



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 995, RELATING TO FIREARMS REPORTING.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

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

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

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

This bill amends section 134-9.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to amend the annual reporting requirements for the Department and the chief of police of each county concerning licenses to carry firearms.

The bill removes the deadline of April 1 for the Department to publish its annual report, which will allow the Department time to complete the required aggregation of the data it receives from the county police departments. The report is still due annually.

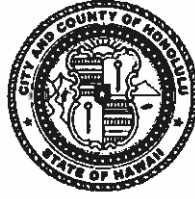
The bill extends the date that the county police departments provide the data to the Department from February 1 to March 31 of each year for the prior calendar year, allowing the county police departments additional time to provide the data to the Department.

The amendments in the bill will give the county police departments more time to provide reportable data and will give the Department sufficient time to complete the annual report with its existing resources.

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

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE **CL-DNK**

February 19, 2025

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

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 995, Relating to Firearms Reporting

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

The HPD supports House Bill No. 995, Relating Firearms Reporting. The HPD recognizes the importance of promptly providing information regarding licenses to carry a firearm as part of its commitment to transparency and accountability.

The HPD continues to support and facilitate the effective reporting of statistics for the State of Hawaii's annual report on licenses to carry a firearm.


The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 995, Relating to Firearms Reporting, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police

Sincerely,



Carlene Lau, Major
Records and Identification Division

HB-995

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 5:37:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

i stand in strong opposition with this bill, Mahalo.

HB-995

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 8:19:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gun violence is a national problem that needs addressing, and the more information we gather on firearm offenses, those who commit them, those who have the means to commit them, and those who have the means and don't should be studied. The public deserves to know about those out in the state who fail to meet the low standards of an open carry permit, the reasons why they failed, and a breakdown of the number of violations of open carry permits. Having this out in the public will help keep the public informed about those who have the means to end the lives of so many people so quickly. The people deserve to know how many people are out there who could very much be the next bad guy with a gun. I support this bill

HB-995

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 1:42:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willy Colt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

My old Grandpa said to me, 'Son, there comes a time in every man's life when he stops bustin' knuckles and starts bustin' caps and usually it's when he becomes too old to take a whoopin'.'

I don't carry a gun to kill people; I carry a gun to keep from being killed.

I don't carry a gun because I'm evil; I carry a gun because I have lived long enough to see the evil in the World.

I don't carry a gun because I hate the government; I carry a gun because I understand the limitations of government.

I don't carry a gun because I'm angry; I carry a gun so that I don't have to spend the rest of my life hating myself for failing to be prepared.

I don't carry a gun because I want to shoot someone; I carry a gun because I want to die at a ripe old age in my bed and not on a sidewalk somewhere tomorrow afternoon.

I don't carry a gun to make me feel like a man; I carry a gun because men know how to take care of themselves and the ones they love.

I don't carry a gun because I feel inadequate; I carry a gun because unarmed and facing three armed thugs, I am inadequate.

I don't carry a gun because I love it; I carry a gun because I love life and the people who make it meaningful to me.

Police protection is an oxymoron: Free citizens must protect themselves because police do not protect you from crime; they just investigate the crime after it happens and then call someone in to clean up the mess.

Personally, I carry a gun because I'm too young to die and too old to take a whoopin'!

Vote no on HB995.

Thank you,

Willy Colt

HB-995

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 3:00:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Terry	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB995 and the proposed changes to Section 134-9.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for several reasons.

First, deadlines are essential for ensuring tasks are completed on time. This is why deadlines are set by this committee to move measures such as HB 995 through the Hawaii State Legislature.

Second, extending the reporting deadline for police chiefs by 60 days will only postpone the completion of a task that, with proper planning and organization, could have been finished and submitted to the Attorney General by February 1. To help meet this deadline, county police departments can adopt various strategies for gathering the necessary information. For example, they can break the task into smaller, more manageable parts and summarize data monthly or quarterly.

Third, and most importantly, eliminating the deadline for the Attorney General to publish the annual report will likely result in indefinite delays in sharing this important information, causing unnecessary hold-ups.

In summary, without deadlines, tasks frequently remain unfinished. Extending deadlines can be equally problematic as having none at all; when a task is granted an extension, it often gets postponed again.

Additionally, the **Annual Report on Licenses to Carry** provides the public with essential statewide and county firearm registration statistics, which are crucial for an informed citizenry.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Committee members for reviewing my testimony and taking my concerns about the impact of HB995 on the citizens of Hawaii into consideration.

HB-995

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:09:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Oppose