professionally. We often use compensators to reduce recoil so we can accurately and safely handle firearms in the manner necessary to compete with the community. This is a world wide community and is something that would be non existent in Hawaii going forward if this bill becomes law. We also use foregrips, a grip used by the non trigger hand in order to safely handle the firearm in the most secure way. This reduces a shooter from miss handling a firearm and makes them and those around them safer. These parts do not make any firearm more dangerous. They in fact cause them to be safer. A unbelievably mass majority of firearm owners in this state and nation are law abiding citizens and safely handle firearms. There have been absolutely ZERO crimes or deaths in Hawaii with 50. Caliber firearms in the commission of a crime. Why ban something that is not used even once for the harming of anyone in this state? Those who are horrible and choose to use them in crimes are not going to be prevented from causing harm using firearms with or without these parts. Someone determined to cause harm will unfortunately do so. Regulations, or abominations like this bill seek to prevent harm by litteraly only arming the criminals and taking away the tools law abiding citizens would need to defend themselves in the safest way possible. Magazine capacity doesn't stop the deadly force of a firearm. 2 shots were fired this week and killed a knife wielding

suspect on Maui by a police officer. 2 rounds from a handgun. If that were to have been a citizen firearm and used in a crime, what would HB893 have done to prevent a death? I can carry more 10 round magazines on me concealed than I can 30 round magazines. As a shooter I would have a lower profile when shooting from the ground in the prone position with a rifle loading 10 round magazine as it doesn't protrude as far from the bottom as a standard capacity 30 round magazine. I can change magazines in less than 1 second. Someone can also simply ignore the law and still possess those standard capacity 30 round magazines and do whatever harm this bill seeks to prevent. There is absolutely no way this bill can prevent harm with firearms. It will only harm law abiding citizens. The best way to prevent harm is to educate, teach firearm safety, have a strong firearms owners community throughout the islands with those like myself who encourage education and safe practices. I do more to prevent firearm violence than a single member of Hawaii's legislative body and I am confident of that. I wonder why it is I am never asked what I think though from you folks? I get 2 days to submit testimony in a hurried state and forced to cram words together between time spent after work and after tucking my children into bed.

I have to go do my job now as a father, a husband and a protector of my household and cannot spend all night writing to educate you all of the massive flaws within HB893. This has taken time I will never get back and it genuinely harms my families well being. My wife and I are looking for jobs and a home in other states as we will not be able to support a state and pay taxes to criminals that work to take away our rights. I think this bill is unconstitutional and will result in millions of dollars of losses in the courts when the citizens sue and win. It will damage homes and cause law abiding men and women to be seen as criminals for something that is perfectly legal as I write this testimony.

There are far more horrible aspects to this bill and I wish I could simply pass my knowledge directly to all of you and show how much this hurts so many. Please do not support tyranny. Please do not do what the second amendment is literally written to prevent. Please do not be a traitor to this country and remember the oath you swore to uphold. This is factually an unconstitutional bill and shall not become a law. Please vote NO on HB893.

Mahalo,

Chase Cavitt

(808)298-3508

Please call me for clarification and any further input or education on topics throughout this bill or any further firearms related bills.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:48:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates my second ammendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:57:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie A Carter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed!

Respectfully, please reread the 2nd Amendment

Thank you

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:57:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hitomi "Mimi" Demura-Devore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 893 which establishes prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles, expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines, and establishes exceptions.

I am a social worker and a mother of two young adults. When I was raising our children, every time I heard the news of school shootings and other mass shootings in other states, I was heartbroken as I thought about other parents who lost their children or whose children were injured both physically and emotionally. I imagined how I might feel if my child texted me and told me that there was a shooter in their school. They grew up practicing preparing themselves for such a situation at school. There is no reason that our keiki on the islands have to fear for their lives or for their parents or anyone to have to worry about such a horrific tragedy happening to them.

When I heard that our state of Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns, and large-capacity magazines for these weapons, I was astonished and scared. There are already many crimes with guns in our state, and I don't want to see any mass shootings in our community.

Please pass HB 893 to keep our state safer so that we do not have to see the same tragedies and traumas we witness in the news.

Thank you.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:00:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tenessa Cavitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB893 for many reasons and respectfully ask you to please vote no. This bill would make me feel less safe as a wife and mother on Maui. My husband hunts using firearms that this bill would make illegal. We are good people and honest contributing members of our community and do not deserve to have our possessions taken from us or our rights illegally stolen via unconstitutional bills being passed into law. I see the harm this type of bill causes my husband every year as he works tirelessly to tell others and educate them since many are not aware of what those who write these bills are trying to do. We are busy doing our jobs, parenting, caring for our community and not able to waste time begging for our god given rights to not be stripped from us by politicians. This process is absurd and he told me about this last night before I put our baby to bed. I now have 1 day to submit something to oppose this bill all the while have work, a house to maintain and children to care for. By the way, some of the firearms this bill would make illegal are the very tools I choose to have in our safe to protect my family and myself if my husband is not home. The parts that would be made illegal allow me to properly and safely use the gun and make me feel safer. I am smaller and a woman. I feel the firearm is a force equalizer for me and makes me feel safe and secure if in case the police or someone else wasn't there to help someone with bad intentions and looking to harm myself or my children. This is illogical and not something that would make anyone in our home or that we know safer. I shoot with my husband at the range and it is a fun hobby and something that makes me feel empowered and has only benefited my life and our relationship. My husband is an amazing teacher and actually helps with a kids safety program teaching firearm safety in order to prevent firearm accidents, negative uses of firearms and is a light for our community on Maui. This bill would strip him of the right to teach about multiple aspects of firearms and these kids would grow up to only learn from movies, video games and criminals that choose not to turn in or throw away their possessions just because you can pass a bill into law. This bill is wrong and makes me less safe in my own home. Please do what is right and vote No on HB893.

A Concerned Mother,

Tenessa Cavitt

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:12:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl Laugerbaum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose this bill. I believe it encroaches too far onto citizens constitutional 2nd amendment rights. Citizens should be allowed to possess firearms, regardless of their magazine capacity or caliber, which are available to the public for purchase. Hawaii already has some of the most strict gun laws in the nation, and banning weapons for law abiding citizens only limits those same citizens the ability to protect themselves. Requiring classes and wait times for gun purchased gives citizens the education and knowledge to safely own and use their firearms. Instead of banning them we should have stronger laws for those who misuse firearms or improperly store them. I grew up around firearms, learned proper safety and storage, and have never had a firearms related accident. We need the right to own firearms and continue to teach safety and responsibility to the next generation.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:12:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Arnold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I can not oppose this any more vehemently. This is an egregious overstep of my constitutional rights. The 2nd amendment is quite clear and the Heller and Bruen decisions were crystal clear for those who lack the intelligence (like those who submitted this bill) to understand it.

Why don't you try stopping actual criminals from committing crimes? Not making innocent citizens into arbitrary criminals.

Furthermore, STOP wasting MY tax payers dollars on legislation that your constituents oppose. WE WILL make note of these individuals and democracy will prevail as you will be relieved of your duties that you so quickly neglect. YOU swore an oath to serve the people, your constituents, and uphold the CONSTITUTION of the UNITED STATES. Continue to be direct in your duties and you will be dealt with accordingly. Historically, they had a specific punishment for traitors. You've been informed.

Aloha

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:12:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 893 expands upon Hawaii’s existing “assault pistol” ban to now include commonly owned rifles and shotguns by instituting restrictions based on a “single feature” test. These firearms are widely used for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting, and have now been vilified due to cosmetic features. Additionally, HB 893 would impose a ban on standard capacity magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. These so-called “high capacity” magazines are, in fact, standard equipment for commonly owned firearms that many Americans legally and effectively use for an entire range of legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or competition.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:14:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miguel cancino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB893 due to the fact that it violates American's 2nd amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:18:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tad Araki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I firmly oppose HB893, as it violates my second amendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:21:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:26:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Okuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill it undermines my second amendment rights. I am a law abiding citizen and have every right to own these firearms

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:30:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Triston Vera Cruz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:31:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah McRae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB893 to tighten the existing ban on assault weapons by including the ban of assault rifles and assault shotguns. I am grateful for our lawmaker's steadfast support to combat gun violence in Hawai'i and their commitment to make Hawai'i a national leader for gun safety.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:32:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella McRae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the ban on assault rifles and assault shotguns. As a student who grew up in fear of school shootings, I would have felt safer going to school if this ban was in place. I am grateful for your support and efforts to target gun violence.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:32:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abraham Jazmin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Law abiding citizen and have every right right to own and purchase these firearms. This is a violation of my rights as a citizen under the 2nd amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:36:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose any deviation from, or addendum to the second amendment!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:41:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aisake Lavaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is unconstitutional

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:41:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keleb I. Paglinawan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposed to HB HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:42:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Nakayama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second ammendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:09:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Lukacinsky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings to the members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. I am a taxpaying voting law abiding American citizen and a resident of Honolulu. I am writing to express my deep concern about bill HB893. It is, as such, an infringement on law abiding Hawai'i residents right to keep and bear arms as per the 2nd Amendment, strongly supported by the 14th Amendment Sec.1 which clearly reads that "NO STATE shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.", and several SCOTUS rulings most notably and very recently the Bruen ruling of 2022. The firearms being targeted by bill HB893 are widely used for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting, and are now being vilified due to cosmetic features. In addition to this imposing a ban on standard capacity magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds is also a violation of law abiding American citizens guaranteed Constitutional rights. These so-called "high capacity" magazines are, in fact, standard equipment for commonly owned firearms that many Americans legally and effectively use for an entire range of legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or competition. That being said it is uncertain how these factors can be completely ignored and the restrictions contained in bill HB893 be put on the books here in Hawai'i. The Constitution of Hawai'i reads the same as the US Constitution verbatim for the 2nd Amendment that the "Right of the People to keep and bear arms SHALL NOT be infringed." We all want public safety here but infringing on the guaranteed Constitutional rights of law abiding citizens is not the way to bring that about. Taxpaying voting residents here in town would like to see action that DOES have a direct impact on public safety and does so quickly and effectively. That is arresting the many criminals, felons, and drug traffickers pushing dangerous drugs such as Fentanyl meth and heroin that we have in our neighborhoods threatening us and our families on a daily basis and taking their illegal guns and weapons away. These are the individuals who are intent on bringing harm to others and are unfazed by any type of gun laws or restrictions. This must be strongly taken into consideration and addressed FIRST AND FOREMOST before spending time and hard earned taxpayer money on bills like HB893 which will do little if anything to keep dangerous weapons out of that hands of criminals. The law abiding residents of Hawai'i would much rather see our hard earned tax dollars being spent WISELY on fighting crime and putting the bad guys in jail where they belong because THAT is a tried and true method that will definitely keep us, our families, our children, and all of our communities safer. The NRA-ILA and the 2ND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION are both following this bill closely and have also been notified of the Constitutional rights violations of the "assault pistol" ban itself and the pistol magazine 10 round restriction for possible Amicus Briefs or lawsuits to be filed against if needed and where appropriate. Thank you for your time I do appreciate it. Sincerely. - Daniel Lukacinsky

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20250203/hawaii-gun-ban-bills-scheduled-for-public-hearings-this-thursday>

<https://saf.org/pinales-v-attorney-general-for-the-state-of-hawaii/>

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:13:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rylee Espaniola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I believe this bill may infringe on constitutional rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:26:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Rudel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is stupid and unconditional. This is a violation of the second admindment as are a sevral other laws on the Hawaii books. Any sort of firearm laws only take away from the law abiding citizens and give more power to the people that can us harm. More laws equal more crime. Just look at the statistics with with out your predetermined decision and keep your emotions out of it. Go off the facts.

We the people buy the people for the people.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:29:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Brissette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write this testimony to show my opposition to HB893. The Supreme Court Ruling on **Columbia vs Heller** established that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to bear arms. The ruling also established the "in common use" test, which states that the **government cannot ban** arms that are commonly used. Additionally, **McDonald v. City of Chicago and York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen** AFFIRMED this right. Firearms with detachable magazines have been ruled CONSTITUTIONAL over and over again. Yet, Hawaii politicians continuously decide to ignore this court precedence. Not only will the State needlessly spend millions of dollars in defense, but I should say that politicians will *waste taxpayers' money* defending this in court. A court that will follow the SCOTUS decision and will rule Hawaii is again in violation of the Constitution. Every year, politicians who yearn for fame and virtuous glory submit unconstitutional bills. Politicians who waste valuable time violating citizens' rights instead of trying to fix what matters in Hawaii. Homelessness, the rising cost of living, housing, the failing education system, the aging infrastructure, and much more. If Hawaii allows police officers to possess such weapons for protection, then why can't the citizens of Hawaii be allowed the same? Politicians continuously decry violent crimes being committed (Mostly Oahu) with guns, yet the very same politicians pass legislation that enables criminals to roam freely. Stop the malicious attacks on our constitutional rights and go to work solving the problems that the citizens of Hawaii face. I write opposing HB893 as a law-abiding citizen and taxpayer of Hawaii.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:32:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop infringing on our Second Amendment Rights!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:37:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nigel shuken	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it goes against my second amendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:38:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Abbott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to vote NO on HB893.

This bill will not improve public safety and is unconstitutional. Hawaii Citizens possess tens of thousands of the rifles and shotguns and magazines that would be made illegal by passage of this bill. It will not stand up to legal challenge and will cost the Hawaii Taxpayers MILLIONS of dollars in legal expenses and settlements for damages.

I urge the committee members to vote NO on HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:43:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morrison C Huston	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on HB893. Hawaii law as currently exists does a good job slowing down people from obtaining firearms and places sufficient limits on what law abiding citizens are allowed to possess. No further limits are required. Gun violence is extremely low in the state - placing further restrictions will not be consistent with the 2nd amendment and will only serve to bring more challenges from gun rights advocates. HB893 may well backfire and end up eroding safety.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:48:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strongly Opposed

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:13:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it infringe on our right. Why do you keep tying to limit what is legal to own in the United States? Theses items do nothing burden law abiding citizen. Why do you try to keep restricting the way we can defend ourselves?

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:15:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because banning these items will not benefit the community in any way. Statistically speaking, handguns are the most common type of firearm used to commit crimes in the United States.

Brandon Young

2/4/2025

Testimony on HB 893

My name is Brandon Young and I am a resident of Maunawili. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 893. This bill would greater curb the ability for these gun owners to inflict great harm on our society. The people that carry these type of weapons that are mentioned in this bill are likely not using these weapons to hunt pig or deer on the Big Island. They are to be used in the next school shooting or mass causality event here on Oahu. I urge you to further ban these types of weapons here in Hawaii and to continue the limitation of weapons that can kill multiple people at one time. This issue is pressing as we try to keep the streets of our state violent free, and the passage of this bill will help to do this. I urge your committee pass this bill and that we can all come together to support the curtailing of violence in our Aloha State. Thank you for your consideration on this measure.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:35:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is Sarah Stevens,

I vehemently oppose this bill and the dogmatic implications behind it. This inane bill infringe on our constitutional right to bear arms ie, the second amendment. We've much greater issues at hand here in the state of Hawaii than removing means of protection from citizens. Our provincial issues do not consist of high volumes of gun violence. It consists of a housing crisis, poverty, and homelessness. I rather citizens have the means of protection instead of reliance on local police or government. Local police whom killed a child this year alone (Justice for Sam). I a concerned citizen wholeheartedly ask this bill be denied swiftly. Mahalo.

-Sarah

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:51:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Mersburgh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:54:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Rathje	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Establishing these prohibitions is unnecessary and unfair to law abiding citizens that will be criminals if these bills are passed

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:06:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn Aczon Hao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is unbelievable that Hawaii is the only state in the US that does not have a law banning assault rifles, assault shotguns, and large capacity magazines for such weapons. We know of the tremendous havoc, sadness, and death suffered by people in other US cities caused by the use of assault weapons by individuals.

We must do what we can to prevent such tragedies from occurring in Hawaii. HB 893 is crucial in that prevention. My entire family and I support this bill. Please, please pass it.

Sincerely, Evelyn Hao

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:13:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Mersburgh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The characteristics of the firearms labeled as assault rifles, offer the best defense for law abiding citizens. Especially if there are more than one assailant.

An AR 15 STANDARD CAPACITY magazine is 30 rounds.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:31:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnny Alvaro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose hb893 because it violates our second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:59:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose bill HB893 because it violates our second ammendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:00:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB893 this is a blatant attack on our 2nd amendment rights! The gun control laws in Hawaii are ridiculous because of crooked politicians with agendas. We are law abiding tax paying citizens. I suggest focusing on the criminals and victims rights instead of wasting time on attacking the citizens who are law abiding and pay these politicians salaries. Put your focus elsewhere and leave those that follow the laws alone! Who is going to line your pockets and who is going to pay taxes when you jail and criminalize the common citizens ? You all realize that criminals do not pay taxes register their guns, or follow laws right?

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:43:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Shimokawa	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Malia Shimokawa, and I am a board-certified pediatrician, former Army officer, and mother of three. I grew up in Kaimuki and I've spent the majority of my life here in Hawai'i. I'm raising my family in Nu'uano. I served nearly a decade in the military, including a deployment to Iraq, and completed my pediatric residency at Tripler Army Medical Center. Today, I care for thousands of keiki in our community as a pediatrician in 'Aiea.

I am submitting testimony today in strong support of the proposed legislation to ban assault rifles in Hawai'i. As both a veteran and a physician, I understand the unique dangers these weapons pose—not just to our communities, but specifically to our children.

In my military service, I trained on and worked around assault rifles. These military-style semi-automatic rifles truly are weapons of war, designed to inflict catastrophic damage in mere seconds. The injuries they cause are often unsurvivable, even with the best medical care. This is not speculation—it is a medical fact. As a pediatrician, I have also seen the devastating toll of gun violence – first in combat – and then on children and families.

Gun-related injuries are now the leading cause of death among children and teens in the United States, recently surpassing car accidents. The presence of assault rifles in civilian spaces only increases the likelihood that Hawai'i will experience the same kind of mass tragedies that have plagued the rest of the country.

Hawai'i has long been a national leader in public health and safety, and our strong gun laws are one reason we have one of the lowest rates of gun violence in the country. But we must remain proactive. Banning assault rifles is not an infringement on responsible gun ownership; it is a necessary step to protect our families, our schools, and our way of life.

As a veteran, I swore an oath to protect this country. As a pediatrician, I have dedicated my life to protecting children. And as a mother, I want nothing more than to ensure my own keiki grow up in a safe and thriving Hawai'i.

I urge you to pass HB893 and take a stand for the safety of our children and our community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Dr. Malia Shimokawa, MD, FAAP
U.S. Army Veteran**

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)
Hearing: Thursday, February 06, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
Regarding: **HB893 (Relating to Firearms)**
Voter Position: OPPOSITION

Representatives of the JHA Committee,

I express my **opposition** to **HB893 (Relating to Firearms)**.

Ban of a Non-Existent Item

HB893 seeks to resurrect artificial legislative terms that create artificial objects such as the “assault” rifle and “assault” shotgun. Despite year after year of opposition, **HB893** is the latest regurgitation of a measure that attempts to associate the action verb “assault” with an inanimate object, such as rifle, shotgun, or a pistol.

Solution to a Non-Existent Problem

Like other similar bills of the past, **HB893** seeks to ban .50 caliber rifles without an express reason. There is no valid threat vector articulated, nor is there a viable public safety benefit mentioned in the measure. There is also no evidence-based public or otherwise credible safety threat. The very suggestion of a ban on .50 caliber rifles relies exclusively upon artificial speculation and conjecture.

Malice and Coercion Disguised as a Mere Magazine Capacity Reduction Effort

HB893 seeks to injure firearm owners with malicious modification requirements. Provisions in Section 4 seeks to ban standard-capacity ammunition magazines and magazine tubes designed for rifles and shotguns. **HB893** negligently instructs firearm owners to modify detachable ammunition magazines to accept no more than ten rounds for rifles in addition to pistols. Similar instructions are generated for fixed magazine tubes on shotguns to limit their capacity to five rounds. Modifying an ammunition magazine against original manufacture specifications not only can void a warranty, but it can cause the firearm to malfunction during its firing cycle. The same harm exists with the firearm tube of a shotgun. Such ill-advisement shows that magazine capacity reductions do not constitute valid public safety, but in reality, magnifies a definitive public harm.

Compounding the magazine alteration concerns is the indirect, compulsory destruction (or disposal) of private property. In the event that a firearm owner wants to avoid any alteration of their standard capacity ammunition magazines, they have no choice but to dispose of their standard capacity magazines to fulfill the demands of a legislative entity. Due to the proposal in Section 4 of **HB893**, firearm owners are imposed with the burden of being charged with a misdemeanor if they do not immediately dispose of all of their standard capacity magazines upon passage of the measure. Usage of a previously legal ammunition magazine will suddenly constitute a felony.

Prohibition Against Lawful Firearm Servicing and Transfer

HB893 has been expressly designed to make any mainland U.S.-bound firearm repair a one-way trip. By the purposeful inclusion of wording a Section 3, **HB893** seeks to prohibit the return shipment of a firearm to the state of Hawaii in any instance where a firearm owner ships their firearm out of state for a repair by either a manufacturer or gunsmith. **HB893**'s wording intentionally turns a standard rifle into an "assault" rifle via artificial word play.

Problems with Enforceability

HB893 has another malicious provision since the mere possession of an ammunition magazine with a prohibited capacity capability constitutes a misdemeanor. The measure fails to provide a firearm owner any lawful means to dispose of their standard capacity magazines. Normally, unwanted firearms, firearm parts, and ammunition can be surrendered to the Honolulu Police Department. However, with the passage of **HB893**, such surrender would immediately constitute a misdemeanor due to the possession of the newly prohibited magazine or magazine tube.

HB893 presents yet another compound enforcement conundrum: most of the features that would constitute an "assault" rifle or "assault" shotgun are standard features of most rifles and shotguns. **HB893** includes a notional provision in Section 6 to not prosecute firearm owners that had rifles or shotguns with certain design features prior to its passage, but legislative history shows that the Legislature could easily strike the exception, as it routinely does for other measures that had non-military/non-law enforcement exception clauses in past years. Accordingly, such exception provision that can someday be revoked makes passage **HB893** less defensible now or at any time in the near future, in whatever variation the measure re-manifests itself.

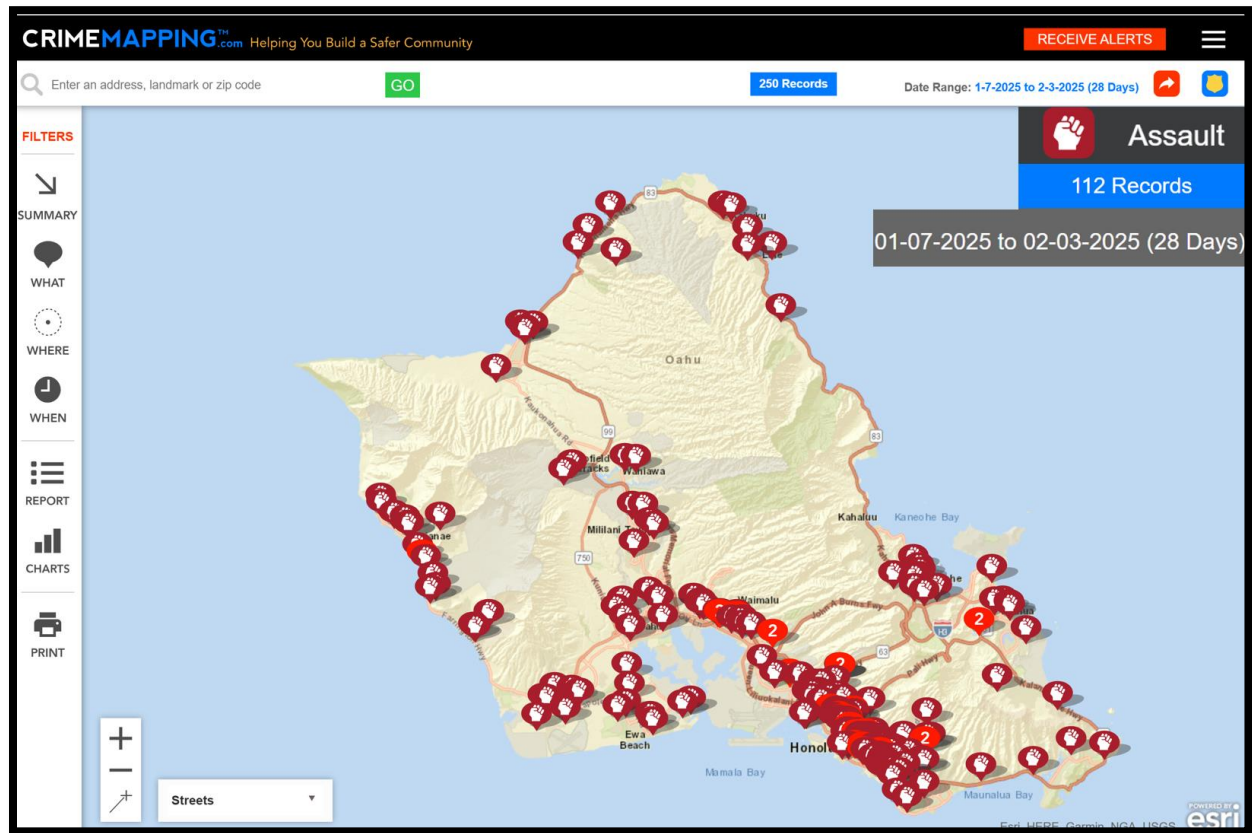
The Exception Paradox

In the introductory section of **HB893**, there is an argument that firearms with arbitrary design specifications and a magazine capacity that exceed ten rounds for pistols/rifles and five rounds for shotguns somehow constitutes a danger to the general public. In the end of Section 4, however, the military and members of law enforcement are exempt from **all** prohibitions imposed by **HB893**. In this instance, the harms and concerns addressed in the introduction magically disappear. Such contradiction doesn't constitute a viable defense that any firearm prohibition will serve the general public if there are exceptions to the law. Either the law applies to everyone equally, or not.

Do Something, But Do Something Actually Useful

The only right thing to do with **HB893**, a bill filled with numerous outlandish proposals and immediate punitive power upon passage, is to defer it indefinitely. A better alternative to amending an irreparably bill, such as **HB893**, would be an express focus on passing funding legislation that enables law enforcement to investigate the various assault cases that already occur throughout the state.

It is prudent to reemphasize this point since variations of this bill turn up every single year: firearms aren't the only threat to public safety since the actual crime of "assault" is generally conducted *without* the use of a firearm.



Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony.

Respectfully,

Ryan C. Tinajero

Constituent of **House District 48**

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:49:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Oshima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These proposals for more restrictions to firearms-owning general public do nothing to stop those who conduct malicious, life-altering, violent crimes. A firearm's appearance, design origin, or ammunition capacity are not reasons to restrict them from ownership or use by law-abiding individuals. Please oppose this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:55:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Kawamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because the proliferation of guns in society increases gun violence. Mass shootings occur in places like schools, shopping malls, and places of worship. Mass shootings have been steadily increasing in frequency for more than half a century, and the fear of mass shootings has increased. Many children are now afraid to go to school, fearing they will be shot.

The State is limited in what it can do to restrict gun ownership. However, the State has the authority to restrict certain types of guns, such as assault rifles, which are often used in mass shootings. This bill does not infringe on anyone's rights. It is sensible. I urge the committee to pass it.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:25:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Soon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this legislation. As a newly retired senior citizen, going to the range and target shooting with firearms is a pleasant hobby that myself and MANY friends enjoy. This legislation would probably affect me and many other senior citizens like myself. NOTE: I noticed that the proposed legislation uses the term "assault" frequently. This vague and inflammatory language could also apply to bamboo sticks, scrap lumber, rocks, and kitchen knives. (ref. recent Maui police shooting)

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:02:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Atom Kasprzycki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional, violates precedent set in past Supreme Court rulings including *Caetano*, *Heller*, and *Bruen*, and would unfairly infringe upon the rights of Americans. Representatives who support this bill are not representing the people of Hawaii but rather the agendas of anti-gun, anti-American-values national organizations such as Everytown Et al. Each new year we the people have to fight to protect our second amendment rights here in Hawaii as representatives like the ones who have introduced this bill seek to restrict and infringe upon those rights. These actions are not going unnoticed. We must vote to replace those representative who place the interests of anti-gun national organizations over the rights of the people.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:37:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruckus Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill because it violates our second ammendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:57:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Klevin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional, violates precedent set in past Supreme Court rulings including *Caetano*, *Heller*, and *Bruen*, and would unfairly infringe upon the rights of Americans. Representatives who support this bill are not representing the people of Hawaii but rather the agendas of anti-gun, anti-American-values national organizations such as Everytown Et al. Each new year we the people have to fight to protect our second amendment rights here in Hawaii as representatives like the ones who have introduced this bill seek to restrict and infringe upon those rights. These actions are not going unnoticed. We must vote to replace those representative who place the interests of anti-gun national organizations over the rights of the people.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:22:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB893 because it is unconstitutional. Commonly owned rifles and shotguns should never be kapu based on a “single feature” test or any other test. These firearms are used all over the United States for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting. Cosmetic features have never been know to increase the lethality of any weapon. Moreover, HB 893 would kapu standard capacity magazines that are capable of accepting more than 10 rounds.

It is important for citizens to own standard magazines for home defense, the larger the better. What if several murderers break into your home and threaten you and your children? Don’t you want to be able to defend them with the best technology available? What if you miss? 10 rounds may not be enough. Besides it is not good for a firearm to keep a magazine loaded to full capacity because it fatigues the spring. If you have a 15-round magazine maybe you will keep 10 rounds in it. If you are restricted to 10, maybe you might load only 7. Criminals will be at an advantage because they will ignore the law. This bill would restrict only law-abiding citizens. Remember - when seconds count, the police are only minutes away.

Standard-capacity magazines are commonly owned firearms that many Americans legally and effectively use for an entire range of legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or competition. HB893 fails the common-usage test for constitutionality. Gun-rights organizations will oppose it in the courts and the Supreme Court of the United States of America will strike it down. Please consign this bill to the dust heap now and save money for the state and private gun owners. Vote NO on HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:53:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janeen Tilfas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:10:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'eo Ortiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a dirrect violation of our 2nd ammendment rights!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:10:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hoku Vasconcellos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB983 because it violates our second ammendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:18:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE to bill HB893! Many of us law abiding citizens use these rifles for hunting and there are things mentioned in this bill that would make us instant criminals if passed and it is a violation of iur 2nd amendment right.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:20:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shelton medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose of this bill it is an attack on our second ammendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:38:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shellby Yamada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i oppose hb893 because it violates our 2nd amendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:51:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it violates our 2nd amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:53:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronen Maman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:59:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Oren Grimm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm a registered Democrat and I oppose this bill. This state already has some of the most strict gun control legislation in the nation. We are one of the lowest (3rd lowest I believe) in gun violence and gun related deaths. I feel that our laws existing laws are working and we do not need any more. This will only hurt gun owners who are legally going through the process to aquire firearms, as well as those who inherent them. Law breakers will still find ways to break the law and locate guns that are banned. We should not punish everyone. Instead I encourage you all to focus your legislative efforts on the far more exceedingly pressing issues that are affecting our state and nation. We need leadership, please do not remove firearms from responsible gun owners. Thank you for your time, consideration and public service.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:02:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Kenui-Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian and a resident who has been born and raised in Hawaii, I strongly oppose this bill and do not agree with this unconstitutional bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:15:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 as I believe that the 2nd amendment is very clear on citizens' rights to bear arms and no government should infringe on that.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:17:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Cavitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Lawmakers,

I am writing in opposition of HB 279 and urge you to oppose this bill as well. I am a law-abiding citizen of The United States of America and Hawaii, a taxpayer, registered voter, a husband, father, grandfather and also an owner of legal firearms. I own them because I admire the technology and enjoy using them at firing ranges and hunting. I also own them to exercise my right as a US Citizen and Hawaii Citizen per the Constitutions of The USA and the State of Hawaii. I am a constituent of yours and by denying me these rights you are misrepresenting me. interestingly enough, as I have spoken to many who share my opinion of these basic rights, many are in the dark about what our state legislation is doing in denying our rights. As such, I would expect a groundswell of outcry against this law, if it passes. That will result in legal action, likely to the Supreme Court, and much cost and greater division in our country. It may also result in law abiding citizens breaking the law unintentionally. People who do no harm to others, being harmed by this law. These things would be detrimental to us all.

It poses the question of why this bill is being considered. Some will say to make us safer. I disagree. The problem is not an inanimate object. It is our society that has fostered desperate individuals or enemies of our country who enter illegally with mal intent. This bill will make it illegal for law abiding citizens to own safe and effective firearms for hobby, hunting or defensive use but will do nothing to stop the proliferation of illegal firearm possession. Indeed, this bill will render those of us who desire to follow the law, defenseless against those who would possess them illegally!

This bill is not founded on fact and reason but rather fear and myth. Please step back from the brink and let's work together as Americans and Hawaiians to heal our society and maintain the basic rights that our respective constitutions guarantee. Vote no on SB 3196!

Thank You!

Aloha,

Sam Cavitt

Kihei, HI

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:17:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
steven a kumasaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

these bans are in front of multiple US Circuit Courts and also the Supreme Court

why? because they are UNCONSTITUTIONAL!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:27:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Pascarelli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill please it goes against our second amendment right

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:29:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyerra Aiona-Owings	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill was introduced last sessions and received much opposition. The same still stands today. We do not trust our government to take anything away without blindsiding everyone. We ourselves are LAW ABIDING gun owners and should be treated fairly for obtaining our firearms legally. The state of Hawaii already had the strictest gun laws yet these bills continue to pour in every legislation that only affect the law abiding gun owners for that we strongly oppose this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:40:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Murata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional and ridiculous. I don't personally know a single person that has been hurt/killed by a firearm of any type, yet, a lot people I know have a bad or fatal car accident. The use of these firearms also are a tool for people to hunt and provide food.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:44:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Salboro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Matthew Salboro oppose HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:49:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Creighton Phillips	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Assault Weapons" as you put it in the bill, would extend to even bolt action hunting rifles with a heat guard to protect a person's hands from the heat of a barrel. And if 30 rounds is high capacity, and you limit it to 10 rounds, I would be able to conceal a great deal more 10 round magazines than 30 round magazines or even larger. 30 round magazines scare you because they look like what the military has, and that is sad and tyrannical. The first step to a tyrannical government committing atrocities is disarmament of its people, and that looks to be exactly what you are trying to do. And this bill would only affect lawful firearm owners. There would be little to no recourse on people who don't care about the law in the first place. Go read and then reread the 2nd amendment until it's stuck in your head that I have a God given right to bear arms and protect myself. The government doesn't give me that right, the Lord almighty does.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:50:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee E. Takagi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is time to be PROactive and ban assault weapons and rifles and large capacity magazines in Hawaii. Why wait for a huge tragedy? After the devastating fireworks tragedy on New Year's Eve (which severely injured our grandnephew, now in an AZ hospital) Hawaii legislators are REACTING in horror and working to legislate stricter penalties for importing or using fireworks.

These are ASSAULT weapons, meant to kill MANY people. And they don't only kill, they shred and rip apart flesh. No hunter would use such a weapon to hunt animals as it would destroy the carcass of the animal. To have such a weapon available to a person suffering from severe mental stress makes absolutely no sense. We must be PROACTIVE and take away access to such dangerous weapons.

Hawaii is becoming more and more a densely populated, urban place. The stresses of life have increased and tensions easily rise. I taught sixth graders at Central (now Ke`elikolani) Middle School for 20 years. In addition to teaching content, we also talked about how to work towards peaceful resolution of conflicts with our peers and loved ones. During recess I would bring together students who had grievances against each other. The students were guided to tell the other what he/she didn't like. The other had to restate what this was. Each had to listen carefully, and then agree to stop doing what was very upsetting to the other person. I checked back with them a week later to see if things were getting resolved. Almost always, they had changed their behaviors and the conflict had subsided.

Parents and teachers can make changes for the better, but we can only do so much. We need our legislators to make wise decisions on crucial issues like this.

I URGE you to BAN assault rifles and weapon, and the large capacity magazines they hold. Our children, youth, parents, and adults on this island deserve our protection and guidance. They don't need access to these weapons only created to destroy with finality human life.

Mahalo nui.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:06:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John A Visitacion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a retired military veteran that served honorably for my country. My brothers and sisters in uniform fought for the very freedom that we have today. Our second amendment rights shall not be infringed. I strongly oppose HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:09:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoa Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to oppose this proposed bill as it is just another form of control. The numbers just don't add up and the people who have items stated in this bill don't have a track record. The issue Hawaii faces is the large amount of illegal handguns that aren't purchased legally and the focal point of gun violence is in west Oahu.

The continued attack on firearms and the right to keep and bear arms is exactly that and changing it to pertain to specific groups is just wrong.

I myself was anti guns for a long time, it was not until just this past year I went and got firearms and went through the process.

any Tom dick or harry can find anything on the black market, these bills will do nothing but increase the amount of illegally obtained goods and increase the black market fire arms industry 10x

just look at fireworks.

mahalo,

kanoa Wilson

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:12:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Franzone	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, again, my name is Jay Franzone, and I am a Violence Fellow at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I am testifying in strong support of HB 893.

Hawai‘i has long recognized the dangers of assault pistols, yet our laws have gaps that still allow military-style rifles and shotguns that are frequently used in mass shootings. These firearms fire rounds at a high-velocity and are capable of causing devastating injuries, often beyond survival. No civilian needs these for sport, hunting, or personal defense.

HB 893 closes the gap in our firearm laws by prohibiting assault rifles and shotguns with military features while still allowing the commonly used hunting rifles and other firearms my uncle uses on Kauai. The bill also maintains the ability for one to do wildlife control on private property.

This is an easy measure to protect our communities while maintaining the rights of responsible gun owners. The original law has some holes; it’s time to close them. I urge you to pass HB 893 to make Hawai‘i safer. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:23:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Cabreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: OPPOSE Over reaching and unconstitutional waste of time and money. Only hurts law abiding citizens, doesn't stop criminals.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:33:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB893 because it violates our second amendment rights!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:36:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Chong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Jason and I am writing this letter in opposition of bill HB893 I believe that legislation like this goes against our constitutional rights specifically our 2nd amendment rights. If passed this bill would see many law abiding citizens turn into criminals. I ask that you stand up to the vows and oaths you took which was to stand for the constitution and be for the people.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:36:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gena Whitten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stongly support closing the loophole and prohibiting the sale of high powered assalut weapons in the State of Hawaii. These dangerous weapons of war are used too often in random mass shootings and have no place in the hands of civilians in any public places. Even Mexico and Canada are complaining about the ease of obtaining these weapons in the US and the weapons coming across their borders. We are an island. We can stop this. Please pass HB892

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:42:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Ryan Lauronal opposed bill HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:43:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela McCarthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Angela McCarthy from Kailua, HI. As both a physician and also a mother of 2 boys I am committed to promoting the health and safety of our community and I support the prohibition of assault weapons. Limiting access to such unnecessarily violent weapons will keep our schools, hospitals, workplaces and homes safer.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:46:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:54:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB893 Assault Weapon & Magazine Ban – OPPOSE

We find ourselves in another new session of the state legislature and yet another time where we the legal gun owners of the State of Hawaii are again having to come out to the legislature to fight for the rights that are granted to us as our birth right by the United States Constitution. In the first paragraph of HB893 you tout how safe Hawaii is because of its strict gun control laws even so far as to pat yourselves on the back for Hawaii getting an -A by the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. This is never enough for you; you guys keep trying to take more. In 1994 when I was a college student in a neighboring state the gun registration bill for pistols and long guns passed and we the legal gun owners of Hawaii complied and continue to follow the rules you imposed on us. Now 31 years later you have introduced a bill, HB893 that will confiscate or require owners to remove from our possession 1000's of currently legally owned property from residents of the State of Hawaii because you people think that we cannot be trusted to own these types of firearms. With the strike of a pen, you plan to create criminals out of once legal firearms owners by requiring us to turn over our legally owned property to authorities. No grandfathering in for property currently owned, just hand them over. This is Theft and a violation of our 4th Amendment rights. It is you who can't be trusted to uphold the oath of office that you have taken to defend the Constitution of the United States as well as the State's Constitution.

The definition for an assault rifle that you are using is grossly inaccurate. The ATF defines an Assault Rifles as a rifle that is capable of selective fire, the ability to switch from semi-automatic (one round/trigger pull) to either burst fire or fully automatic (multiple rounds/trigger pull). It must also have an intermediate-power cartridge that is more powerful than a pistol but less than a standard rifle or battle rifle. Also, the ammunition must be supplied from a detachable box magazine. The AR15 or any other semiautomatic rifles or shotguns do not fall under the definition of an assault rifle because it lacks the capability to fire multiple rounds per trigger pull. Assault rifles or any fully automatic firearms are already banned by the state of Hawaii. Everything else listed in this bill in the characteristics line are cosmetic and have no effect on the gun's capabilities. Gun owners of the state of Hawaii like me take great offense that you do not even give us the courtesy of understanding how firearms function or to use correct terminology. When is enough, enough for you people? My experience is that you will never stop until you get your wish to completely ban the public from owning firearms.

In closing I say shame on you. Last year you guys passed laws requiring every gun owner or future gun owner to take a firearm safety class every 4 years, changing the former law where we only had to take the class once before we could acquire firearms. As the President of Lessons in Firearms Education you would think that I would be happy to get the reoccurring business but in actuality I look at that change to the law as a burden on Hawaii residents just like this bill will be. Instead of only listening to gun control groups to write your legislation why don't you contact firearms instructors or gun rights groups to get our input on bills. You don't because you don't consider us as part of your constituent group. If passed this bill will be fought in the courts and eventually overturned, thus wasting more tax money that could have been used on other things.

Thanks,

Brandon Leong

President

Lessons In Firearms Education

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:55:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Bruce Kealoha Buffett,

i am against passing bill Hb893, this affects my freedom as a law abiding citizen, wich I feel is included in my 2nd ammendment rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:56:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This violates the 2nd amendment to our Constitution! Stop infringing on our rights to bear arms. Gun control does not work and should not even be in existence. Instead, you should spend time, resources, and energy to educate and train your citizens. Not take away the rights or make it more difficult to be a law-abiding citizen.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:13:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Uemae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill. As a hunter, I rely on some of these firearm "characteristics" to provide me with a safer, more accurate, reliable, and comfortable tool.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB893, which proposes sweeping restrictions on firearms, including prohibitions on so-called "assault rifles," "assault shotguns," and .50 caliber rifles, as well as an expanded ban on high-capacity magazines.

This bill is a direct infringement on mHB893 seeks to ban commonly owned firearms that are legally possessed by millions of Americans for self-defense, sport shooting, and other lawful purposes. The Supreme Court, in **District of Columbia v. Heller** (2008), affirmed that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to own and use firearms for self-defense. The sweeping prohibitions in this bill conflict with that ruling by arbitrarily banning firearms based on cosmetic features rather than actual functionality.

Additionally, the **Bruen** decision (2022) reinforced that firearm regulations must be consistent with the historical tradition of firearm regulation in the United States. HB893 fails this test, as it attempts to impose broad and unprecedented restrictions that lack historical precedent and violate fundamental rights Second Amendment rights and the rights of law-abiding citizens across Hawaii.

HB893 does not differentiate between criminals and responsible gun owners. By banning the sale, transfer, and importation of commonly used firearms, this legislation unfairly penalizes law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminal activity. Criminals, by definition, do not follow gun laws, and restrictive measures like this bill disproportionately impact responsible citizens who wish to exercise their constitutional rights.

The bill attempts to define and ban "assault rifles" based on arbitrary features such as collapsible stocks, pistol grips, and flash suppressors. However, these features do not make a firearm more dangerous; they simply enhance ergonomics and usability. A rifle with a pistol grip is no more lethal than one without. Banning firearms based on aesthetics rather than function does nothing to improve public safety.

HB893 also expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines. This provision ignores the realities of self-defense, where multiple rounds may be necessary to stop an assailant, particularly in cases of home invasion or multiple attackers. Law enforcement officers acknowledge that criminals do not adhere to magazine restrictions, leaving law-abiding citizens at a tactical disadvantage.

HB893 is an unconstitutional overreach that places undue burdens on responsible firearm owners while failing to address criminal misuse of firearms. Instead of restricting law-abiding citizens, the legislature should focus on enforcing existing laws and addressing the root causes of violent crime.

I urge you to oppose HB893 and stand in defense of our constitutional rights.

Sincerely

Jason T Wolford

Testimony in **OPPOSITION** of **HB893**

You'll need to revise line 2 in the bill where it states "...strongest gun safety laws..." to "...strongest gun **restriction** laws..." to more accurately reflect the intent of this bill.

This bill will do nothing to increase safety and is intended to strip away our constitutionally protected rights.

If it is the intent to protect the safety and well-being of Hawaii's citizens, then why is there a need for an exception for military and law enforcement-wouldn't they be just as safe as an "ordinary" citizen?

The stripping of rights start with firearms-so that it'll be easier to strip away the rest. Where will this end? You say that the state has some of the strongest "gun safety" laws in the nation, yet we still see violent crimes occurring in the state with firearms. How many of those arrested for these crimes involving firearms went through the legal process to acquire them by taking a firearm safety course, paying for background check, waiting at least 14 days (sometimes more because the Dept. of Health drags their feet with their checks", registered their firearm after they acquire it, or was issued a concealed carry permit?

When will it occur to you people that human behavior is the root of crime? Where are the hard numbers to support that these violent crimes are being committed by those who legally possess firearms?

There should be the same amount of enthusiasm to curb drunk driving, but the House and Senate decides that "rules for thee, not for me" and allows alcohol on capitol grounds with some of their members getting a pass on DUI charges. How's about we ban assault alcohol that is more than 10-proof, apply for a permit to purchase alcohol, limit purchases to 32 ounces, get a background check for substance abuse and wait at least 14-days before picking up your permit? After all, it is about the safety and well-being of Hawaii citizens...

Change the reference of firearms to vehicles introduce bills to prohibit assault vehicles. Ban vehicles that are larger than a V-8, can travel more than 55 miles-per-hour, have spoilers, ground effects, tires that have a speed rating no higher than 55 MPH, conduct a background check for prior DUI's and traffic crimes, and wait at least 14 days to buy a vehicle after picking up your permit and limiting gas tanks to 10 gallons. After all, it is about the safety and well-being of Hawaii citizens...

The US Supreme Court has ruled that police agencies have no obligation or duty to protect. When seconds count, the police are minutes away-at the very least.

We see time and time again that not all heroes wear blue, and not all heroes wear capes. What stops a bad guy with a gun? A good guy with a gun-and there are more good guys in our community that just the police.

We have a fentanyl and opioid crises in the state so what do we do? Give out Narcan for free and require bars to have them on premises in case of an overdose enabling someone to save a stranger. How about you give me the "free"dom to save myself from strangers as well.

For these reasons-and much more-I am in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:20:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Walter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893 as it violates our Second Amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:22:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Betsey Strauss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Betsey Strauss and I strongly support HB893. As a mother of 4 children, I am greatly concerned for their welfare, as well as the safety of my entire community. It is extremely frightening to read about the horrors inflicted on individuals who are victims of mass shootings like the ones we see happen in the Continental United States. Closing the assault weapons loophole would make it much harder for individuals to obtain military-style weapons that are capable of firing rounds quickly and designed to inflict greater damage to the human body.

Assault weapons have no place in our community. Please vote in support of HB893.

Mahalo.

Melissa Pavlicek
1099 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Date: February 6, 2025
To: Hawai'i State Legislature
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Regarding: House Bill 893, Relating to Firearms

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB 893, relating to firearms, establishes prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles.

As a mother, daughter, wife, sibling, lawyer, and community advocate, I care deeply about my community. I firmly believe that this legislation is a necessary step toward reducing gun violence and protecting public safety. States that have enacted similar bans have seen reductions in gun violence, demonstrating that sensible regulations can and do save lives. Assault weapons are designed for combat scenarios, not civilian use, and their presence in our communities poses an unnecessary and unacceptable risk.

Numerous studies have shown that mass shootings involving these weapons result in higher casualties, making it imperative that we take action to prevent future tragedies. According to Everytown for Gun Safety in America, in an average year, 64 people die by guns in Hawaii. Every person lost to gun violence is unacceptable. Please help ensure that our gun laws remain safe.

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

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:31:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB 893. Please close the assault weapons loophole. Hawai'i must prohibit assault weapons like the AR-15. These weapons are designed for use by the military and should not be in the hands of ordinary citizens. The AR-15 and its clones have been involved in numerous mass shootings that have killed scores and maimed and injured many more. Hawai'i has banned semiautomatic hand guns and this is a logical and necessary compliment to that bill. Let's keep Hawai'i safe from mass shootings.

REWilhelm

Hanna Lesiak
1099 Alakea Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 6, 2025

To: Hawai'i State Legislature
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Subject: **SUPPORT** for HB 893 Relating to Firearms

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

I am writing in **support** of HB 893, Relating to Firearms. This bill prohibits assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles, expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines, and establishes exceptions.

As a student, I participated in lockdown drills designed to prepare us for school shootings—an unsettling reality that taught us to fear the very places we once considered safe. According to data from *Education Week*, which tracks K-12 school shootings resulting in injuries or deaths in the United States, there have been 173 such incidents in the past five years. The urgency to end gun violence has never been greater.¹

By expanding the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines, the bill aims to reduce the potential for mass casualties, as these magazines enable shooters to fire numerous rounds without reloading. Limiting access to such weapons is a proactive step toward preventing gun violence and ensuring a safer environment for citizens.

Additionally, the bill establishes exceptions to account for law enforcement, military use, and other regulated circumstances, ensuring that responsible gun ownership and security measures remain intact. By balancing safety concerns with lawful use, the bill seeks to create a comprehensive approach to firearm regulation that prioritizes public protection while respecting constitutional rights. Strengthening these restrictions helps curb the misuse of high-powered firearms and reinforces efforts to reduce gun-related injuries and fatalities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

¹ Education Week. (2025, January). *School shootings this year: How many and where*. Retrieved from <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/school-shootings-this-year-how-many-and-where/2025/01>

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:50:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quinn Shiroma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello All,

This proposal should not pass as it is an infringement on all our natural and constitutional rights under the 2nd amendment of the United States Bill of Rights. Please reconsider, thank you for your time.

Very Respectfully,

Quinn Shiroma

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:52:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Tamaribuchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on HB 893 relating to firearms.

I am in strong opposition to HB 893 as its primary intent is to disarm law abiding citizens by furthering the restrictions on gun ownership. The terms "assault" and "assault weapons" are used to portray law abiding gun owners as violent criminals. This term "assault" is deliberately meant to manipulate the general public into believing that all firearms have no place in society when in fact it is a necessary means to protect oneself, others, and private property. This is a blatant violation of the second amendment and for this reason, I am in strong opposition to HB 893. I also urge you to vote no on this bill.

Thank you,

Jessica Tamaribuchi

Kailua-Kona

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:53:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wesley Acdal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Why take away rights of responsible citizens. We are qualified and registered to bear arms to protect family and property. Today crimes overwhelm our community. We need protection because law enforcement is not enough. Please support our 2 amendment. Thank you.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:05:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I in Waimea on Hawaii island support HB893 which establishes prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles; and expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:06:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roseann Elisaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB893

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:12:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have a right to bear arms.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:15:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Gentaro Fujitani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support passage of this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:22:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please protect our innocent families and particularly our keikis by supporting HB 893. These assault weapons and large capacity magazines have no place in our neighborhoods. Your support will save lives. It could be your child, grandchild, spouse, grandmother or friend who find themselves at the other end of a weapon by accident or design. Please, please take care of all our loved ones and strangers alike. Thank you for all the effort you put in each day for our community. It is very much appreciated though rarely acknowledged.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:25:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonah Cobb-Adams Quiocho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To allow a prohibition, of this nature, not only goes against the rights of the constitution, but also is a shame to Hawaiian people of old who had surrendered to America, just to allow the system to bake its cake, and eat it too, so to speak. If we are illegally occupied by America, the least we ask in my country, is to have constitutional rights for the time being, no matter how many lifetimes the occupation lasts.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:27:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands. Please support this bill to outlaw assault weapons in Hawaii.

Date: February 6, 2025
To: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
From: Pierce Young, Kailua
Bill: House Bill 893, Relating to Firearms
Position: **Support**

HB 893, relating to firearms, establishes prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles. It expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines.

Please advance this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:36:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB893. There's no reason civilians should have access to weapons designed for a battlefield. Please pass this measure.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:43:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Strauss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a military veteran, I fully support Hawaii’s proposed House Bill 893 because assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles have no place in civilian hands. I trained extensively with these weapons in the military, and I know firsthand that they are designed for combat, not for self-defense or recreational use. Their high-capacity magazines and rapid-fire capabilities make them disproportionately lethal in the wrong hands, posing a serious risk to public safety. In a combat zone, these firearms serve a purpose, but on our streets and in our communities, they only increase the potential for mass casualties. HB 893 takes a responsible approach by closing dangerous loopholes, ensuring that these weapons remain in the hands of law enforcement and military personnel where they belong. As someone who has sworn to protect this country, I believe that prioritizing public safety over unrestricted access to military-style firearms is not just reasonable—it’s necessary.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:54:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allegra Giacchino	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Please continue to make the safety of our keiki and our community the highest priority and pass HB 893.

Military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines are designed to kill large numbers of people quickly, and have no legitimate use in civilian hands. I was alarmed to discover Hawaii is the only state with an assault weapons ban that does not actually ban assault rifles and assault shotguns such as the AR-15. This doesn't make sense. We all know these are the exact weapons most commonly used in mass shootings. I urge you to close this dangerous loophole today.

Thank you for giving this your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Allegra Giacchino

Kahala resident

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:54:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Strauss II	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a father, I strongly support Hawaii’s proposed House Bill 893 because nothing is more important than keeping our keiki safe. Assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles are weapons designed for war, not for our neighborhoods, schools, or public spaces. The thought of my children growing up in a world where these high-powered weapons are easily accessible is terrifying. This bill takes a necessary step in ensuring that our communities remain places where families can feel secure. By prohibiting the import, sale, and transfer of these firearms and expanding the ban on high-capacity magazines, HB 893 prioritizes public safety over unnecessary firepower. I want my kids to live in a place where they can play outside, go to school, and experience life without the constant fear of gun violence. This legislation is a responsible measure to protect our families, and I urge its passage for the safety of all Hawaii’s keiki.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:55:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan S. Hayashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the sale or use of any type of assault weapon in the State of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:00:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Webb	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill, because we have had many court cases rule that something that is in common use is legal. This would not do anything to the Criminals that break our laws everyday, it would only make more victims out of our residents.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:00:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alvin Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL HB893

SUPREAM COURT ALREADY SETTLED THIS BY SAYING YOU CAN NOT BAN
COMMONLY OWEND WEPONS PIRIOD.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:12:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Iobst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop attempting to take my 2nd amendment rights away as a citizen of the United States of America. I am a law abiding citizen that pays taxes and is affected by the poor decisions this administration is attempting to make. I utilize my firearms to feed and defend my family and the ban would make me a criminal. DO NOT PASS HB893. It will greatly impact all Hawaii residents in a very negative way. I am AGAINST HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:15:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cayce Rosario	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm against this bill that prevents me from having my 2nd Ammendment rights which is granted to every American citizen under the Constitution of the United States to keep and bear arms either for hunting or personal protection. Our state government does not have that right to make laws that goes against the Constitution of the United States.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:16:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph P Vesperas Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose ths legislation because it represents a further infringement on my 2nd Amendment rights. All this does is punish law abiding citizens with unjustified restrictions that do nothing to curb gun crime.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:25:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark W Iobst II	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop attempting to take my 2nd amendment rights away as a citizen of the United States of America. I am a law-abiding citizen that pays taxes and is affected by the poor decisions this administration is attempting to make. I utilize my firearms to feed and defend my family and the ban would make me a criminal. Do not pass HB893. It will greatly impact all Hawai'i residents in a very negative way. I am against HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:27:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Tom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is another "assault weapon ban" that expands the current ban to include currently legal semi automatic rifles and shotguns, .50 caliber rifles and includes a magazine limit. These firearms are widely used for self defense, recreational shooting and hunting. These so-called "high capacity" magazines are, in fact, standard equipment for commonly owned firearms that many Americans legally and effectively use for an entire range of legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or competition. I urge you to oppose this bill.

Michelle M. Galimba

PO Box 294
Nā'ālehu, HI 96772
Tel: (808) 430-4927

February 5, 2025

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, & Committee Members

As a cattle rancher on Hawai'i Island. I would like to express my strong support for HB893 which will prohibit ,with exceptions, the import into or purchase of assault rifles, assault shotguns, or .50 caliber rifles in our state.

There are times when a rifle is an essential piece of equipment on a cattle ranch especially for euthanizing injured and sick animals or controlling predators. Assault rifles are not necessary for these relatively rare tasks.

Hawai'i is fortunate to have relatively low rates of gun violence and accidental gun deaths. This bill will close a loophole that is not aligned with our state's overall gun policy. I understand that some members of the public may want to own such assault weapons or consider this a matter of the right to bear arms, however these desires and principles must be weighed against the safety of our community and especially our children, which must take precedence.

Sincerely yours,



Michelle Galimba

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:28:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharan Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Constitution gives us the right to bear arms; those arms must be comparable to the arms that may be used against the citizen; therefore I oppose HB893.

There are enough practical problems with the language of HB893 that I can spend far too much time pointing them out, so I'll put some of those comments into an appendix. But this bill isn't intended to be well-written law, so why bother discussing the details? This bill intends to further conform Hawaii's gun laws with those of the other jurisdictions this bill borrows its questionable language from, to cast our lot further in with the likes of Chicago, Connecticut, California and New York in the continuing national legal battle over gun rights. Do we want Hawaii to further commit to that fight, is this where we should expend our efforts?

Hawaii's situation is unique. Our acquisition process is different from any other jurisdiction. I have gone through our procedure to legally acquire firearms that would be affected by this legislation. I took approved training, signed over my legal and medical records for the perusal of local authorities, had my fingerprints taken, paid for the process, waited a mandated amount of time to get permits to acquire, paid transfer fees to licensed sellers, and then registered the firearms with the police department. And I do nothing with those firearms that is not legal; I can only have them in very particular places, and they can only be loaded in even fewer places.

Most violent gun crime involves handguns; they are concealable and easily carried. Hawaii's current law has far more restrictions on pistols for this reason, and yet those firearms are still far more common to be used in crimes. The rate of violent crime involving long guns owned by people who have complied with Hawaii's acquisition and registration process is vanishingly small, yet those are the people and guns that are targeted by this bill.

Please don't advance HB893, and rather spend the legislature's time on bills that benefit our community.

Thank you;

-Cassidy Kohout, Kihei

Appendix on some salient practical problems with HB893

This bill looks to immediately ban a great deal of magazines for my firearms, so I'd be compelled to somehow limit the capacity of my magazines in a way that couldn't be "readily restored". Pistol magazines in Hawaii have had this language for over thirty years, yet I still don't definitively know what it means. Does "readily restored" mean a tool would be required to change it back? Would it require a machine shop? Would it require a certain amount of time in a machine shop? Is it something I can do myself, or does it require some sort of credentialed gunsmith? It has always been a grey area, with enormous legal ramifications. It would be extremely doable for this bill to clarify this language, but instead it throws a huge quantity of long gun magazines into the same grey area. The only people who are going to be bothered by this ambiguity and those who are concerned with following the law. I would do my best to comply, yet still have no way of knowing whether I am committing a felony or not until legal authorities told me what they thought the law meant.

The shotgun ban language in this bill uses frustratingly ambiguous “fixed magazine” language that doesn’t account for the variable length of shotgun shells. This language has been enacted elsewhere in the country and has always needed clarification afterwards, because shotgun shells are available in (nominal) lengths from 1.75” to 3.5”. Fixed magazines that can hold four 2.75” shells are extremely common, and these magazines can also hold six 1.75” shells. Most guns won’t work very well with the shorter shells, but where does this bill care about whether the “assault shotgun” would be functional or not? I have a semiauto shotgun like this; it is called an “Auto 5” because it was marketed as holding five shells when introduced 120 years ago; it can hold six 1.75” shells in its magazine. Under this bill, I would own Schrodinger’s shotgun: would it be perfectly legal to bring this gun back from a sporting clays event on the mainland, or would it be a felony? I couldn’t know. This is an extremely practical question, not a spurious philosophical one.

The shotgun ban language also bans adjustable stocks. Fit is extremely important for shooting clays well, and adjustable stocks enable a tailored fit. Adjustable stocks used on sporting shotguns can be extremely expensive. They aren’t intended to enhance concealability; some only adjust back and forth an inch or so, but the language in this bill makes no exception for that. The SKB RS300 is example of an entry level semiautomatic gun that comes with an adjustable stock, which is a boon for teaching new shooters because they can learn what sort of stock measurements are best for them.

It's particularly capricious to have extra regulations on semiauto shotguns, because they tend to recoil less than other shotguns of the same gauge, and are therefore commonly recommended for smaller, older, or otherwise recoil-sensitive shooters. It is not the intention of this bill to make clay games less accessible and ergonomic, but it would do so, at least unless authorities told us that the stated language didn’t really mean what it clearly says.

I have also never seen a shotgun stock that isn’t “detachable”. I can only assume this language isn’t so broad that it applies to every shotgun ever made, and that leaves me struggling to understand what shotgun it does apply to.

The “50 cal ban” is proposed repeatedly. The assumed intention is to ban 50bmg firearms. Ballistically speaking, these are the most powerful commonly-available rifles that can be owned under federal law before additional regulations come into play. They are heavy, expensive, and largely impractical. I own a “light weight” 50 cal rifle; it is a single shot bolt action and it weighs about 20 pounds in a shootable configuration. There is no common crime where this sort of firearm is practical. It is a decent (but definitely not the best) long-range caliber. I own it because shooting it is an experience that well instructs the shooter on how to manage recoil. (I’m happy to invite any legislator to share the experience.)

Several jurisdictions have banned 50bmg by name, which had no measurable or plausible impact on their violent crime rates, and also helped catalyze development of slightly smaller calibers that circumvented the ban while being more inherently accurate in the process. The intention behind these bans isn’t to reduce crime, it’s to slowly lower the maximum power of what rifles can be commonly owned. And it is so extremely capricious to lower the limit from 50 caliber to slightly-less-than-50 caliber! .49bmg, if it existed, would be 99% of what 50bmg is, yet totally

legal under this sort of language. This bill is trying to play a ridiculously asinine, subtle-as-a-tax-collector game of whack-a-caliber.

This particular bill's language is broad enough it'd not just ban 50bmg rifles, but also significantly less powerful calibers like 50 Beowulf, 500 S&W and 50 AE, which are specialized rounds that are not at all exceptional in terms of total energy or range when compared to other common hunting calibers like 300 Win Mag.

As pertaining to the listed "assault rifle" feature, this legislation copies most of the same language that's been getting Xeroxed for decades. Is Hawaii plagued by a scourge of bayonet mounts and grenade launchers? No; this bill isn't about being responsive to our needs, it's about enjoining ourselves with other jurisdictions that ban those things. Where is the logic in allowing a person to legally possess a rifle, unless it has a bayonet mount on it, because the bayonet mount is what makes the rifle too dangerous?

When this feature list was originally written, it allowed for one of the listed features. This was done by design to avoid classifying a great number of very common rifles as "assault weapons". Reducing the number of allowed features from one to zero doesn't "close a loophole", it makes the definition of "assault rifle" so broad that the language no longer functions as intended. Guns that were explicitly okay before are now explicitly banned; it flips the original purpose of the language upside down.

It bears mentioning that much of Hawaii is plagued by feral deer and hogs, and this bill would ban semi-automatic rifles that are extremely common for eradication hunting. Flash suppressors help hunters shoot in low-light conditions without being blinded, and a great deal of hunting takes place in low light conditions. A threaded barrel also allows for the installation of muzzle brakes, which can allow faster follow-up shots for larger calibers by reducing recoil. These are ergonomic features that hunters do take advantage of for much needed legal purposes.

"Pistol grip" is an inherently problematic term. "Pistol grip stock" is often used by manufacturers to refer to a stock that isn't a "traditional/ straight/ English-style stock"; "pistol grip stocks" are today more common on long guns than not. What this bill intends to ban are more commonly known as "protruding pistol grips", but since the language clearly doesn't say that, it's ambiguous. There is also an endless struggle to define foregrips; it used to be that they couldn't be "vertical", then people started using slightly-not-vertical grips, and now this language refers to anything "capable of functioning as a protruding grip", which is so extremely broad that it would simultaneously ban everything and nothing at all until we were told what the words in this bill actually mean in practice. (Does a magazine band, a flashlight, a bipod, or a piece of cloth count?)

And finally, federal law restricts firearms under 26". This bill seeks to raise that to 30". The only rifles within this range are "bullpups", which are far rarer than conventional rifles. Stats for violent crimes involving rifles between 26" and 30" long are even lower than for rifles over 30" long. I have a bullpup rifle within this range; I have a small safe it fits inside of easily, a longer rifle wouldn't fit there. Banning these peculiar rifles to reduce gun crime is like banning Rambler Americans, Morris Minors and AMC Gremlins to crackdown on street racing.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:36:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. All of it is unconstitutional and against what is normal and in common use throughout the Republic.

Date: February 6, 2025
To: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
From: Pierce Young, Kailua
Bill: House Bill 893, Relating to Firearms
Hearing Date: Thursday, 02-06-25 2:00PM in House conference room 325
Position: **Support**

Chairperson Tarnas, Vice Chairperson PoePoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Pierce Young, and I am here today to express my support for HB893, which seeks to ban .50 caliber firearms and assault rifles in the State of Hawaii.

The Unique Threat of .50 Caliber Rifles

.50 caliber rifles are designed for military applications, capable of inflicting severe damage due to their long-range accuracy and ability to penetrate armored targets. The presence of such high-powered weaponry in civilian settings poses a significant risk to public safety and critical infrastructure.

Currently, Hawaii does not have specific regulations addressing .50 caliber rifles. Implementing a ban on these firearms would proactively mitigate potential threats before they manifest.

The Impact of Assault Rifles on Public Safety

Assault rifles, characterized by features that enable rapid firing and high-capacity magazines, have been disproportionately used in mass shootings across the United States. While Hawaii has been fortunate to avoid such tragedies, the potential for such events necessitates preventive action.

Hawaii's existing firearm regulations have contributed to one of the lowest gun death rates in the nation. However, the rate of gun deaths in Hawaii increased by 84% from 2014 to 2023, compared to a 33% increase nationwide, indicating a need for continued vigilance and proactive measures.

Lack of Necessity for Personal Use

The intended purposes of .50 caliber rifles and assault rifles are primarily military and law enforcement applications. For civilian use, such as hunting or self-defense, these firearms are neither practical nor necessary.

- **Hunting:** The power of .50 caliber rifles far exceeds what is required for hunting game in Hawaii. Their use could lead to excessive destruction of the animal, rendering the meat unusable and posing safety risks to others in the vicinity due to the bullet's long-range capabilities.

- **Self-Defense:** Assault rifles are not ideal for personal defense within homes or businesses. Their size, recoil, and penetration power increase the risk of unintended harm to bystanders or property. More suitable alternatives for self-defense are available that do not carry these risks.

Furthermore, the use of such high-powered firearms in densely populated areas like Honolulu could have catastrophic consequences in the event of misuse or accidental discharge.

Alignment with Community Values

Hawaii's culture emphasizes community safety, responsibility, and the protection of our 'ohana. Enacting this ban reflects our collective commitment to these values and ensures that our laws evolve to address emerging threats.

Conclusion

By passing HB893, Hawaii can continue to lead in proactive firearm legislation, addressing potential threats before they result in tragedy. This measure is a prudent step to safeguard our communities from the unnecessary risks posed by .50 caliber rifles and assault rifles.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this bill and uphold the safety and well-being of all Hawaii residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Pierce Young

808pierce@gmail.com

8082281570

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:44:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luanna H Meyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill that would outlaw the private, personal ownership of assault weapons including semi-assault style weapons. These are weapons of war and were not manufactured nor intended for private use, either for imagined hunting forays or pretend 'militia' outside established National Guard and other authorized branches of the U.S. military. They have been used in terroristic attacks and to kill and maim innocent civilians including children. They are lethal, but even the wounds leave lifetime disabilities and disfigurement. They have no place in our nation nor in our state. They must be banned.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:47:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Gage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:48:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893

Paul Giles

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:59:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ragasa Jonathan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I oppose HB893. This bill will infringe on my 2nd amendment rights. Please reject this bill and others like it in the future.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:00:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanayama, Galen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass laws that will only effect the law abiding people.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:02:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill infringes my right as an American to bare arms. This bill only benefits the criminals. No criminal(s) will abide by any law that restricts owning firearms period. Gun Laws only restrict law abiding citizens and making us, our family and our property vulnerable to criminals. Sounds like OUR Politicians only care about their wallets being full and care for higher crime rates, supporting the bad guys.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:03:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Len Corpuz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to it being as a infringement on our second amendment

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:11:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glennon T. Gingo	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha to members of the House Judiciary Committe.

I respectfully oppose the ban of these commonly and widely used components of popular firearms. These firearms and components are used in many recreational and competitve shooting venues as well as hunting.

Trying to coorelate the use of these items and their capacities as causing gun crime and further criminal use is not Reasonable, Rational or Respectful. Respect the majority of the community, which are lawabiding and legal gun owners

Time money and resources should be spent on keeping firearms out of the hands of criminal; Enforce the existing laws and work with firearm owners to support law enforcement and community safety and awareness..

I'm a hunter, shooter and firearm safety educator.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Aloha Ke Akua,

Glennon T. Gingo

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:30:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Hehemann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

Timothy John Hehemann

(808) 740-2828

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:30:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Howell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I strongly and wholeheartedly oppose this bill. Every legislative session there are always bills introduced that infringe on our second amendment rights, and this one falls under that category. Additionally, as a resident in rural Puna, firearms are vital to my safety and survival (hunting). Once again this is an attempt by Honolulu to legislate and implement control on those not in the big city and on the outer islands.

Mahalo,

Calvin Howell

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:32:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strongly opposed to this bill because it bans standard equipment, such as my self defense pistol magazines from being purchased. This limits my ability to purchase and use my firearm, makes it more expensive, and infringes on my constitutional and God given right, not privilege, to bear arms.

DATE: February 5, 2025

TO: Honorable Legislators

FROM: Christopher D. Thomas, Attorney at Law

RE: Public Comment and Testimony Regarding HB 893

My name is Christopher D. Thomas, a former Captain in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. During my active-duty service from 2001 to 2007, I served as a felony-level prosecuting attorney and defense counsel, providing legal services to members of the Pacific Air Forces in Hawai'i, Guam, Japan, and Korea. Following my military service my law practice concentrates, in part, on mental health law and treatment. I am also a parent to school-aged children, an avid hunter, and a registered State of Hawaii gun owner. I am a member of the Giffords Gun Owners for Safety advocacy organization; the below testimony reflects my personal position regarding assault rifles.

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 893 and the proposed legislation to ban assault rifles in Hawai'i. My experiences as a military officer, an attorney, and a hunter have provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the unique characteristics and profound impact that assault rifles have on our society. Simply put, assault weapons are specifically designed to kill multiple humans in the most efficient manner available to firearms technology. Multiple inflicted wounds caused by rapid repeating assault weapons with high velocity ammunition are more severe and lethal than wounds caused by other firearms; particularly when paired with large capacity magazines. Assault weapons can kill and injure humans much quicker and efficiently than non-assault designs; which is why the military uses them.

Assault weapons must be reserved for military and law enforcement use. In the military, assault rifles are standard-issue weapons designed for combat scenarios; the goal is to kill humans. Service-members must undergo rigorous training and strict protocols governing their use; restraints that are not available to civilian users. Established sport shooters can derive a safe and similar experience via bolt-action rifles or via the exceptions contained in the Bill. Hunters do not require semi-automatic rapid-repeating platforms. As a hunter I also know that the characteristics of assault weapons are not necessary to humanely kill a solitary animal; hunting effectively is best achieved by a small capacity, manual-action weapon.

Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 134 currently covers only a small portion of the type of weapon that our State has sought to keep our citizens safe from. Our law already supports the premise that Hawaii does not want assault weapons in our community; it is historical statutory precedent. Merely expanding the current statute is a logical and commonsense means of preventing gun violence from the most dangerous military-designed firearms. Furthermore, our current law is outdated; our existing law regulating assault pistols lags behind the proliferation of assault rifles and corresponding lethality inundating gun use in our society.

Gun safety in our communities is reliant upon commonsense regulation that is proven to reverse the current epidemic of violence using these types of firearms. As you are aware from nearly everyday reports of mass shootings, assault pistols, rifles, and shotguns are specifically and nefariously designed to inflict the greatest amount of harm to the largest number of persons within a short duration of time. HB 893 will help prevent the phenomenon of assault weapon mass shootings from affecting our State. The legislation is overdue. I respectfully request that HB 893 be given your full support through the legislative process.

Respectfully submitted, Christopher D. Thomas, goshawaii808@gmail.com

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:44:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Assault rifles are used in most mass shootings in our country. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use in our islands. As a parent and a teacher and a proponent of our beloved Hawaii nei, I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

Dennis M. Dunn

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

dennismdunn47@gmail.com

TO: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

House Committee on judiciary and Hawai'ian Affairs

RE: HB 893, Relating to Firearms

HEARING: Thursday, February 6, 2025, 2:00 P.M.

Good afternoon, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawai'ian Affairs. My name is Dennis Dunn, and I am the retired Director of the Victim Witness Kokua Services in the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office, having retired after 44 years of service. Prior to that I was a volunteer Victim Advocate for People Against Rape. I am testifying today **in strong support of HB 893**.

Too often during my career in victim assistance I have had to console victims of gun violence or their surviving family members. We hardly need to be reminded of the immense destructive power of assault weapons as we are constantly made aware of the death and suffering cause by them by the virtual daily litany of mass casualty incidents that are caused by these weapons. There is no legitimate purpose in a civilized society for devices whose only purpose is to rapidly administer death and serious bodily injury to human beings. I am uncertain as to why our current firearms statutes fail to outlaw to encompass assault rifles and shotguns, but the time to change that is now. Given the increases in gun crimes, even in Hawai'i, this is a critical legislative need. Our statutory defense against assault weapons must be airtight with no loopholes. The stakes in the battle against gun violence are high and every resource in preventing assault weapons anywhere in Hawai'i.

Please support HB 893. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:55:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ratu Rusiate Busa Barbour	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:58:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neil Wehrsigg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB893. Putting more restrictions on Law Abiding Citizens for our 2nd Ammendment rights is Unconstiutional. Enough is enough.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:03:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mitchell H. Weber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB893,

The items the state wishes to ban are in common use. The sponsors of this bill as well as any member who votes aye should be ashamed of yourselves. The talking point of the left(maybe even some of you) have been parroting this week is "Nobody Elected Elon!".... Well nobody elected Bloomberg either.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:04:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Spencer smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose 893 HB

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:04:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe OMealy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the proposal to extend the ban on assault weapons to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns, and large capacity magazines.

Thank you.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:06:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Ruderman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Vanessa Ruderman, and I live on Hawai'i Island. Mahalo for hearing my testimony in support of HB 893, which would close this dangerous gap in Hawai'i law, prohibiting assault rifles

and shotguns with one or more military features that are capable of firing a high number of rounds in a short period of time.

I understand that the bill would allow people to keep the firearms they already possess, and allow them to use them on property they own or work on, including for use as a wildlife control method on agricultural or rural property where feral ungulate management is an issue.

People would still be allowed to purchase most types of semi-automatic rifles, including common hunting weapons.

Please help us protect our community by passing HB 893.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members:

My name is Elna Nagasako and I live in Makiki. I am testifying in support of HB893.

I am originally from the Big Island and spent the majority of the two decades prior to returning home living in Missouri.

I've long been hesitant to testify on "assault rifle" legislation because I know that AR-15 and similar semiautomatic rifles are popular, versatile, and accessible for those interest in recreational shooting. As a friend, having known people who are hunters and who carry firearms for self-protection, it pains me to talk about firearm regulations, because when I picture gun users, I picture them.

However, as a physician, I also know that:

*Firearms are the leading cause of death in children and adolescents. Although school shootings are rare, they have increased substantially in the last 5 years and have also increased in lethality.

*An AR-15 or similar firearm produces a wave of tissue destruction much greater than the diameter of the bullet itself with a muzzle energy much greater than that of a handgun.

*The case fatality rate of this type of weapon was 100% at the Sandy Hook shooting (no child survived being shot) and 50% at the Parkland shooting.

Because of this, I support HB893 as legislation that continues to allow the purchase of semiautomatic rifles, while restricting certain features such as high-capacity magazines that unfortunately play a role in mass shootings and their lethality.

Please support HB893.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elna Nagasako

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:22:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terence Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Commitee Members. My name is Terence Lee. I was born and raised here on Oahu. I lived in Seattle for a number of years. It was where I was shot. Dec 21, 1992. I live with this trauma every day. 32 years. I have spent those years watching the gun violence grow in the United States.

I am shocked that the island currently allows assault rifles, shotguns and large capacity magazines. I hope no family planning a vacation here hears about this. We are the only state that does this. We need to pass this bill. It is common sense long overdue.

Not only the Safety of our people, but our future tourism will be affected by this.

Mahalo,

Terence Lee

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:24:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB893

This bill is far reaching and terrible to the point of being obnoxious and targeting law abiding gun owners. This will result in people not buying most rifles, to include hunting rifles and beginner/starter 22lr rifles. It also affects my ability own magazines which I use for competition shooting, self-defense and to teach classes with. It bans the most common magazines and requires the costly modification of existing magazines which could also make them unreliable.

This bill is extremely unconstitutional and will adversely affect law abiding gun owners. Please focus your efforts on criminals making laws that penalize them (and enforcing those laws) without affecting legal gun owners in any way. I feel like a criminal when I see this bill.

The US Supreme Court is currently considering taking an appeal Snopes v Brown which will determine the unconstitutionality of Maryland's assault weapon ban. We all know the US Supreme Court will find it grossly unconstitutional.

<https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/snope-v-brown/>

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/search.aspx?filename=/docket/docketfiles/html/public/24-203.html>

Todd Yukutake

toddykutake@gmail.com

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:26:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB893..

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:32:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Qwincey Walker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE Bill HB893 because it clearly goes against my 2nd Amendment Rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:36:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William J M. Evans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Assault weapons are designed for military use. They fire rapidly and the bullets cause major bodily injury even when victims of shooting survive. They are not needed by private citizens for self-protection, hunting, target shooting, or another legitimate use of firearms. Ownership by private citizens who may consider themselves law-abiding and responsible, serves to increase the risk of these weapons falling into the hands of dangerous criminals, people with serious mental disorders, domestic terrorists, and children. This is a serious safety hazard for every resident of Hawaii Nei and makes our schoolchildren unsafe.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:36:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robert nago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:40:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Woodward	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 893.

If passed, this bill will be a clear violation of my constitutional rights granted to me by the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. The standard capacity of detachable magazines for most modern rifles (AR 15) is 20 rounds. Two of my rifles do not function properly with 10 round magazines. At the rifle range I use 20 round magazines loaded with 5 rounds each. Over the last 14 years I have purchased a number of 20 round magazines. If passed, I assume I will be required to give up my personal property that was legally purchased. These magazines are not inexpensive.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:40:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this legislation. It will do nothing to deter criminal behavior. This measure only lpunishes law-adiding citizens, It's just another waste of time for everybody. Surely you have more important matters to address!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:43:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Hawkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Assault rifle/weapons bans are falling every day. Further, despite the slight increase of gun violence in the state, pistols are responsible for nearly 99% of all incidents in the state. This falls in line with the blatant assault on the 2nd Amendment by this legislature. The majority of these "Regarding Firearms" bills are nothing more than tyrannical actions that affect the law-abiding citizens, CONSTITUENTS, of this state, more than criminals.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:44:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB893. I don't believe that these types of firearms should be legal for individuals. The public's safety and well being depends on keeping our assault weapons ban strong and adding these new provisions.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Shirley Yamauchi
Kapolei
96707

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Sherry Pettus

Paauhau

96727

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Colin Smith
Lawai
96765

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Elizabeth O'Connor
Honolulu
96815

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Cecile Smith
Honolulu
96825

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Tia Pearson

Wahiawa

96786

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jan Lubin
Honolulu
96826

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Brian Emmons
Haleiwa
96712

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Bo Breda

Pahoa

96778

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jim Owens
Kailua
96734

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Lorna Farnum

Keaau

96749

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Joe Woo Jr.
Kahului
96732

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Alaina Craft
Kaunakakai
96748

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Lorna Holmes
Honolulu
96817

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

eric Jon voorhies

kapaa

96746

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Jacqui Skill

Lahaina

96761

We are concerned about mental health and know that lawmakers can support protection for children especially regarding laws on dangerous weapons.

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Kathleen Golden

Volcano

96785

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Alex Oshiro
Honolulu
96813

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Mary True
Pepeekeo
96783

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Carolyn Golojuch
Kapolei
96707

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Maureen Whittemore
Kaunakakai
96748

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Michele Nihipali

Hauula

96717

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Thomas Tizard
Kailua
96734

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Robert Robert Nehmad
Honolulu
96825

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laurie saarinen

Hilo

96720

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Ingrid Nishimoto

Ninole

96773

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Kevin Casey

Lihue

96766

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Frank Gordon
Ewa Beach
96706

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Lorraine Akiba
Honolulu
96808

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Ellen Caringer

Kapaa

96746

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Gregory Puppione
Honolulu
96826

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Peter Wilson

Pahoa

96778

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Katharine Conway

Koloa

96756

In my wildest imagination, I can think of NO reason someone needs an assault rifle.
Please ban all assault rifles in Hawaii.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

susan kean

lahaina

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Mark Iaconetti-Cole
Honolulu
96816

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Bridget Scott
Honolulu
96822

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:45:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Isaacson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Assault weapons is a made-up term for what some people think are scary looking firearms. they function the same as any other firearms. .50 cal. firearms are too expensive and bulky for anyone except dedicated hobbyists to devote time and money to, and are not used for criminal activity. A ban would be unconstitutional under the Bruen Supreme Court ruling.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Diane Wernet
Pahoa
96778

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Marya Mann
Kailua Kona
96745

An A.R. 15 is not a hunting weapon. Hawaii has the same level of gun ownership as Kentucky with far less gun violence. Why do you think that is --- part of it is our strict gun control laws here, which hasn't inhibited anyone's ability to go hunting. I think not. Please please please please ban AR 15s and require safe gun storage.

Andy Sheinis
Kamuela
96743

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Anna Doyle
Honolulu
96816

Gun violence is escalating in Hawaii and we need common sense laws to protect our population.

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Jim Cooper
Honolulu
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Linda Boranian
Holualoa
96725

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Carla Protzman
Kula
96790

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Heatherly Bucher
Mililani
96789

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Michelle Gabriel
Kapolei
96707

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Eric McCarren
Honolulu
96821

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Julie Beers
Ewa Beach
96706

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Andrea Spangler
Kihei
96753

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Peggy Reising
Ewa Beach
96706

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Jill Greengrove
Paia
96779

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Nancy Kickertz
Kailua
96734

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Niki Miller
Kaneohe
96744

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Jeff Dominick Esposito
Mililani
96789

Assault rifles have no place in our communities!

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Vicky Robbins
Pahoa
96778

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Judith White
Kapaa
96746

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Linda Legrande
Honolulu
96822

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Jeanette C Evans

Kula

96790

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Pamela Teehan
Honolulu
96818

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Sara Bailey
Kaneohe
96744

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Janet Andrea
Keaau
96749

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John Hugg
Kahului
96732

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Pamela Patrick
Kihei
96753

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gabrielle toloza
Kailua
96734

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Beverly O Winber
Honolulu, HI
96826

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BARBARA GOMES

Kailua

96734

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Sheryl Gardner
Mililani
96789

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Michelle Takemoto
Honolulu
96821

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Nancy Conley
Honolulu
96815

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Bry Stein
Kihei
96753

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Patty Walker
Waikoloa
96738

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Michele Carvalho
Hilo
96720

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Robert Crone
Kailua
96734

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Lois Langham
Honolulu
96814

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Jo Lum
Honolulu
96817

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Christine Kaminski
Kaneohe
96744

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Louise DiGrazia
Kailua
96734

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lois crozer
kailua
96734

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MaryAnn Jones
Kapolei
96707

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Michele Hondo
Wailuku
96793

Guns are a hobby. And they kill. Assault weapons do not kill animals efficiently. Ban assault weapons.

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Susan Lord
Honolulu
96825

Let's keep Hawaii safe.

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Ellen Scherr
Honolulu
96815

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Christine Martinez-Suzukawa
Wailuku
96793

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Sherrill j Sturm
Kaneohe
96744

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Sandra Shane
Honolulu
96815

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Virginia Alatasi
Hauula
96717

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Natalie DeBiasi
Honolulu
96814

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Tamara Paltin
Lahaina
96761

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Ruthann Olson-Moore
Keaau
96749

Gun violence devastates families and communities.

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Lily Swan
Hāna
96713

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Charlene Flanter
Honolulu
96816

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Jennifer Strumolo

Haiku

96708

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Tanya Ramseth
Koloa
96756

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Patricia Wright
Kailua
96734

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Lurline Bettencourt
Kapa'a
96746

As a resident of Kaneohe, and a mother of two, I beg you to strengthen our common sense gun safety laws. Please put the safety of our keiki and communities over a few gun enthusiasts.

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Ashley De Coligny

Kaneohe

96744

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Delia Almares
Honolulu
96816

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Tami Dixon
Kaunakakai
96748

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Rachel Hodara Nelson
Makawao
96768

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Kealakai Hammond
Honolulu
96817

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April Ching
Honolulu
96822

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Jennifer Swartz
Kalaheo
96741

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Cindy Mckean
Captain Cook
96704

I want my children to be safe!

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Ana Bravo
Honolulu
96825

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Bethany Stetson
Kaneohe
96744

We have to keep Hawaii Hawaii and protect our keiki.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

andrea suzuki
Honolulu
96813

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Carolyn Adams
Honolulu
96818

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Fia Richmond
Koloa
96756

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Jeanne Alford
Kamuela
96743

No civilian needs these weapons. Too many people have died senselessly as a result of their availability.

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Nchewi Imoke

Honolulu

96815

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Ralph Boyea
Keaau
96749

We lived in Santa Fe, TX when that school shooting occurred. The older sister of one of my child's best friends was killed in that shooting. We moved to Hawaii to get away from gun violence.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

HOLLY JACKSON
MILILANI
96789

The gun violence in the US is totally out of control. My kids are grown but I would not send kids to school these days.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Edie Valentine

Keaau

96749

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Kris Lambert
Kailua
96734

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Carolyn Witcover
Captain Cook
96704

Too many children have died. I worry for my grandchildren's safety.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Judy Schermer
Kailua Kona
96740

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Caleigh Dillon
Waialua
96791

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Jen Lum
Ewa Beach
96706

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Amber Kawamura
Wailuku
96793

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Carlynn Wolfe
Honolulu
96822

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Amy Odom
Kailua
96734

One of the best things about Hawaii is the low rate of gun violence. We are one of the safest states and need to keep it that way, to protect our keiki.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Erin deNeeve Baum

Waipahu

96797

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Delphine Homerowski
Honolulu
96822

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Marcela Montalto
Honolulu
96815

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Earl Kim
Honolulu
96813

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Erica K Yamauchi
Honolulu
96816

It shouldn't feel risky (or like gambling!) to send my kids to school.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Miriam Kotubetey
Kaneohe
96744

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Joslyne Young
Kahului
96732

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Mary Ellen Williams
Honolulu
96813

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Denis Gueret
Kapaa
96746

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Larrilynn Paguyo
Aiea
96701

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Pedro Maynes
Honolulu
96816

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Berta Narbonne
Honolulu
96821

Please ban these weapons and keep my grandchildren safe. My daughter is a teacher and I am afraid of what our schools are becoming.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Lisa Mosbarger

Haiku

96708

Hawaii does not YET have the epidemic level of mass shootings and gun deaths that other states have. We need to keep it that way! Banning assault weapons is one huge step toward the goal of preventing gun deaths in Hawaii.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jill Tucker
Kaneohe
96744

Gun control will keep our communities, schools and citizens safer.

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Kathy Thomas
Kaneohe
96744

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Jayne Barton
Waialua
96791

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Javier Mendez
Honolulu
96817

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Lisa Imai
Honolulu
96821

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Julie Henig
Kamuela
96743

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Marcia Pasqua
Honolulu
96816

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Viva Medina

Haiku

96708

Please ban assault weapons! We dont need them and I don't want to live in fear. Keep HI gun laws strong and strengthen them even more! Thank you!

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Gabrielle Davidson

Anahola

96703

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Maribeth Anderson
Pahoa
96778

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Karin Olson
Kihei
96753

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Nita Tomaszewski
Pahoa
96778

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Bethann Paul
Kailua
96734

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Kaopuuokaha Weir
Honolulu
96825

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Karolle Bidgood
Kaneohe
96744

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Rachel Logan
Honolulu
96825

It's important to me that our state remains the safest in regards to guns. It's already such a great place to be a child, please make it a priority for it to be one of the safest.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

McKenzie Johnson

Koloa

96756

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Paul Soluri
Honolulu
96821

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Melody Peralta
Ewa Beach
96706

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Lauren Rolland
Waialua
96791

The number one cause of death for kids in the US is guns - it's the guns, it's the guns, it's the guns!

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Grace Wright

Kula

96790

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Crystal Galla
Kapolei
96707

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Jaime Manuwai
Kaneohe
96744

I am a teacher and have 2 young daughters who will be in school soon. There is no reason assault rifles should be owned by the public. I want to feel safe at my place of work and I want to feel safe while my kids are at school.

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Chardene A Metcalfe
Kalaheo
96741

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Allyson Metzger
Kailua-Kona
96740

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Noel Trim
Kailua Kona
96740

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Roda Aggabao
Kapolei
96707

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Ivy Castellanos
Kaneohe
96744

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Heather Cutts
Honolulu
96825

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Cheryl Buckman
Hilo
96720

Our children are the most precious and vulnerable members of our society and should be protected. We need to do everything we can to keep them safe and away from harm.

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Ana Hernandez

Ewa Beach

96706

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Ashley Katamoto
Kaneohe
96744

We must push more aggressively under this administration and not lose ground!

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Tina Stewart
Honolulu
96821

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Diana Castaneda
Waipahu
96797

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Julia Duquette
Honolulu
96813

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Corina Scoggins
Kalaheo
96741

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Dianne Higgins
Paauilo
96776

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Marilyn Means
Kapaa
96746

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Carol Abrigo
Mililani
96789

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Peter Anderson
Honolulu
96825

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Jacquelin Sabin
Kailua Kona
96740

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Jennifer Gutierrez
Ewa Beach
96706

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Derek Ahrens
Kapolei
96707

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Gina Willman
Kamuela
96743

Children should be safe at school!

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Ashley Wolfe
Haleiwa
96712

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Precious Yasay
Honolulu
96818

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Ellen Mount
Kailua Kona
96740

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Sam Guckenheimer
Captain Cook
96704

I lived most of my life in Louisiana and lived with gun violence. My children had best 2 friends in separate incidents, shot and killed on the streets. My husband committed suicide at home with a gun. My kids now live in a place where shootings are an almost daily occurrence. THIS HAS TO STOP.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Mary David
Honokaa
96727

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Gina Cacchioli
Kapolei
96707

I desperately want my children to be safe at school. That includes mental health; they shouldn't be doing active shooter drills or even worry about that. Kids are being traumatized just by the risk of active shooters. Assault weapons are unnecessary and giving them up is a reasonable sacrifice to keep kids safe.

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Kimberly Simpson
PAHOA
96778

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Kelley Lacks
Keaau
96749

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Meredith Ing
Hilo
96720

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Ana Trovinger
Honolulu
96818

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Gabrielle Davidson
Anahola
96703

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Rodelie Beck
Kapolei
96707

Aloha, I care about secure gun storage and the banning of assault weapons because I as a healthcare provider I know that prevention of accidents and assault weapons is the best way to keep injuries and death rates from guns increasing in Hawaii.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jane Gallagher Felix
Kailua
96734

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Violet Kauhi
Haiku
96708

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Elna Nagasako
Honolulu
96822

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Jeanne Case
Kailua
96734

More guns = more deaths.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Larry Morris
Pahoa
96778

My name is Isabella McRae and I grew up in Hawaii. I support a ban on all assault weapons and support the secure gun storage law. In college I took a public health course and one of the classes stuck with me ever since I have graduated. Our teacher provided us with a graph and information that stated that states that have more stringent gun regulations generally have fewer deaths by suicide. Obviously there are a lot of nuances in the situation; however, it has been shown that if other lethal means are not readily available, more gun control equals less ability for people to access a lethal weapon to commit suicide. Safe storage is a clear example of a law that Hawaii could pass to reduce deaths by suicide. I am not saying that people will stop attempting, but I am saying that there may be less successful attempts by children and teens if this law is passed. I also support banning assault weapons. I grew up in a time where high school shootings occurred frequently. In the increasingly polarized political climate, as a visibly gender non conforming lesbian, I am concerned that weapons like assault rifles have been used to harass my communities across the unified states. A gay bar was shot up and pride events are regularly threatened by far right armed proud boy groups. While I have generally felt safe in my home state, I have been harassed for my sexuality. Placing a ban on assault weapons would make me feel safer in my community and help provide many students and queer people with a larger sense of safety in Hawaii. Thank you for receiving my testimony. Please support these bills.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Isabella McRae
Waipahu
96797

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Michael Berg
Wailuku
96793

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Valerie Iwata
Mililani
96789

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Erica Wigell
Kailua
96734

Don't let Hawai'i kids end up dead like so many mainland kids!

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Hali McCloud
Kailua
96734

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Mary Taiariol
Kalaheo
96741

Let's keep Hawaii schools and kids safe and support the right to bare arms but do it safely for those that want them. Let's keep Hawaii safe

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Caity Hansen

Kihei

96753

I fear for the safety of our keiki in our schools. I fear for everyone who just want to go places and not worry that there is someone with a gun ready to shoot everyone. There is absolutely no necessary reason to have an AK type weapon!!!, I fear for the safety of our keiki in our schools. I fear for everyone who just want to go places and not worry that there is someone with a gun ready to shoot everyone. There is absolutely no necessary reason to have an AK type weapon!!!

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Patricia Baker
Hanapepe
96716

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Adrya Siebring
Anahola
96703

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Shana Laririt
Makawao
96768

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Sierra Dunn
Kula
96790

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Dennis Dunn
Kailua
96734

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Christina Simmons
Kaneohe
96744

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Sungwon Choe
Honolulu
96822

It's common sense! Assault weapons are not 'defensive', they are weapons designed for mass murder! Please do anything you can to rid our nation of them!

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Francis Guy Mackenzie

Ewa Beach

96706

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Alzira Fernandes
Honolulu
96822

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Linda Damas
Hilo
96720

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Darlene Viggiano
Pahoa
96778

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Nicole TERGEOGLOU
Laupahoehoe
96764

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Dorene Campos
Kihei
96753

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Lori Kizer
Kapaa
96746

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Wanda Costa
Kapaa
96746

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Cedar Wilson
Laie
96762

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Laura Stocker
Ocean View
96737

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Patricia Montgomery
Lihue
96766

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Merri Keliikuli
Waianae
96792

I'm an RN in the Emergency Department. Let's stop preventable deaths.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jerelyn Hammer

Hilo

96720

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

John Lewis
Waimanalo, HI 96795-1654
96795

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Marnie Honeycutt
Hilo
96720

There is ZERO reason for assault rifles on the streets of Hawaii. You know it, I know it. There is only one use for an assault rifle and that is to do serious damage to humans. Add to that guns laying around the house for children to get ahold of or those with emotional issues to use instead of their words. Please stop the carnage.

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Elisa Stern
Kailua-Kona
96740

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Jazzy Bostock
Waianae
96792

I have two kids in school. I feel safer sending them to school if assault rifles are banned and guns are securely stored. It breaks my heart to see tragedies happening in public places due to negligent laws or lack thereof. Mahalo nui.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

McCall Char
Honokaa
96727

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Michael Steuber
Honolulu
96816

These are military style weapons. Please keep them off our streets.

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Terriann Mohideen
Kailua
96734

I don't feel that any of us are safe with kids getting access to unlocked guns or people with unknown mental status walking around with assault weapons meant for war.

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Amanda Myers

Kailua

96734

Hawaii has had a culture of resolving beef (primarily) with fists. The change to guns is increasing but not yet at the tipping point. If that happens the changes will be devastating - and impossible to reverse. Seriously, what is the compelling reason to not have laws regarding secure gun storage? How can the community take laws about fireworks seriously when there is not a ban on assault weapons? What is your vision of Hawai'i? If it has guns in it you are thinking of somewhere else and shouldn't be in government here.

Ruth Coules

Honolulu

96816

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rose Ferreira
ewa
96706

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Marguerite Koster
Honolulu
96814

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Mike Meyer
Kaneohe
96744

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Taylor Pettis
Lihue
96766

Rather than saying "It's my 2nd Amendment Right", why would you want civilians to have access to an assault weapon?

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Kuuipo Kanawaliwali

Hoolehua

96729

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Anita Randall-Packer
Kamuela
96743

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Danielle McBride
Koloa
96756

Responsible gun use is crucial to the public's safety especially in a time of political polarization when trust and morale is low. Misunderstandings happen without the extra psychological negativity and with this climate- gun safety is extra important. Nobody is asking to take rights away- but added security measures. That includes age appropriate rules.

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Sarah Baker
Kailua
96734

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Stephanie Strong
Kihei
96753

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Erica Wesselman
Captain Cook
96704

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Catherine Taylor
HON
96825

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John Theismann
PAHOA
96778

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Sandee Kishimori
Hilo
96720

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Kathryn Shawhan
Kaneohe
96744

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Mary Michael
Kula
96790

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Remy Toyama
honolulu
96815

Please help us be safe from gun violence. Protect our children.

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Deborah McCormick
Ewa Beach
96706

On our islands, it's imperative that we find ways to get along. Our communities are tight-knit. The land mass we live on is limited. There's no place for violence. Hawaii has been a leader in safeguarding citizens and freedoms. Assault weapons have no place in the hands of regular citizens. Safe gun storage is just plain commonsense.

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Deborah Harada
KANEEOHE
96744

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Diane Goya
Milikani
96789

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Ruth Andrade-Alvarado
Honolulu
96821

I don't want to have the same alarming number of school massacres or mass shooters here in Hawaii. I want gun owners held responsible for what happens to their guns especially if they are not adequately secured.

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Jay Takane
Honolulu
96822

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Allison Cooke
Honolulu
96815

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Kapua Hussey
Kailua
96734

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C Aronoff
Captain Cook
96704

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Kirsten Carlson
Captain Cook
96704

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Constance Pappas
Kilauea
96754

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Jack Powell
Honolulu
96816

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Laurem E-K
KAPAA
96746

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Wendy Bernier
Honokaa
96727

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Dominique Anders
Honolulu
96816

Hawaii must enact laws to protect people, especially because the neighbor islands like my home of Hawai'i Island has too few police officers and huge, rural areas where law enforcement is challenged. Keep militaristic assault guns out of civilian hands!

I'm urging you to protect Hawai'i residents like me from gun violence by voting to prohibit all assault weapons, including the AR-15 and other high-powered semi-automatic rifles that shoot over ten rounds without reloading. They're designed to kill as many people as possible, and there's no reason they should be in our communities.

Tanya Dean
Waikoloa
96738

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Karen Abubo
Princeville
96722

The gun madness must end.

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joyce Louden
Honokaa
96727

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Christopher Stevens
Kapolei
96707

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:53:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reginald Eubanks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 893. The proposed changes to HRS-134 will not make the community safe or criminals less lethal. This bill attempts to criminalize the firearms our citizens possess that have been legal since our founding.

The number of crimes involving the arbitrary definitions made up for the purpose of this bill do not warrant the outright banning of commonly owned firearms in the state. Equally, the attachments on a firearm do not make a firearm more deadly than it already is, neither does caliber or magazine type/quantity.

Any tool, including hands, can become deadly if the criminal desires. Is a criminal that strangles 10 people over a few weeks less deadly than a criminal with 10 rifle rounds today? This is a feel-good measure that is unconstitutional and takes attention away from the mental health and drug crisis that plagues our communities.

Gun owners are not the enemy! They are registered with the state (which violates their rights) but still comply with every requirement put before them. However, this bill goes too far.

Please vote no on HB 893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:58:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen L Worthington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear House Committee Members:

I strongly support HB893 and urge you to pass this law. HB893 is a common-sense step to continuing to keep our keiki and 'ohana safe from firearms that are unnecessary for hunting and increase the risk of harm to humans.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Worthington, Kula, Hawaii

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:00:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel M. Aquino Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:00:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:03:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would continue to punish law abiding citizens of the State of Hawaii and infringe upon their right to defend themselves in a manner which they deem acceptable. It would severely impact their ability while at home in the unfortunate event of a home invasion. It's the middle of the night and someone breaks in with the intent to cause physical harm. The bad actors have firearms obtained illegally and are a threat to you and your family, but you are limited to only 10 rounds in a magazine and have no way to carry extra magazines in your pajamas and you are calling 911 with your cellphone in your other hand. What do you do? It has been proven on many different occasions that standard capacity magazines made the difference between life and death for the law abiding citizen. Judge Roger Benitez from California declared magazine bans unconstitutional in his 2019 ruling. He ruled that magazines holding more than 10 rounds are "arms" under the U.S. Constitution, and that the... ..law "burdens the core of the Second Amendment by criminalizing the acquisition and possession of these magazines that are commonly held by law-abiding citizens for defense of self, home, and state."

Magazines that have capacities larger than 10 rounds were designed that way by the manufacturer for an explicit reason; to give the user the ability to defend oneself against bad actors with equality. To deviate from that would be redesigning the firearm from its initial and desired design. The Glock 17, which is the standard issue firearm for the Honolulu Police department, has a designed standard capacity of 17 rounds. The Colt AR-15 is the standard issue rifle of HPD, which is designed for use with 30 round capacity magazines. Is the intent of the statute to create two distinct classes of people in Hawaii? Is the safety of the Law Enforcement Officer more important than the safety of the law abiding citizen? That is what this statute is making.

Banning magazines with capacities of more than 10 rounds does nothing to address the real issues of crime in Hawaii and is only trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist. Banning larger-capacity ammunition magazines won't reduce the number of shootings, and is as daft a notion as banning all personal vehicles in the state in order to reduce DUI deaths.

I urge you to oppose this measure and to work to repeal the current nonsense law of pistol magazine restrictions for the safety and welfare of Hawaii residents. Instead of focusing your attention of the gun or the ammo, perhaps your focus should be on the bad guy using the gun. This bill will penalize the lawful for the misdeeds of the unlawful.

Please concentrate your focus instead on effective legislation, such as keeping repeat offenders behind bars. Hawaii's "catch-and-release" justice system is a farce.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:03:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen and mother of two watching the numerous mass shootings take place over the past few weeks has been extremely challenging. These shootings take place in public spaces where many people have been killed. I do not want an increase in public danger for Hawai'i, my home. Weapons have no place in public spaces and must be carefully regulated. Our theaters, parks, churches, hospitals, libraries, sidewalks, stores, beaches, schools, and homes are not war zones or spaces where weapons are needed for self-defense, but are instead spaces for living together as a community. Please protect all of us by regulating permits and weapons in public spaces. I ask you to take action to protect life. Protect our public spaces by banning assault weapons.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:15:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karl Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB 893. It does nothing for public safety. It's just a feel good law that targets law abiding citizens in Hawaii. These are good people who obey the laws of Hawaii, have no criminal past and are still further penalized.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:20:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB893. There are tons of hunters who hunt with assault rifles/shotguns. How is limiting high capacity magazines going to make this a safer place, it is not. Law abiding citizens needs high capacity magazines to protect ourselves from criminals, a gang of people each carrying a gun.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:40:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislature:

I submit this testimony in opposition of HB893.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:58:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Assault weapons have no place outside of the military. Hawaii does not want to be another state where there are horrific mass killings.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:37:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Covert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This law makes the most common firearms and magazine owners felons even if they have lawfully licensed, purchased, and registered those firearms with HPD. Other states have passed similar laws which have been found unlawful such as in Oregon, We have seen the Supreme Court vacate and remand cases back down to courts who have not followed their guidance on these types of laws.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:44:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

There's no place for these machines of death except in war. Please ban them from our citizenry.

Thank you, Linda

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:45:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ki'ilani Goo-Vidinha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Any restrictions on firearm ownership or purchase is against the 2nd amendment right

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:46:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kualii Makaneole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These firearms are widely used for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting, and have now been vilified due to cosmetic features. HB 893 would impose a ban on standard capacity magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. These so-called “high capacity” magazines are, in fact, standard equipment for commonly owned firearms that many Americans legally and effectively use for an entire range of legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or competition.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:10:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Inn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill goes against my 2nd amendment rights that's why I oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:54:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 893 or HB 279 in the text box on the testimony submission form.

HB 893 - Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands.

HB 279 - Access to guns in the home increases the risk of suicide by 300%.

Improperly storing guns can contribute to guns entering the illegal market.

Unlocked and loaded firearms in the home drastically jeopardize the safety of our keiki.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:00:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Proctor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill as it restricts firearms based on a single feature.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:10:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealakai Hammond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB893 which prohibits assault rifles, assault shotguns, .50 caliber rifles, and high-capacity detachable magazines. These weapons, designed for military use, have no place in civilian hands and significantly increase the lethality of mass shootings.

Studies show that mass shootings involving assault weapons result in **six times as many casualties**, and states with high-capacity magazine bans see **63% fewer mass shootings**. The 1994–2004 federal assault weapons ban led to a **70% drop in mass shooting deaths**, proving the effectiveness of such measures.

Additionally, law enforcement agencies report rising threats from these firearms, making public safety efforts more challenging. By enacting this bill, we can reduce gun violence, protect communities, and support first responders.

I urge you to pass this legislation to keep our communities safe.

Respectfully,

Kealakai Hammond

Honolulu, HI

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:58:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abraham Antonio sr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill do to it will really affect hunters.

You will keep trying every year till you get it passed and we the people will keep opposing this bill and bills like this

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:08:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J. Cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly Oppose HB 893. The so-called “High Capacity” magazines are in fact standard issue for many popular sporting arms. There is no proof that such a ban would work to curb crime. Efforts and resources are better spent elsewhere.

V/R

Kevin J. Cole, Col USAF Ret. Mililani

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:49:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Correia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 893.

This bill seeks to expand Hawaii’s existing “assault pistol” ban to include commonly owned rifles and shotguns based on a “single feature” test. These firearms are widely used for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting. The proposed restrictions are based on cosmetic features that have no bearing on the functionality or lethality of the firearms. Additionally, HB 893 imposes a ban on standard capacity magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. These magazines are standard equipment for many firearms that Americans legally and effectively use for legitimate purposes such as self-defense and competition purposes. The restrictions proposed in HB 893 unjustly target law-abiding gun owners and infringe upon their Second Amendment rights.

I request that you oppose HB 893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:51:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janessa Bonifacio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 893.

This bill seeks to expand Hawaii’s existing “assault pistol” ban to include commonly owned rifles and shotguns based on a “single feature” test. These firearms are widely used for self-defense, recreational shooting, and hunting. The proposed restrictions are based on cosmetic features that have no bearing on the functionality or lethality of the firearms. Additionally, HB 893 imposes a ban on standard capacity magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds. These magazines are standard equipment for many firearms that Americans legally and effectively use for legitimate purposes such as self-defense and competition purposes. The restrictions proposed in HB 893 unjustly target law-abiding gun owners and infringe upon their Second Amendment rights.

I request that you oppose HB 893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:35:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns, and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands. Please help to keep us safe from mass shootings. Mahalo.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:45:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chad maeda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:27:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong opposition to Hawaii Bill HB893. This bill proposes significant and unconstitutional amendments to firearm regulations in our State of Hawaii. This bill will unjustly infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens. It will fail to effectively address the underlying issues related to all violence in our state. Public safety will not be achieved through the unjust emotion based sanctions against all law-abiding citizens. Public Safety can be achieved by taking the difficult steps to address mental health. Mental Health is an unpopular topic and measures to manage mental health will be challenged by groups that do not have to live with the consequences.

The imposition of new restrictions on firearm ownership represent a clear infringement on the Second Amendment rights of all law-abiding citizens. The right to keep and bear arms, which includes its components, is a fundamental constitutional right and as with all within the Bill of Rights, should not be infringed.

To enhance public safety, you need to address the root causes of any and all violence in our communities. Instead of targeting law-abiding citizens of which some are firearm owners, the focus should address mental health issues, socio-economic disparities (high cost of living), and imposing harsh penalties for criminals that commit violent crimes. Penalties should be compounded for repeat offenders as they are proving they need to be separated from what could be a civil society.

The proposed restrictions of firearms and their componenets would disproportionately impact law-abiding citizens who use firearms for lawful purposes such as self-defense, hunting, and recreational shooting. These law abiding individuals should not be penalized for the actions of a few criminals or what some do not agree with. The restrictions will have absolutely no effect on criminals. By the definition of criminals, they do not follow laws. Illegal firearms most likely have origins from outside of the State. This has increased because the State of Hawaii sends its incarcerated to Saguaro in Arizona where they now gain affiliations with mainland gangs and cartels. When they return to Hawaii, they keep those affiliations. Ask any HPD Officer if the sending inmates to Saguaro has had an effect on Hawaii crime. If we can spend billions on the rail, we can spend a few million for prisons here where family can visit their loved ones and maybe reform them. Criminals bring in illegal fireworks. You can clearly see how criminals do not follow laws. These proposed restrictions only penalize the law abiding citizens.

There is insufficient evidence to support the efficacy of the proposed measures in reducing violence. The UK has proven that firearm restrictions do not work. Criminals will continue violent acts. Just will a different tool. As stated previously by the definition of the word Criminal, they do not follow laws. Evidence-based solutions that are proven to effectively address the underlying issues contributing to crimes is dealing with mental health, socio-economic disparities, and allowance of repeat offenders to remain at-large. How many convictions is too much? My daughter was stabbed multiple times by a first time offender who clearly had mental health issues. Who knows what he is learning at Saguaro. All we know is he is coming back. And he said he won't forget us. And you want to restrict my right to defend myself? Read the statistics on how accurate Police are in shooting situations. Less than 35%! And they are professionals. The criminal will have no limitations. Remember, they are criminals, they don't follow laws. At all. Do not restrict my rights, those of my family, and all law-abiding citizens for effective self defense.

Hawaii Bill HB893 represents a misguided and overly restrictive approach to firearm regulation that undermines the constitutional rights of all law-abiding citizens while failing to address the root causes of violence in Hawaii. I urge you to reject this bill and instead focus on implementing comprehensive evidence-based solutions that promote public safety without infringing on individual liberties.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:41:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose bill HB893 because it violates our 2nd amendment rights.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:50:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela M Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A Mississippi court in the 5th circuit has just ruled that a ban on machine guns is inconsistent with the text, history, and tradition (Brien decision) of the 2nd Amendment in the United States vs Justin Bryce Brown

In likely fashion it is likely that a similar ruling would result from the passing of this or similar bills which seek to limit the constitutionally protected second amendment.

Expanding Hawaii's definition of assault pistol in this fashion is a violation of constitutional rights

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:12:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB893, which I believe constitutes a direct violation of the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. This bill, if enacted, would unduly infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, as protected by the Second Amendment.

Mahalo,

Darren C. Clemen

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:17:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Rex	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is an assault on the rights of every citizen, and must not be approved. The definition of assault rifle in this bill will cause the majority of privately owned rifles in this state to become illegal, and is a direct violation of the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. There is no valid justification for this extreme measure, as Hawai'i has the third lowest firearms crimes among the 50 states. This places Hawai'i squarely within the "safest places to live" in the United States, and invalidates any argument that stronger firearms laws are needed. This state has no valid justification for making the state firearms laws more strict in any category. This bill serves no purpose except to take away the rights of private citizens, in pure contradiction to our constitutional rights. Additionally, on page 3, lines 17-20, the restriction against pistol grips and forward protruding grips that can be held by the non-firing trigger hand, directly discriminate against the physically disabled or handicapped gun owner who cannot hold their rifle without these key accessibility features, and is likely to be viewed by the courts as a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:13:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Kaea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE HB893.

THIS IS AN INFRINGEMENT ON OUR 2A RIGHTS! STOP THE GOVERNMENT
OVERREACH!

OPPOSE HB893.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:35:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 893 which establishes prohibitions on assault rifles, assault shotguns, and .50 caliber rifles. Expands the ban on high-capacity detachable magazines. Establishes exceptions.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:56:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

2nd Amendment... Look it up "Shall not be infringed"

US

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:20:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Vandertuin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose House Bill 893

As a retired Navy Officer and a federal government Senior Executive with over 34 years of service, I ask you to vote “No” to proposed changes in HB 893, the ban on “assault shotguns” “assault rifles” and rifle magazine restrictions. I do agree with the current ban on assault pistols as stated in a previous version of HB 893 but do not agree with the proposed ban on “assault shotguns”, “assault rifles” and magazine restrictions as proposed changes in HB 893 which is under review by your committee on 6 February 2026. If these changes were made, the citizens of Hawaii that use these firearms for hunting and shooting sports would be harmed with no decrease of gun violence in Hawaii according to numerous past studies done in other states who have tried such changes. These **proposed changes to HB 893 are simply not good nor needed for our state.**

The assault shotguns and rifles that the changes to HB 893 seek to restrict are used for hunting and shooting sports. I have used these types of firearms safely and legally for over 40 years as many of our citizens in Hawaii have. There are many hunters that will no longer be able to use these shotguns and rifles for hunting which will **directly limit their ability to feed their families.** You must also consider that these changes would be very costly for those who own shotguns and rifles. The changes in HB 893 will affect those who need wild game as a food source the most. Additionally, the hunting industry which adds valuable income to our state will be decreased as shotguns and rifles defined in changes to HB 893 would be excluded.

The proposed changes in HB 893 would also hinder the ability of law-abiding citizens of our state to protect their homes and family members. We all have a right to self-defense and proposed changes to HB 893 would affect the ability of lower income citizens to defend themselves with firearms that they already possess. This is not a good look for Hawaii.

I understand that those who proposed these changes had good intentions. Sadly, these changes will not improve the safety of our citizens and only hurt those who use these firearms for legal means. Here are some points to consider:

- Those who support these changes believe restricting access to assault rifles, shotguns and reduce magazine capacity will reduce gun violence and save lives. However, evidence from various states and countries where assault rifle, shotguns and magazine bans have been implemented suggests that these measures do not effectively address the root causes of gun violence or reduce overall crime rates. Instead, assault rifle bans often fail to achieve their intended goals, creating a false sense of security while not addressing the broader issues surrounding firearm-related violence.

- Most gun-related deaths in the United States are not committed with assault rifles or shotguns but with handguns, which are more commonly used in homicides, suicides, and accidental shootings. According to data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), handguns are used in more than 60% of firearm-related homicides. This means that even if assault rifles and shotguns are banned, individuals with criminal intent or a desire to cause harm can still obtain and use other types of firearms that are just as deadly. A National Institute of Justice study had assault rifles and shotguns used in only 2% of gun crimes which means that changes to HB 893 would have **NO IMPACT on gun crimes**. A 2019 Rand study could find NO correlation between high-capacity magazine bans such as those proposed on rifles in HB 893 to reductions in firearm homicides or injuries.
- Ineffective bans on assault rifles and shotguns are not only seen in the United States. For example, after the UK implemented a ban on semi-automatic rifles in the 1980s, the number of gun-related homicides continued to rise. Similarly, in Australia, the 1996 buyback program following a mass shooting resulted in a temporary reduction in firearm ownership but did not significantly decrease the overall crime rate. In fact, gun-related crimes in Australia have continued to occur, and criminals have adapted by using alternative methods, such as handguns, which remain legal in the country. These examples suggest that while assault rifle bans may reduce the number of specific types of guns in circulation, they do not eliminate the broader issue of gun violence.
- Assault rifle and shotgun bans fail to address the root causes of gun violence, such as mental illness, social instability, drug usage and poverty. Gun violence is often the result of complex societal issues, including inadequate access to mental health care, poverty, and systemic violence. Simply banning a specific class of firearms does little to address these deeper causes. Effective gun violence prevention requires comprehensive policies that focus on improving mental health care, addressing social inequality, and ensuring that individuals who pose a risk to themselves or others are identified and treated appropriately.

In conclusion, I am asking you to vote “no” to proposed changes to HB 893. Your “no” vote will ensure hunters can still provide food for their families, citizens can protect their families and homes and those who enjoy the legal and safe use of firearms can still do so. The proposed changes to HB 893 will not reduce gun violence and crime but only increase burden to our citizens.

Thank you for your time and support in protecting law-abiding citizens of Hawaii

Joseph Stenaka

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:59:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Gary Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Support

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:11:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherry Ann Galiza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:11:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernelle Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:12:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayrina Raquini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:13:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Harper	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submitted opposing testimony against HB125, HB279, HB392, and testifying against HB893, my question is why do you always go after the gun parts & guns when they are not the problem ? why not spend your time on controlling the criminals ? it is so unamerican to propose these usless laws.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:33:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vince Yamashiroya, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As I pediatrician I strongly support HB 893. There is no need for private citizens to own assault guns which have been involved in school shootings in this country. Thank you.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:51:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phebe Kahoiwai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Mahalo.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:05:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sage Naia Laniawe Constantinou	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sage Naia Laniawe Constantinou, and I am a Native Hawaiian hunter, recreational shooter, lifelong Democrat, and responsible firearms owner. While I fully support efforts to ensure public safety and responsible firearm regulations, I must strongly oppose HB 893 due to its overreach and unintended consequences for law-abiding citizens, particularly those engaged in hunting, historical firearm collecting, and recreational shooting sports. I am concerned about the restriction on bayonet lugs, which are largely obsolete and found on many vintage surplus firearms. Additionally, the limit on magazine capacity significantly impacts many lawful shooting sports.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sage

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:18:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pearson Ahuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose, criminals don't follow any laws and it puts law abiding citizens at a disadvantage.

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:19:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Okumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to this bill.

The current statutory limitations to our 2nd Amendment rights are sufficiently imposing and it is self evident that an increase in regulations will negatively affect the law abiding citizens of Hawaii by curtailing our rights; furthermore, the proposed bill operates on the absurd principal that criminals will stop being criminals and will decide in 2025 to start following additional laws.

Mahalo, David Okumura

HB-893

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:46:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and support this bill

Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an assault weapons law that fails to ban assault rifles, assault shotguns and large capacity magazines. Assault rifles are the weapons used in so many of the tragic mass shootings in our nation. Their military features are designed for battlegrounds, not civilian use on our islands.