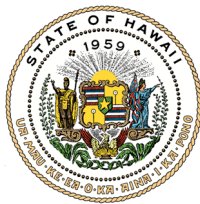


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

LATE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 401
RELATING TO FIREARMS

Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 3:00 PM

State Capitol Conference Room 225, & Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee:

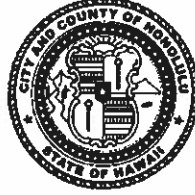
The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports Senate Bill 401, which includes firearms and rifles capable of firing ammunition of fifty caliber or higher in the list of prohibited weapons.

This bill strengthens Hawaii's commitment to public safety by prohibiting the manufacture, possession, and transfer of exceptionally powerful firearms that pose significant risks to public safety and law enforcement personnel. Fifty caliber firearms are capable of penetrating buildings, vehicles, and protective equipment, making them particularly dangerous when used in criminal activities or acts of violence. By adding these high-caliber weapons to the existing list of prohibited weapons under Section 134-8 Hawaii Revised Statutes, this measure provides law enforcement with clear authority to prevent the proliferation of these extremely powerful firearms in our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

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

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • WEBSITE: www.honoluluupd.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I

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

OUR REFERENCE **CL-DNK**

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 401, Relating to Firearms

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


The HPD supports the intent of Senate Bill No. 401, Relating Firearms, and offers the following concerns.

This bill would add to the list of prohibited weapons, to include any firearm capable of firing ammunition of .50 caliber and higher, excluding antique pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloaders. This complete ban would affect existing gun owners for these types of firearms.

The HPD supports the language in Senate Bill No. 600, Relating to Firearms, specifically pertaining to the proposed changes to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 134-8, Ownership, etc., of automatic firearms, silencers, etc., prohibited; penalties, for .50 caliber and higher firearms.

The HPD appreciates the committee's consideration of our comments regarding Senate Bill No. 401, Relating to Firearms, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:


Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police

Sincerely,


Carlene Lau, Acting Major
Records and Identification Division



Submitted via web portal

RE: SB 401 (Rhoads): Relating to Firearms - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 SB 401.

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.

SB 401 would prohibit a specific type of military-grade weapon – firearms capable of firing .50 caliber or greater ammunition. Such rifles were designed for military sniper use, and have the capability of piercing an armored vehicle from a distance of over a mile away. While we believe the state should prohibit the sale of *all* assault weapons in Hawai'i, we support efforts to ensure the types of exceedingly dangerous weapons covered in SB 401 aren't available for civilian ownership.

For these reasons listed above, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action strongly support SB 401.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sumadi

Director, State Government Affairs, West

Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action & Students Demand Action

450 Lexington Ave.

New York, NY 10163

ssumadi@everytown.org

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:48:59 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramya Swami	Testifying for Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Brady respectfully urges the Committee to support the passage of this bill.

To: Members of the Hawaii Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
From: Agustin Cabrera, Giffords State Legislative Manager
Subject: Support for SB401
Date: February 12, 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 SB401 which would ban firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols and revolvers, and muzzleloaders.

Fifty caliber rifles are among the most destructive weapons that may be manufactured and made legally available to civilians in the United States.

Fifty caliber rifles are military firearms, used by armed forces across the globe, that combine long range, accuracy, and massive firepower. A 50 caliber rifle can hit a target accurately from distances of 1,000 to 2,000 yards, depending on the skill of the shooter, and can reach targets at an even longer range, sacrificing accuracy.¹ Designed for use in urban combat situations, 50 caliber rifles can penetrate structures and destroy or disable light armored vehicles, radar dishes, helicopters, stationary, and taxiing airplanes, and other “high-value” military targets.²

The destructive power of the 50 caliber rifle can be magnified by the use of certain types of ammunition that are legal under federal law (although banned in some states). In addition to the standard “ball” round of 50 caliber ammunition, armor-piercing, incendiary, and combination armor-piercing and incendiary ammunition for 50 caliber rifles can significantly enhance their destructive capacity.

50 caliber rifles can be particularly dangerous when made available on the open market

Despite these firearms’ capability for destruction, 50 caliber rifles are generally regulated no differently from other rifles or shotguns and are subject to less regulation than handguns in most states and under federal law.³ In fact, under federal law and the laws of nearly all states, any 18-year-old who passes a background check can buy a 50 caliber rifle.⁸ In addition, because federal law and the laws of most states do not require private sellers to conduct background checks, criminals can easily obtain 50 caliber rifles at gun shows and elsewhere.

Other states have taken steps to increase security regarding the use of 50 caliber weapons

California, Illinois, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia generally ban .50 caliber rifles, while Connecticut bans a single model of .50 caliber rifle. Maryland imposes various regulations on transfers of

¹ Tom Diaz, “Voting From the Rooftops: How the Gun Industry Armed Osama bin Laden, Other Foreign and Domestic Terrorists, and Common Criminals with 50 Caliber Sniper Rifles,” Violence Policy Center (Oct. 2001): 7-12, <http://www.vpc.org/graphics/rooftop.pdf>

² Tom Diaz, “Clear and Present Danger: National Security Experts Warn About the Danger of Unrestricted Sales of 50 Caliber Anti-Armor Sniper Rifles to Civilians,” Violence Policy Center (July 2005), <http://www.vpc.org/studies/50danger.pdf>

³ Office of the Inspector General, “The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, Evaluation and Inspections Report I-2007-006,” U.S. Department of Justice (June 2007), <http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/reports/ATF/e0706/back.htm>

50 caliber rifles. Despite the risks inherent in the use of 50 caliber handguns, no state bans 50 caliber handguns as of yet. However, Hawaii can take the opportunity to strengthen their gun violence prevention framework by ensuring they can protect their communities from these strong and dangerous weapons. With the risks so great, we urge the committee to support SB401.

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.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:43:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Yuen	Testifying for Pu'u'loa Rifle and Pistol Club	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 due to its uselessness and its infringement on the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment. This bill will instantly make criminals of legal gun owners and seeks to solve a problem that doesn't exist. Most shotguns exceed the .50 caliber limit proposed by this bill. Rifles of this caliber are not the weapon of choice of criminals due to the length and excessive weight. Most pistols of this caliber are very expensive and hard to conceal.



As the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, we firmly oppose HB125.

This bill violates the Second Amendment rights enshrined in the United States Constitution, which unequivocally guarantees the right to bear arms. Any regulations infringing upon firearm ownership and storage represent a direct assault on our fundamental freedoms.

The imposition of strict liability on individuals for damages resulting from the use of an "improperly stored" firearm blatantly tramples on these clearly defined rights, criminalizing constitutionally protected activities. Violent crimes caused by firearms are already illegal, and easily prosecuted.

Mandating that retail firearm sellers furnish purchasers with storage regulation notices needlessly encumbers businesses and severely impacts businesses.

The right to bear arms is the cornerstone of a free society, a sentinel against government intrusion, assuring personal autonomy, liberty, and individual accountability. These rights are essential for safeguarding oneself, one's kin, and one's property, while inherently upholding the bedrock principle of self-determination.

Overemphasizing "collective safety" at the expense of individual rights not only undermines liberty and personal sovereignty but also attacks the very foundation of our democratic values.

Our representatives must uphold individual rights, rather than chip away at them. Their goals should be to cultivate self-responsibility and self-reliance within Hawaii, not dictating what rights we get to keep.

In Freedom,
The Libertarian Party of Hawaii

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:29:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mery Ann Luna	Testifying for SDM Training Group/Bows N Bullets	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Mery Ann Luna, I am the President and Founder for SDM Training Group and Bows N Bullets. I strongly oppose bill SB401.

Firearms that are 50 caliber or higher ammunition are very limited everywhere. You will only find a limited number of people with such calibers because they cost a pretty penny, which many islanders truly don't have. To ban this truly infringes hunters, collectors, and sport shooters rights, which are law abiding citizens. Within the firearms community, such firearms are rare, and for one to be in presence of one, it is an honor and privilege to hold and to shoot one, because of its cost.

I don't understand why this would be on the table given there are probably only a handful on the islands. It's already a firearm that many cannot obtain, so why is it being banned?

I am a female, petite built, and I had the opportunity to fire a 50-caliber rifle. It was an exciting experience I will never forget. I would like for my ladies to be able to experience it as well.

I oppose bill SB401 for the fact that it is rare to have due to the cost and by banning it, you, as our legislature, prevents law abiding citizens, hunters, collectors and sport shooters like me the experience of being near one.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:05:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Akiyama	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Associaton	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose SB 401. Banning any firearm will do nothing to reduce gun crimes as criminals do not obey laws.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:50:01 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dale Hayama	Testifying for Young Guns	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly oppose SB401. Fifty caliber and larger firearms have existed for well over a hundred years. They have been used for hunting since the 1800s. They are a common place here in America and Hawaii. Most of the shotguns in existence would fall in this category. Most of them are over fifty caliber in size. Owners use them for self defense, hunting and sporting purposes. These proposed bans have all failed in the past and proven to be unnecessary and ineffective. As for the .50cal. rifle or larger in particular, to this date and to my knowledge, there has been no crime ever committed by one. Please stop going after law-abiding citizens and go after the criminals! Thank you!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:33:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppoose this bill because it damages small businesses and also infringes on the Constitutional rights of individuals.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:13:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glennon T. Gingo	Testifying for Hawaii Rifle Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Rifle Association opposes SB401

The restriction on the use and ownership of .50 cal firearms is both arbitrary and unnecessary. There are many modern .50 cal rifles and pistols that are used for game hunting, long distance shooting and recreational competitions. To disallow any firearm by feature of its caliber does nothing to curb gun crime and does not correlate with any gun crimes using this particular caliber.

We support safe shooting sports, shooting for recreation and hunting; All these activities with firearms as afforded to us within the second amendment of the constitution.

Aloha,

Glennon T. Gingo

Board Member

Hawaii Rifle Association

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:12:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

I support this measure to prevent further gun violence in our state.

Mahalo,

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhemina Rise

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:45:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. We need to protect our residents and law enforcement personnel from these high caliber firearms. They do not belong in the hands of civilians.

Thank you for helping keep our community safe from gun violence.

Ellen Carson

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:29:47 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support all bills which will keep our community safe. Firearms are not toys. They kill. Firearms or rifles with the capacity to fire ammunition of at least 50 caliber, with certain exceptions, should be added to the list of prohibited weapons. Please move this bill forward.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:44:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalia Lukey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB401

My name is Natalia Lukey and I believe no civilian should own or carry a gun if we want to live in a safe community. There is an increase in mental health problems due to social, economical, and political instabilities in the country and in a moment of desperation we don't want a tragedy to happen. We have more than enough statistics proving it. It is terrifying that we have an average of 112 people dying of gun violence every day!!! Next time could be me, or you, or our loved ones! Please ban guns.

Thank you,

Natalia

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:18:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Marvin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB401. I have been to combat. I know what a 50-cal can do to a vehicle or building, let a long a human body. There is absolutley no need for these guns anywhere outside of the battlefield.

Along with all forms of gas-operated semi-automatic firearms, these need to be banned in Hawai'i.

Capt. Chris Marvin
US Army, retired
Honolulu

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:05:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I stand in **OPPOSITION** to this bill. This 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 five 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.

There are many weapons that would fall under this ban, many of them are used for hunting. Including many handgun calibers. This bill would also effectively ban nearly all shotguns as all but the smallest (.410 bore) are larger than .50 caliber. 12 Gauge shotguns and flareguns can even chamber .50 caliber ammunition, despite the risk of doing such a thing.

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.

This is all simply not true, not only are not all .50 caliber bullets the same, with some being fairly weak pistol rounds to ones coming close but still so far away from the Mythos surrounding the magical '50 cal'.

I would also like to point out that the ban on Teflon coated bullets is a farce. Teflon coating does not make a bullet armor piercing. When Teflon coated bullets were first designed, the designer simply hypothesized that the coating would improve the bullet's 'grip' on certain surfaces like glass or painted metal, and thus allow the bullet to penetrate rather than deflecting off an angled surface like a car windshield.

This hypothesis was later proven false with further testing and even found that the effectiveness of armor penetrating rounds was actually reduced slightly by Teflon coatings. Teflon coatings were still used because they found the coating significantly reduced wear and tear on firearm barrels during testing and was worth the minor performance reduction. This however has not stopped those who choose to believe the myth from passing and keeping laws like these.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:16:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Abbott	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I vehemently OPPOSE SB401. Banning rifles and shotguns with a caliber of 50 or greater will do nothing to improve public safety.

The Bruen decision clearly defined arms that are in common use to be protected by the Second Amendment to the US Constitution. Your bill, as written will ban ALL 12 Gauge Shotguns - the most popular weapon for hunting and self defense in the country. Additionally, there are millions of 50 caliber (or greater) rifles in the hands of law abiding citizens with over 10 THOUSAND here in Hawaii alone. They are in Common Use.

I urge this committee, Especially my Senator, Carol Fukunaga to vote NO on this appalling bill - SB401.

I am available for questions.

Jon Abbott

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:36:08 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In STRONG OPPOSITION to SB401; with the states current infringements on our current 2nd amendment rights, which have been already described as some of the most strict in the nation, furthering such restrictions seems frivolous. This bill does only one thing, waste valuable time and resources as there is already restrictions in current laws which prohibits most of what is outlined in this bill. It seems like the introducers of this bill are looking for a solution to a problem which does not exist. Can't say that I recall, ever, that a rifle which is capable of firing 50 caliber or larger had been used to commit a crime.

I Jason T Wolford am writing to express my strong opposition to SB401, which seeks to prohibit the manufacture, possession, sale, or transfer of firearms capable of firing ammunition of .50 caliber or higher. While I understand the intent behind this legislation, it is both unconstitutional and harmful to law-abiding citizens who responsibly exercise their Second Amendment rights.

Legal Precedent: Firearms in Common Use Cannot Be Banned

The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that firearms in common use for lawful purposes cannot be outright banned. The landmark cases **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)** and **McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010)** explicitly recognize the individual right to keep and bear arms. Furthermore, in **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen (2022)**, the Court reinforced that gun restrictions must align with historical tradition and cannot impose broad prohibitions on commonly owned firearms.

Many rifles and firearms chambered in .50 caliber, including those used for sport shooting and hunting, are commonly owned by responsible gun owners across the country. As such, banning these firearms violates the standard set forth in **Heller**, which prohibits bans on "arms in common use at the time for lawful purposes."

SB401 Will Ban Many Shotguns Capable of Firing .50 Caliber Slugs

SB401's broad language would also inadvertently ban many commonly owned shotguns. Standard 12-gauge shotguns are widely used for hunting, sport shooting, and home defense, and they are capable of firing a **slug round** that exceeds .50 caliber in diameter.

Shotguns are designed to fire both shot (multiple projectiles) and slugs (a single, large projectile), with many slug loads measuring **.72 caliber or larger**—far exceeding the .50 caliber threshold set by this bill. If SB401 is passed, thousands of legally owned shotguns would be deemed illegal, making responsible gun owners criminals overnight simply for possessing their lawfully acquired firearms.

SB401 Criminalizes Law-Abiding Citizens

This bill would create instant criminals out of law-abiding citizens who currently possess these firearms. SB401 does not contain any **grandfather clause** for individuals who legally own these firearms today, meaning that lawful owners would either have to surrender their property to the state or face criminal prosecution.

Under existing Hawaii firearm laws, **illegal possession of a prohibited firearm is a Class C felony**, which carries penalties including:

- **Up to 5 years in prison**
- **Hefty fines**
- **Permanent loss of firearm rights**

Such severe penalties for the mere possession of legally owned firearms would disproportionately impact responsible gun owners while doing nothing to reduce violent crime.

What Happens to Those Who Currently Own These Firearms?

SB401 fails to outline any process for current legal owners of .50 caliber firearms to retain their property. If passed, owners would likely face the following scenarios:

- **Mandatory surrender or confiscation** of their legally owned firearms, potentially without compensation.
- **Legal uncertainty**, as citizens who comply with current law may suddenly be in violation simply by owning something they purchased lawfully.
- **Risk of criminal prosecution**, fines, and imprisonment for keeping firearms that were legal at the time of purchase.

This lack of clarity and fairness would create confusion and legal jeopardy for thousands of law-abiding citizens.

Conclusion: SB401 Must Be Rejected

Rather than targeting responsible gun owners, legislative efforts should focus on enforcing existing laws against criminals who misuse firearms. This bill is unconstitutional under Supreme Court precedent, criminalizes responsible gun owners, bans common shotguns due to their ability to fire .50 caliber slugs, and fails to address what will happen to law-abiding citizens who currently own these firearms.

I urge you to oppose SB401 and instead support legislation that upholds the constitutional rights of Hawaii's citizens while focusing on actual solutions to violent crime. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:37:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Wallace	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose SB401.We should be able to fire any caliber.As any women in hawaii can abort her baby as she please,any law abiding citizen should enjoy shooting any caliber.As long as there not killing anyone like a lady whos going to get abortion.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:44:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marvin Pascual	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:33:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Yukutake	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose SB401

This is an unconstitutional infringement of the 2nd Amendment. Judging by the SOCTUS Bruen standard of text, history, and tradition, these rifles would fall under the 2nd amendment for militia use and owned by the people.

Please do not let fear cloud your judgement on this topic as 50 caliber rifles are demonized in the media, but aren't used by criminals and terrorists in the US despite being available for sale for over 30 years.

I do not own a 50 caliber rifle but I fear what will come next. Will you attempt to ban firearms I own next?

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake

toddyukutake@gmail.com

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:59:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasman	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose SB401 on grounds that it is unconstitutional.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:36:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am submitting this testimony in **strong opposition** to **S.B. SB 401**, which seeks to ban the manufacture, possession, sale, transfer, or acquisition of any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of .50 caliber or higher in the State of Hawaii. I respectfully urge the Committee to **immediately defer this bill** for the following reasons:

Key Concerns with S.B. SB 401:

1. Repeated Introduction Despite Lack of Criminal Use

This bill has been introduced **multiple times in recent years** and has consistently failed to pass. Despite this, there has been **no evidence of .50 caliber firearms being used in crimes** or for **criminal activity** in Hawaii. The repeated push for this ban appears to be a **solution in search of a problem**, as there is no demonstrated public safety threat associated with these firearms.

2. Criminalization of Law-Abiding Gun Owners

This bill would immediately turn **law-abiding citizens into criminals overnight** by banning legally owned .50 caliber firearms without providing a grandfather clause or legal process for compliance. There is **no surrender period, compensation, or pathway for legal retention**, leaving responsible firearm owners in legal jeopardy with no clear recourse.

3. Federal Law Already Defines the Firearm Limit

Federal law has already **set the limit on what firearms a non-law enforcement or military person can own**, restricting ownership to firearms with a bore diameter of **.50 inches or less**. This national standard ensures that civilian firearm ownership remains within reasonable safety guidelines. The proposed bill seeks to impose **stricter, unnecessary state-level restrictions** that go beyond what is federally mandated without any compelling justification.

4. Failure to Provide Justification Based on Crime Data

There is **no evidence** that .50 caliber firearms are commonly used in crimes. These firearms are:

- **Expensive, large, and impractical** for criminal activity.
- Primarily used for **long-range competitive shooting, hunting, and recreational marksmanship**.

- Not a common factor in gun violence. This bill targets **lawful gun owners** rather than addressing any real public safety concern.
- 5. **Conflict with Recent Supreme Court Rulings**

The proposed legislation **violates Second Amendment rights** as established in **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)** and reaffirmed in **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen (2022)**. These rulings emphasize that firearm bans must align with the historical tradition of firearm regulation. Given that **.50 caliber firearms have been lawfully owned for over a century**, this ban fails to meet the required legal standard and is vulnerable to constitutional challenge.
- 6. **Existing Legal Challenges Against Similar Bans**

Hawaii's **assault pistol ban** is already being challenged in the **9th Circuit Court of Appeals**, and similar **.50 caliber bans in other states have faced legal battles** under the Second Amendment. Enacting this bill would likely expose Hawaii to **costly litigation**, further burdening taxpayers with lawsuits that have a high probability of overturning the law.
- 7. **Failure to Consider Responsible Use Cases**

The bill ignores the fact that .50 caliber firearms are:

 - **Used in long-range marksmanship competitions.**
 - **Legally owned for hunting.**
 - **A non-issue in Hawaii's crime statistics.** A blanket ban without addressing these legal and practical use cases is **excessive and unnecessary**.

Conclusion:

Given the **lack of crime data supporting this ban**, the **constitutional challenges it is likely to face**, and the **undue burden it places on law-abiding citizens**, I respectfully urge the Committee to **immediately defer S.B. SB 401**. Hawaii should focus on enforcing **existing laws** and addressing the **actual causes of violent crime**, rather than punishing responsible firearm owners who have done nothing wrong.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:54:41 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB401. Once again, another attempt to Violate the 2nd Amendment. What is wrong with you people? Stop infringing on the Rights of Law abiding citizens, you took an Oath to Protect the Constitution, now HONOR your Oath.

ThankYou

Noela von Wiegandt

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:42:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:29:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Isaacson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

.50 cal. firearms are to big, bulky and expensive for criminals to use and are used by dedicated hobbyists whose hobby often leads to technical developments useful to Government ballisticians and researchers. Go after criminals, not honest hobbyists.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:30:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose.

The introducer stated prior that this caliber can hit someone from a mile away. There are other smaller calibers that can do the same. And he makes like it's an easy task. It is not, as it takes great training to do so. Besides that, murder is already illegal.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:18:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:23:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Griffin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it is too broad and covers existing firearms including modern revolvers, shotguns, and possibly non-lethal pepperball guns because of the broad and all encompassing language in this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:09:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent Tibbles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an infringement on my second amendment rights. I will not stand to have my rights stripped away. If the bill passes I will file a law suite against the state of Hawaii. I strictly Oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:36:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Aguiar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:41:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Korina Makaokalani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose because it violates our second ammendment

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:41:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh Stueber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB401

SB401 is an unjust and misguided attempt to restrict the rights of law-abiding gun owners. Banning .50 caliber firearms will have little to no impact on reducing gun violence, as these firearms are rarely used in criminal activity. Enthusiasts and collectors value these firearms for their historical significance, precision shooting capabilities, and recreational use. This ban unfairly targets responsible gun owners who have passed background checks and adhere to strict regulations. Instead of focusing on arbitrary bans that infringe on the Second Amendment rights of citizens, policymakers should be implementing comprehensive and evidence-based solutions to address the root causes of gun violence. Banning .50 caliber firearms will do little to enhance public safety and only serves to further erode the rights of law-abiding citizens. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB401 and uphold your commitment to our state and country's constitution.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:42:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maxx Kohlmeister	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Its violates second amendment rights and should never be passed

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:47:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shelton medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill it is an attack on our 2nd amendment rights

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:56:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Good morning/or afternoon. I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights. Thank you, for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Allan Sebastian

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:17:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darren Haalilio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:15:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this because it violates our 2A rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:25:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 As it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:25:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah van Aardenne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it is a direct violation of our second ammendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:46:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Barber Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:47:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John-Manell Jake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it violates my second amendment rights!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:36:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Whom It May Concern,

I oppose SB401 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

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:45:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miguel cancino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I also oppose SB401. This too violates our rights. We are american. We have constitutional rights. This violates our constitutional rights directly.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:46:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richy Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii State citizen of the United States, I **oppose SB40** as it is a infringement of the rights given by the 2nd amendment in the US constitution. SB401 would not only propose to ban .50cal firearms and ammunition and infringe the constitutional right given my the 2nd amendment but also affect common firearms and ammunition including 12gauge, which are highly commonly used in hunting and recreation, as 12gauge is larger than .50cal.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:49:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rey vento	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2nd amendment rights!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:00:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it directly violates our Second Amendment rights!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:07:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello and thank you for your time. I very strongly oppose of this bill because it does nothing but violates our second amendment rights. Thank you very much for your time aloha

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:14:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Cruz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB401 it violates my constitutional rights

Kristy Cruz

Hilo,HI 96721

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:59:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators of the committee,

I strongly oppose sb401 as this bill is unconstitutional, .50 caliber rifles have never and will never be a problem for the state, you guys need to stop trying to make laws based of assumptions and hollywood. "Shall Not Be Infringed" was written pretty clear in the bill of rights.

Mahalo

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:10:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it violates my 2nd amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:18:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Walter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it directly violates our second amendment rights.

Erik Walter, Waikoloa 96738

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:43:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 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.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:50:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Reddoor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:07:50 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pearson Ahuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, enough overreach!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:16:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill specifically targets firearms that use 50 caliber ammunition and this is completely unconstitutional. How many crimes are committed with this kind of firearm? Why are you trying to ban tools that have been legal for years. Please reconsider this course of action. This measure will not make anyone safer. Stop limiting our ability to choose for ourselves what types of tools we want to use for self-defense. The 2nd amendment is there to limit you the government along with the 14th amendment which is applicable to this you as well. You are violating my constitutional rights. We should not be appeasing Giffords, our current laws already infringe on our rights. Do not pass this Bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:22:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Ilo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose. This turns law abiding collectors, hunters and target shooters in to criminals. These type of bills do nothing to stop or prevent crime.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:30:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill violates the constituents' constitutional rights. Both federal and state. It will get then to court and lose wasting taxpayer money. Why do politicians waste taxpayer money. Stop wasting money.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:39:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill for various reasons.

1. Will severely take away all types of rifles used in hunting/long gun sporting events and law abiding rifle owners ability to provide food and protection in the Very real case of life or death situation.

This bill makes only the criminal element safer and takes the rights away of Honest law abiding. Rifles/long gun owners and enthusiasts of sporting events. Will also greatly effect many local sporting goods and firearm stores owners livelihoods as sources of their revenue.

Please keep our good faith and integrity intact. Mahalo

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:53:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stop infringing on our Second Amendment Rights!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:18:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Ellorin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:53:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hoku Vasconcellos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 12:11:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:39:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alvin Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB401

in over 50 years I have never heard of any crims related to 50 caliber guns. this is just another one of your over reach feel good dose nothing for crim laws that just further strip law abbiding citizens of what little rights we have left. stop making laws that only affect the law abbiding citizens. you should be ashame of yourselves.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 6:33:44 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Bergin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:51:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stafford Uemura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose sb401 and feel this is a direct violation of my 2nd amendment rights. Why should calibers determine what firearms i can or cannot own? I am an avid shooter and collector of firearms and cannot understand how making these calibers illegal will curtail gun violence or crimes. Once again this is targeted at law abiding citizens and not criminals.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:23:15 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

How can you put this ludicrous bill forward when you can't even stop narcotics and fireworks from getting into the state ? Better time could've been spent on finding real (not tyrannical) solutions to put forth.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:58:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: This bill is against our Constitutional rights

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:13:42 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:14:28 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyson Ishibashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB40.

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

Mahalo,

Tyson Ishibashi

Mountain View, HI 96771

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:14:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill. It criminalizes legal gun owners and is an egregious violation of the 2nd amendment. Kill this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:23:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

96771

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:54:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kai nalu kelly-poznansky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership. This bill is a blatant disregard of our president's executive order made on 02/07/2025.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 11:25:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Loui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha this testimony is in relation to SB401.

I am unsure why .50 caliber and larger are specifically chosen to be banned. They have calibers smaller and larger that can do the same damage or even more in the case of elephant/safari hunting firearms. That section gives no insight as to the reasoning for that specific caliber to be banned. There is no stated standard given aside from “safety”. Is it due to the specific amount of energy the round is rated for? Is it due to specific real world uses in the US/State in which the specific caliber and larger has been used in negligent ways?

The main reason I’m generally opposed to such vague bills is that there is no logical reasoning to support nor oppose the bill. Practically there is no exception to one of the most common use long guns: shotguns. The common 12-gauge, 20-gauge, and 10-gauge shotguns are all larger than 50 caliber. In the 60 plus caliber range. Shotguns are recognized world wide as one of the best home defense and hunting long guns. Anti-gun presidents and congress members have made national news purporting the good use of shotguns as alternatives to what they consider “assault weapons”.

I oppose this bill on the general principle of the bill having no real reasoning behind it aside from a vague “safety” reason. As well as the specifics of the bill banning the very common and useful shotgun.

Thank you for your time.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 1:11:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB401, which seeks to ban firearms and rifles capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition or higher. This legislation unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners while doing nothing to address the real issue of violent crime.

One of the biggest concerns with SB401 is the lack of evidence showing that these calibers of firearms are commonly used in crimes. Banning firearms based on caliber is an arbitrary and ineffective measure that does not address the root causes of gun violence. Instead, this bill penalizes responsible gun owners who use these firearms legally for sporting, hunting, and competitive shooting.

Additionally, this legislation does not address the core issue: why are violent criminals not being held accountable and put behind bars? Law-abiding citizens should not have their rights infringed upon while dangerous offenders are allowed to roam free due to lenient sentencing and poor enforcement of existing laws. If the true intent of this bill is public safety, why is more not being done to ensure that criminals are arrested, prosecuted, and incarcerated rather than restricting the rights of responsible citizens?

Rather than creating more laws that only affect law-abiding individuals, legislators should focus on enforcing current laws and ensuring that those who commit violent crimes are prosecuted to the fullest extent. Public safety is best served by targeting criminals, not by restricting the rights of responsible citizens.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose SB401 and instead prioritize legislation that effectively addresses crime without penalizing those who follow the law. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Wayne Asam

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:26:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean J deMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill because it is unconstitutional.

thank you.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:41:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREA DEMELLO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill because this is unconstitutional!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:43:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wesley Acdal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Infringe on my second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 1:34:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Campbell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

Kelly Campbell

Hilo, 96720

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 4:48:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapono Palama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a law abiding, tax paying citizen. This is definite overreach. We should not be treated like criminals. We should not be told what we cannot own based on false pretenses. I oppose SB401 as it is a clear violation of our 2nd amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:14:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chester Barayuga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Infringement on our 2A rights

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 4:56:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:00:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose Hawaii SB401, which seeks to restrict firearms based on caliber. Such a restriction blatantly contradicts the Second Amendment, which guarantees Americans the right to keep and bear arms without unnecessary limitations. There is no credible evidence or study showing that a .50 caliber weapon has ever been used in an active shooter event, making this bill both unnecessary and unjustified.

Furthermore, this bill is so vaguely worded that it would inadvertently affect firearms that are crucial to sporting and hunting communities. For example, the popular 12-gauge shotgun, widely used for sporting clays and hunting, has a bore diameter of approximately .50 caliber. By restricting all .50 caliber firearms, this bill could unintentionally ban shotguns that are integral to lawful activities like sport shooting and hunting. Such an overreach would harm law-abiding citizens who engage in these time-honored pursuits and contribute to our state's cultural and recreational activities.

Rather than focusing on misguided and poorly-defined bans, lawmakers should focus on addressing real public safety issues through measures that target criminal behavior rather than penalize responsible gun owners. SB401 fails to do that, and I urge its rejection in favor of more reasonable and constitutional approaches.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:58:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha to all honorable legislators of Hawaii,

my name is Martin Humpert, and I strongly oppose SB401 as a blatant and unconstitutional attack upon the civil rights of the honest citizens of the state of Hawaii.

SB401 seeks to ban legally owned firearms for no other reason than to attack and harass, the most honest citizens of Hawaii. There is no history in Hawaii of crimes being committed using the specified firearms. There is no clear threat to the public from anyone Currently possessing. Any of these firearms. And it is clear to the supporters of the second amendment that this is an attempt to outlaw and sees private property without cause. I urge All legislators of the state of Hawaii to oppose this bill that is not grounded in the historic context of the US Constitution.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:29:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 401, which proposes prohibitions on certain firearms and related components. This legislation raises significant constitutional concerns, unfairly targets responsible citizens, and diverts attention from more pressing issues that truly impact the safety and well-being of our community.

Constitutional Infringement

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of individuals to keep and bear arms. The U.S. Supreme Court, in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), affirmed that this right extends to firearms "in common use" for lawful purposes such as self-defense. Many of the firearms and components targeted by SB401 are commonly owned and utilized by law-abiding citizens for legitimate purposes, including personal protection, hunting, and recreational shooting. By imposing prohibitions on these commonly used items, SB401 infringes upon the constitutional rights of Hawaii's residents.

Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens

This bill disproportionately affects responsible gun owners who comply with existing laws and regulations. Criminals, by definition, do not adhere to laws, and imposing further restrictions is unlikely to deter criminal activity. Instead, SB401 would criminalize ordinary citizens who possess or seek to acquire certain firearms or components, turning law-abiding individuals into potential felons overnight.

Misalignment with Community Values and Priorities

Hawaii's stringent firearm policies already place it among the most regulated states in the nation. Enacting further prohibitions like SB401 moves our state even further from the national mainstream and does not align with the principles of freedom and individual rights that are foundational to our country.

Moreover, some proponents of strict gun control argue that such measures are consistent with the "Aloha Spirit." However, the Aloha Spirit embodies values of respect, compassion, and

understanding. Imposing excessive restrictions on law-abiding citizens fosters division and resentment, which is contrary to these values.

Focus on Education and Addressing Root Causes

Instead of enacting prohibitive measures that infringe upon constitutional rights, the legislature should focus on education and addressing the root causes of violence. Investing in community programs, mental health services, and educational initiatives can more effectively promote public safety without encroaching on individual freedoms.

Conclusion

Senate Bill 401 not only infringes upon the constitutional rights of Hawaii's citizens but also misaligns with national standards and the true essence of the Aloha Spirit. I strongly urge you to reject this bill and instead focus on measures that address the root causes of violence and promote education and understanding within our community.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 6:26:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Andrew Tumalin Repuya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What's the purpose of banning something that isn't used here? When was the last time a civilian used a 50 caliber firearm for a crime?

Sounds like this isn't a safety issue instead it's another way to earn pocket change for those in office. Have some shame.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:32:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB401, which seeks to prohibit the manufacture, possession, sale, trade, or acquisition of firearms or rifles capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition or higher. While I fully support legislative efforts aimed at enhancing public safety, I believe this bill is both unnecessary and an infringement on lawful firearm ownership.

1. Lack of Evidence Supporting Public Safety Benefits

Hawaii already has some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation, and the state maintains one of the lowest rates of firearm-related deaths. There is no substantial evidence demonstrating that .50 caliber firearms pose a specific or unique threat to public safety in Hawaii. These firearms are rarely, if ever, used in criminal activity due to their size, cost, and intended use.

2. Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens

The vast majority of .50 caliber firearm owners are responsible individuals who use these firearms for lawful purposes such as long-range target shooting, historical collection, and hunting. Prohibiting these firearms unjustly penalizes law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter crime.

3. Mischaracterization of .50 Caliber Firearms

There is a misconception that .50 caliber firearms are inherently more dangerous than other firearms. In reality, these firearms are often bolt-action rifles with limited magazine capacity and are not commonly used in violent crimes. Additionally, the exclusion of antique firearms and muzzleloaders acknowledges that certain .50 caliber firearms do not pose a significant risk, further undermining the rationale behind a blanket prohibition.

4. Precedent and Overreach

This legislation sets a troubling precedent for further restrictions on firearm ownership based on arbitrary classifications rather than empirical data. Such legislation does not address the root causes of gun violence, including illegal firearm trafficking and mental health issues.

Conclusion

I urge the committee to reject SB401 and instead focus on measures that have a proven impact on reducing violent crime, such as improved enforcement of existing laws, investment in mental health services, and targeted intervention programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:55:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill SB401

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill SB401, which seeks to include any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols and revolvers, and muzzleloaders, in the list of prohibited weapons. As a staunch supporter of the 2nd Amendment, I believe this bill infringes upon the fundamental rights of law-abiding citizens to bear arms and protect themselves.

The 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. This right is essential for self-defense, the protection of property, and the preservation of individual liberties. By restricting the presence of firearms with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, SB401 undermines the very principles upon which our nation was founded.

Legal Justifications: The 2nd Amendment 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 Supreme Court has affirmed this right in landmark cases such as *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), which recognized an individual's right to possess firearms for lawful purposes, including self-defense within the home. Additionally, *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010) extended this protection to state and local governments. These rulings underscore the importance of the 2nd Amendment in safeguarding individual liberties against government overreach.

In Hawaii, the state constitution mirrors the U.S. Constitution in protecting the right to keep and bear arms. However, recent rulings by the Hawaii Supreme Court have challenged this interpretation. For example, the court has emphasized the "spirit of Aloha," prioritizing the safety and well-being of residents over the unrestricted right to carry firearms in public. Despite this, the federal rulings in *Heller* and *McDonald* remain applicable, reinforcing the individual right to bear arms.

Furthermore, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has recently ruled in favor of protecting 2nd Amendment rights in cases such as *Teter v. Lopez*, which declared Hawaii's ban on butterfly knives unconstitutional. This ruling highlights the ongoing legal challenges to restrictive firearm laws in Hawaii and underscores the importance of upholding constitutional rights.

There is no substantial evidence to suggest that the presence of legally carried firearms with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher poses a significant threat to public safety. Law-abiding citizens who choose to carry firearms do so responsibly and with the intention of protecting themselves and others. Criminals, on the other hand, are unlikely to be deterred by such restrictions and may even be emboldened by the knowledge that law-abiding citizens are disarmed.

It is also important to consider the potential unintended consequences of this bill. By creating additional restrictions on firearms, SB401 may inadvertently make these areas more attractive targets for those with malicious intent. The presence of armed, responsible citizens can serve as a deterrent to criminal activity and enhance the overall safety of our communities.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the implications of Senate Bill SB401 and to uphold the constitutional rights of Hawaii's citizens. The 2nd Amendment is a cornerstone of our democracy, and any legislation that seeks to undermine it must be carefully scrutinized. I respectfully request that you vote against SB401 and protect the rights of law-abiding citizens to bear arms.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry Duclayan

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:05:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kale P Reddoor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose as the banning of a specific caliber of a firearm rids of an entire category of firearms, which violates the second amendment.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:22:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheldon Agena	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What purpose does banning a 50cal firearm serve? Another irrevelant bill that does nothing to stop crime or make our city safer

Thank you...Sheldon

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:35:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly Oppose, the 2nd amendment is our constitutional right to bear arms. Shall not be infringed, y'all are horrible representatives, Can't wait to vote yall out of office.

You don't represent the people. Go Tusli! Make Hawaii great again!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:54:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Braun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will ban more firearms which i believe to be a violation of people's 2nd amendment rights

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 11:19:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Michael W. Sawamoto

PO Box 60382

Ewa Beach HI 96706

Testimony in Opposition to SB401

I oppose this bill in it's entirety.

I urge the Committee to vote "No" on SB401.

Respectfully yours

Michael W. Sawamoto

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:15:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is a clear violation of the second amendment. This bill also goes against the supreme court decisions that state arms that are in common use, and are not dangerous or unusual cannot be banned, and are protected under the second amendment. This unconstitutional bill must be stopped.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:57:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Halemano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:01:17 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Tavares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:52:46 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph P Vesperas Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB401's ban on 50 caliber firearms is a violation of the Second Amendment and an affront to the right of keeping and bearing arms. For this reason, I oppose SB401 and urge the legislature to oppose it as well.

Joseph Vesperas

Hilo Hawaii 96720

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 4:01:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:38:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Name: Willy Colt**February 9, 2025****Profession: DOE, Teacher****Zip Code: 96789****Position: Opposed to SB401****Purpose of firearm ownership: Historical, Collecting, Self-Defense, Sports and Recreation****Dear Hawaii State Legislature,**

“Hawaii's gun laws are seventh strongest among the 50 states ... and Hawaii's gun death rate is the fifth lowest.” - Hawaii Business Magazine, 2025

While Hawaii’s gun laws are not the strongest in the nation, it doesn’t have to be. The laws are very strict as they are now. Adding another law which bans pre-existing guns and legally obtained guns is flawed and unenforceable.

It would be like making motorcycles illegal because they caused, “29% of Hawaii traffic fatalities in 2023.” - Hawaii Department of Transportation

If SB401 is passed into law it would take away my freedom of choice. That would be poor judgment. A tool such as a hammer or scissors does not make the owner a criminal. Neither should guns nor firearm accessories make its owner a criminal. Criminal behavior makes a criminal.

Do not allow SB401to become law. Do not take away my freedom.

Best regards,

Willy Colt

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:58:53 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Revells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly disagree with this bill as an infringement of my 2nd Amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:43:47 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicolas Dramisino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose all gun laws

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:48:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB401 is ludicrous...especially since YOU are sneaking in limitations on shotguns. Time to put your energies into issues that matter to all in our state such as renovating deteriorating infrastructure and supporting all efforts to make Hawaii as "food" self sufficient as possible. these sorts of directives support all of the people who live on one or the other of our islands!!!!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:54:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill cause it's a direct violation of our rights(2A)

February 9, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly oppose all new gun related bills being presented during the 2025 legislative sessions. I could cite the Second Amendment of "Shall Not Be Infringed" but that seems to fall onto deaf ears with our current Hawaii Legislators. I am more concerned with the impact these new and modified bills will have on law abiding citizens of Hawaii. If these bills are passed, they will only act to punish law abiding citizens who are being grouped in with criminals by Hawaii Legislators. This could be compared to a Correctional Officer who "takes away recreation time from a whole housing unit because of the disruptive behavior of a few individuals rather than deal only with the individuals involved. That is unacceptable and so is what Hawaii Legislators are doing by introducing these bills.

If Hawaii Legislators are truly dedicated to protecting the citizens of Hawaii, then they should be more focused on updating Hawaii's self defense laws allowing citizens to better protect themselves. With Hawaii Law Enforcement being as understaffed and taxed as it is, allow citizens to defend themselves. Unfortunately, most violent crimes are committed by individuals who do not fear current or future laws or the consequences of their actions.

In conclusion, and to be clear, I strongly oppose the following bills being presented at the 2025 legislative session, to include but not limited to SB401, SB363 and SB308.

Thank you for your time.

Michael Kekaha

Makawao, Hawaii

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:19:24 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KELVIN AWAYA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401.

Like other unconstitutional bills that have been proposed relating to firearms, refer to the language of the 2nd amendment. It seems that the x3 introducers of this bill are either unaware of, or clearly disregard an Americans constitutional rights. And apparently it's the later of the x2 that I mentioned because they've attempted to pass bills similar if not identical to this in previous years. This is preposterous that we law abiding citizens have to go through this every legislative session. Enough with the non sense

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:42:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Stenaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill must be rewritten. I am not against the .50 rifle ban in Hawaii but the bill does not discuss shotguns. Technically a shotgun can shot a slug with very limited distance for hunting that would be over .50 caliber. Shotguns are used for hunting and self defense legally in Hawaii and every state in the United States. Shotguns provide food for our citizens and are limited range and not in the same category of a .50 caliber rifle.

No state in our country bans shotguns that this bill would cause. This would be refuted in a higher court and show other states Hawaii doesn't understand firearms. I am guessing this is a simple oversight by the authors of SB401. **Either do not pass this bill or rewrite it to exclude shotguns.**

I am a retired Navy Officer and have a good knowledge of .50 rifles and shotguns. I have been involved with the safe and legal use of firearms for over 40 years. The proposed bill can not be passed unless shotguns are excluded.

Thank you for your time

Joe Stenaka

Waikiki

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:21:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Conradt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a direct violation of my 2nd amendment rights. As an American citizen I do not support this bill or any bill directed towards taking my freedoms away!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:44:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Why do you hate guns so much ??

I seen this bill so many times it's pathetic even the very reason why it's retarded so it is time to knock it off on infringements on the second amendment rights .

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:45:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. These firearms are never involved in crime here.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:21:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Norberto Dumo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

There's a lot of people here in Hawaii who uses these caliber to hunt for food to feed their family and friends. Please reconsider and introduce Bill that will target criminals and not law abiding citizens.

Thank you

Norberto Dumo

Hilo HI 96720

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:28:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is **Robert Lau**, and I am submitting testimony in **strong opposition** to **SB 401**, which seeks to prohibit firearms and rifles capable of firing .50 caliber or larger ammunition, excluding antique pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloaders.

This bill is yet another example of **unnecessary gun control that targets law-abiding citizens instead of addressing actual crime**. Hawaii already has some of the **strictest firearm regulations in the nation**, and **SB 401 does nothing to improve public safety** while further infringing on the Second Amendment rights of responsible gun owners.

No Justification for the Ban

There is **no evidence** to suggest that .50 caliber rifles are a threat to public safety in Hawaii. These firearms are **not commonly used in crimes**, and their large size, weight, and high cost make them impractical for illegal activities. **SB 401 is a solution in search of a problem** and unnecessarily penalizes responsible firearm owners.

Overreach and Legal Concerns

Similar bans in other states have faced **legal challenges on constitutional grounds**. A federal judge in California has **overturned bans on standard-capacity magazines and assault weapons**, citing **Second Amendment violations**. If SB 401 is enacted, it will likely face similar challenges, **wasting taxpayer dollars on litigation**.

Impact on Law-Abiding Gun Owners

Many responsible firearm owners use .50 caliber rifles for **sport shooting, hunting, and long-range precision shooting**. The **Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, not just firearms deemed “acceptable” by the government**. Law-abiding citizens should not be stripped of their rights based on an arbitrary caliber restriction.

Conclusion

SB 401 is an unnecessary and **ineffective** bill that fails to address crime while infringing on the rights of responsible gun owners. **Hawaii should focus on enforcing existing laws against violent criminals rather than creating new restrictions that only impact law-abiding citizens.**

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to **reject SB 401**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Mahalo,
Robert Lau**

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:29:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB401. It violates 2nd Ammendment of the U.S. Constitution. It will do nothing to
curve

violence created by criminals. Thank you.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:55:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iric Viscarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed Hb401.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:31:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RICHARD HOLIBAUGH	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, thank you for reading my testimony. I urge you to oppose SB401. This bill will do absolutely nothing for public safety. Firearms which use 50 caliber or higher ammunition usually cost several thousand dollars. Ammunition for these firearms is typically in excess of \$3.00 or more per round. This bill is only an attempt by a local politician to further subjugate 2nd Amendment rights. Thanks again for reading my testimony.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:38:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Proctor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it will affect all shotguns and make them illegal based on their bite size. These are common shotguns used for hunting and competition

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:50:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Atom Kasprzycki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional, violates precedent 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 amendemnt 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 lawmakers who place the interests of anti-gun national organizations over the rights of the people.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:31:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Zielinski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is an infringement on my rights as a law abiding taxpayer paying citizen. If this bill is passed I will have no other choice but to sell all of my properties and claim residency in a state that protects my rights. No crimes are committed with 50 caliber firearms. Anyone suggesting otherwise is incompetent and needs to crawl out from under their rock and do some research. A 50 caliber rifle weighs as much as 40 pounds. Nobody would carry that on a crime spree.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:36:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:44:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this legislative proposal.

There are already legal challenges to firearms which the State of Hawaii is either party to or has enjoined through amicus brief. Adding another legislative proposal which will likely be challenged requires resources, time and money, from our government. In other words, it costs the Hawaii taxpayer. In light of recent Federal decisions this ban is unlikely to survive the Bruen scrutiny, so is it the intent of this committee to knowingly propose unconstitutional bills, which you fully expect to fight through the courts for years at a substantial cost to the taxpayer (who may disagree) in order to support a special interest lobby (aka campaign donors) above the people of Hawaii? This body should focus on priorities not waste our limited resources on special interest gun control agendas that will likely be overturned by the courts at substantial cost to our State. Perhaps you might voluntarily return the egregious pay increases enacted in the last session to support your special interest waste of resources to address lower priority issues?

Do any of our esteemed committee members know how much a .50cal rifle retails for or the cost per round? It is a very expensive rifle to acquire and operate and unique enough if a law-abiding citizen were to utilize it for untoward purposes it would not be difficult to find the registrants and quickly determine who done it. The problem is unregistered firearms, that is a crime under current laws. Perhaps the question on how unregistered firearms arrive here in Hawaii might be the better question. Perhaps you all can solve this while determining how illegal overhead fireworks keep showing up here; let me let you in on a secret it is through the port, and you all should be able to figure out who is involved, but have turned a blind eye for decades.

I believe we all can agree that taxes in Hawaii are already too high and affect the affordability of living here for the residents. This is why year over year we see an exodus of our families and friends, while the legislature does nothing to affect the high cost of living. There is not an endless supply of money and I believe we can agree we must prioritize out resources and actions to address these priorities which affect us here in Hawaii. We all know affordability and cost of living, traffic, mental health and homelessness, economic opportunity, and education are areas

which need critical attention, yet this body focuses on almost a dozen firearms related proposals which many of the aforementioned issues are root causes of the issues these firearms proposals claim to correct, yet do not address the root causes. Perhaps our limited resources could be focuses in priority. In case you have not noticed a recent election occurred and the American people want action, accountability, and transparency from their elected officials this proposal is far from that.

Respectfully,

Steve Takekoshi

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:09:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hi my name is Andrew Ken Wong and I've been living in Hawaii for 36 years on the island of Oahu. I would ask that members of this hearing understand that this bill does more harm to the community and the law enforcement who protects it. Let me start with the estimated population as of 2024 for the state of Hawaii which is 1,446,146. The estimated police force (patrol officers, sheriffs, supervisors, and detectives) is about 3,000 as of 2024. Now throw in the fact this state gets visitors all year round which as of reported in 2023 totals up to 9,657,607. Why am I bringing up these numbers? In the case of *Deshaney v. Winnebago County Department of Social Services* (1989) it was ruled that the STATE was not obligated to protect a child from his abusive father and in the case of *Warren v. District of Columbia* (1981) it was ruled the police was not obligated to protect a woman from her husband who had violated a restraining order. Another case I would like to point out is *CASTLE ROCK v. GONZALES* [04-278], 545 U.S. 748 (2005) which again the police was not obligated to arrest a husband who violated a restraining order. All this makes sense why they are not obligated because it is physically impossible for a force of about 3,000 officers to somehow protect about 11,000,000 people's lives. That would mean each officer would be responsible for about 3,660 lives. More officers are not the answer as that job requires a certain aptitude and qualities that the masses do not. Instead, it would fall on to law abiding citizens to help protect their communities and even law enforcement. For law abiding citizens to do that we need tools to be effective, not more restrictions or bans. The bill already states we are one of the safest states when it comes to gun violence. Why do we need to ban fifty or higher calibers? All this does is reduce the effectiveness of a law-abiding citizen and not deter criminals. Criminals are by nature there to break laws. I hope I was able to convince you ladies and gentlemen or at least have some doubt about the effectiveness of this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Andrew Ken Wong

Sources

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/police-officers-by-state>

<https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/visitor/visitor-research/>

<https://census.hawaii.gov/main/2024-state-pe/>

<https://www.hawaii-guide.com/hawaii-tourism-statistics>

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:18:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Howell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB401 is an infringement of responsible Law abiding citizens of this state / country. (2A).

I wholeheartedly (oppose) SB 401 , The Senate should (Oppose) this SB401 as well knowing the bill of rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:49:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:54:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am Raymond Ishii and I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a violation of my rights as given to me by our creator and guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

The United States Supreme Court in the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association Vs Bruen has affirmed that the 2nd Amendment is an individual right and The Supreme Court declared that any regulation affecting the right to bear arms must be rooted in the “historical tradition of firearm regulation” in the United States.

President Donald Trump's Executive Order date 02-07-25 states as follows:

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. The Second Amendment is an indispensable safeguard of security and liberty. It has preserved the right of the American people to protect ourselves, our families, and our freedoms since the founding of our great Nation. Because it is foundational to maintaining all other rights held by Americans, the right to keep and bear arms must not be infringed.

Sec. 2. Plan of Action. (a) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Attorney General shall examine all orders, regulations, guidance, plans, international agreements, and other actions of executive departments and agencies (agencies) to assess any ongoing infringements of the Second Amendment rights of our citizens, and present a proposed plan of action to the President, through the Domestic Policy Advisor, to protect the Second Amendment rights of all Americans.

(b) In developing such proposed plan of action, the Attorney General shall review, at a minimum:

(i) All Presidential and agencies' actions from January 2021 through January 2025 that purport to promote safety but may have impinged on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens;

(ii) Rules promulgated by the Department of Justice, including by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, from January 2021 through January 2025 pertaining to firearms and/or Federal firearms licensees;

(iii) Agencies' plans, orders, and actions regarding the so-called “enhanced regulatory enforcement policy” pertaining to firearms and/or Federal firearms licensees;

(iv) Reports and related documents issued by the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention;

(v) The positions taken by the United States in any and all ongoing and potential litigation that affects or could affect the ability of Americans to exercise their Second Amendment rights;

(vi) Agencies' classifications of firearms and ammunition; and

(vii) The processing of applications to make, manufacture, transfer, or export firearms.

Sec. 3. Implementation. Upon submission of the proposed plan of action described in section 2 of this order, the Attorney General shall work with the Domestic Policy Advisor to finalize the plan of action and establish a process for implementation.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

President Trumps Executive Order simply states that Firearms have been used since the founding of our great Republic for the protection of ourselves, our families and our freedom, and is the foundation for all the other rights we as American hold dear, the rights of the people must not be infringed.

In the historical context of the use of firearms in the Revolutionary War, many of the arms used by our patriotic forefathers including cannons and warships were privately own, and it is our historical tradition that the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

I strongly OPPOSE SB401 and ask you to vote no.

Thank You

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:10:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myron Hoefer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Firearm lethality is not caliber dependent. The standard set by this bill is arbitrary and without real purpose. This committee is probably aware that there is no evidence of large caliber weapons being used to commit crimes in Hawaii. Besides being arbitrary, this bill is based on pure speculation, never a sound basis for new laws. Please vote against this bill. Thank you.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:33:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tad Araki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I strongly oppose SB401, as it is a direct violation of my second amendment rights

Mahalo for your time,

Tad Araki

Hilo 96720

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:49:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fedor Polyakov	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in to express my opposition to the bill that seeks to include any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher, excluding antique pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloaders, in the list of prohibited weapons. While the intention of this bill may be rooted in public safety concerns, I believe that it is both unnecessary and unjust, and I urge you to reconsider its provisions.

First and foremost, the inclusion of firearms that can fire ammunition of .50 caliber or higher in the list of prohibited weapons does not significantly contribute to the overall reduction of crime or public safety. The reality is that firearms of this caliber are rarely used in criminal activities, and their prohibition will have minimal impact on crime rates or violent incidents. The overwhelming majority of .50 caliber firearms are owned and used lawfully by responsible citizens, particularly hunters, sport shooters, and collectors.

Secondly, the proposed legislation would unnecessarily infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens to own firearms for legitimate purposes, including hunting and recreational shooting. These firearms are legal and regulated under current laws, and their prohibition would unfairly penalize individuals who use them responsibly. The right to keep and bear arms is enshrined in the Constitution, and any legislative action that further restricts this right must be scrutinized carefully to ensure it does not unnecessarily infringe upon our freedoms.

Additionally, the focus on banning specific types of firearms, rather than addressing broader issues such as mental health, gang violence, and illegal firearm trafficking, misses the mark. We must prioritize policies that target the root causes of violence and work to improve the overall safety of our communities without infringing upon the rights of responsible gun owners.

In conclusion, while I share the concern for public safety, I urge the committee to oppose this bill, as it fails to address the core issues of gun violence while infringing on the rights of responsible firearm owners. Instead, I encourage you to pursue more effective solutions that focus on improving mental health care, enforcing existing gun laws, and targeting criminal behavior without punishing responsible citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:11:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lionel Delos Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislature, i opposed bill sb401 because it doesnt mater or make differants, what they use for crime.

thank you

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:18:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tony lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly oppose this .. one

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:25:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
charles wei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is our rights as a citizen and taxpayer to be able to defend ourselves. The right to bear arms is a constitutional right. Over policing has not reduced crimes but has given more opportunity for the government to punish the responsible people following policy to get in trouble. Those that will acquire guns illegally will not follow any of the policies proposed.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:58:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Elefante 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 SB-401.

This bill aims to prohibit firearms and rifles with a caliber of fifty or higher, with certain exclusions. This is nothing but a misguided attempt to address gun-related issues. The truth is these weapons are rarely used in crimes. According to a study by the FBI, only a minuscule percentage of gun-related crimes involve these types of firearms.

Instead of targeting the law-abiding citizens who own these guns for sport, hunting, and self-defense, we should focus on enforcing existing laws and addressing the root causes of violence. We must not allow the actions of a few criminals to dictate the rights of responsible gun owners.

SB-401 is a misguided attempt to solve complex issues. It infringes upon the rights of responsible gun owners and does little to address the underlying causes of violence.

Respectfully, I STRONGLY encourage you to vote NO on SB-401.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:45:15 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mitchell H. Weber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB401,

This proposed bill is Everytown for gun safety fan fiction. Its nonsense "Nobody Elected Bloomberg!" Isnt that popular stance & hyme of the DNC this month.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:28:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stop putting forward unnecessary bills like this and instead improve our judicial system to keep real criminals off the streets.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:23:09 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE NO** on this Bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:29:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our 2nd amendment rights shall NOT be infringed upon.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:42:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zac Nosugref	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:06:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no legitimate reason to ban these firearms under the 2nd Amendment which you are supposed to uphold. Focus on the actual crime and homelessness and cost of living in this state instead of focusing on lawabiding citizens and restricting their rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:35:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, again infringing on the rights of law abiding gun owners who hunt, collect and sport shoot. No one is walking around carrying a gun that shoot .50 cal ammunition.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:21:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB401. Unconstitutional against our 2nd Amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:35:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Mersburgh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401 as it puts limits on high caliber guns.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:51:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB401 does not make the people of Hawaii safer, it only strips away our rights! It clearly violates our Constitutional rights. Furthermore, it criminalizes responsible gun owners, expands government overreach into legal firearm ownership, fails to address violent crime, and makes criminals out of law-abiding citizens. Stop wasting time and energy on unconstitutional bills, and focus on better education and training of the people.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:05:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this legislation because it is just a waste of time and my tax dollars. It is trying to fix a non-existent problem. This kind of proposal just serves to make ordinary sportsmen and hobbyists angry.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:05:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassie Price	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:05:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradle Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to SB401, a bill that seeks to ban firearms capable of firing .50 caliber or higher ammunition in Hawaii. This bill is misguided, ineffective, and infringes upon the rights of law-abiding citizens.

The .50 caliber round is primarily used for long-range target shooting and is rarely, if ever, used in crimes. This ban would only serve to restrict the rights of responsible gun owners while doing nothing to enhance public safety.

Criminals do not follow laws. Those intent on causing harm will not be deterred by this legislation. Instead, this bill will only punish law-abiding citizens who enjoy the sport of long-range shooting.

Furthermore, this bill is a slippery slope. Once one type of firearm or ammunition is banned, it becomes easier to ban others. This is a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of Second Amendment rights.

Instead of focusing on ineffective measures that target law-abiding citizens, the legislature should address the root causes of violence. This includes mental health issues, illegal gun trafficking, and socioeconomic factors that contribute to crime.

I urge the committee to reject SB401. This bill is unnecessary, ineffective, and infringes upon the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:14:35 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:29:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose, this violates my 2nd amendment right.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:45:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:50:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Oya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stongly oppose this bill. It does NOT make us safer. it just strps away our rights.

It criminalizes resposible gun owners, expands government overreach into legal firearm ownership, FAILS to address violent crimes & makes crimnals out os law abiding citizens.

Thank you for your time.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:13:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Coons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional, violates precedent 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 representatives who place the interests of anti-gun national organizations over the rights of the people.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:22:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Uemae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to this bill as it would criminalize shotgun owners. A shotgun slug has a diameter larger than .50 caliber.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:36:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The 2nd ammendment clearly states that the RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED - What part does this Legislature not understand?

LESS RESTRICTIONS - MORE FOCUS on Government FOR THE PEOPLE

I OPPOSE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:42:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Yvonne Alvarado Oppose to Bill SB401

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:38:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Yamamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose as it infringes upon constitutionally guaranteed rights. There is more to a cartridge than its caliber, excluding revolvers shows clear lack of understanding as for example the .454 Casull revolver cartridge (0.452") has more muzzle energy than .50 Action Express (0.500") of Desert Eagle fame. Even for rifle cartridges, the modern .50 Beowulf (0.500") is slightly less powerful than the 120+ year old .30-06 Springfield (0.308) used in both World Wars.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:42:43 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shani Hough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB401 which bans firearms capable of firing 50 caliber or higher ammunition, which infringes on the rights of hunters, collectors and sports shooters!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:51:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MICHAEL ING	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:57:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Winn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

50 caliber weapons are expensive and really only used by firearms enthusiasts. Criminals have no interest in such things. Some of the nicest people I know own 50 caliber weapons. These are not people to be afraid of. These are honest, hard-working, kind generous people. They encourage others in the shooting sports and are exceptional members of society. Making them criminals overnight is egregious and frankly stupid. Please don't listen to idiots that support this bill. Let law abiding citizens continue to exercise their second amendment rights. Stop passing legislation that makes honest hard-working people into criminals.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:02:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Fritz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** SB401. This bill would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners **would become criminals overnight** for possessing their currently legal firearms. And this event is not only illegal as a matter of law, it would constitute a "taking" by the state of Hawaii and is void ab initio.

This bill is arbitrary, capricious and a wholly unreasonable limitation on law-abiding gun owners in this state who are already over-burdened by Hawaii's specious gun laws. It is violative of the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and has no logical, rational or reasonable application. In sum, it makes no sense whatsoever.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda@Conflictresolution.com

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:08:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Langton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

The onslaught of anti-gun and honestly, anti-freedom bills that are being written by the legislature, clearly indicates a desire to remove as many rights of the citizens as possible.

The 2nd Amendment states, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.. This does not say may limit ammunitions, publicize personal data, limit magazine size or any such nonsense that these bills are trying to put through.

We DO NOT agree to having our rights peeled back, one at a time. This is a blatant disregard for the freedoms that are protected and insured by the Constitution. Any of these bills that are put through, will be fought in court.

Stop wasting your time and our money on these attempts to make the lives of the people of Hawaii worse.

Laurie Langton

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:08:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Lawson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again, another bill to make law abiding citizens criminals and take away our right to bear arms. The constitution of this great land did not limit amounts of ammunition, where parts could be carried or what caliber arms someone could possess. Does the Senate have nothing better to do with their time? How many crimes have been committed with 50 cal or greater ammunition? Your law could create an immediate violation for law-abiding gun owners turning them into criminals overnight, including some law enforcement personnel! Stop it! Stop wasting our tax dollars on these kinds of agendas and start doing something that actually adds value to our state.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:21:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The government does not get to decide for Americans what kind of books they may read, what brands of firearms they may own, or what kind of ammunition they can use. unconstitutional ban on hollow points for self-defense outside the home is yet another example of anti-gun politicians disarming law-abiding citizens while criminals ignore the law. Self-defense is an enumerated right.

Neither the .50 BMG nor any .50-caliber handguns are widely used in crimes. In fact, in a running attempt to refute a 2004 statement from an NRA spokesperson that “The simple fact is that .50-calibers have not been used in crimes.”, the [Violence Policy Center](#) lists a long list of criminals and crimes where a .50-caliber was found, but only four cases in the United States, since the early 1990s, where a .50-caliber firearm was actually used to commit a crime...and none of those crimes were in Hawai‘i.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:33:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB401 would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, currently law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearm. I ask the Hawaii state legislators to review the exact, clear, and simple language, in letter and in spirit, of the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution, and describe to themselves within their own consciences how SB401 would not qualify as an infringement upon the right to keep and bear arms, especially within the context of the application of legal precedent, whereby a currently existing law & right, a legal freedom, combined with the superseding power granted & justified under the US Constitution, is inexplicably being put under consideration for suddenly being treated as a criminal violation. Surely, SB401 would not be an evolutionary improvement upon the governing principal of the greatest good for the greatest number, rather SB401 would further restrict individuals from the freedom and ability to arm themselves adequately, for any unforeseen necessity, but specifically to protect themselves in a pre-emptive and precautionary posture of self defense for any unforeseen dangers and threats which can often go largely unchecked by scattered law enforcement. Hawaii is well known for releasing criminals convicted of heinous offenses after serving only a few years of their sentences. People are asking how are we to defend ourselves, our loved ones, and our property against rampant violent crime fueled by alcohol & drugs when unreformed criminal offenders are released from prisons and law enforcement cannot be effectively on hand? Is removing, restricting, and infringing upon the law abiding citizens' inherent 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms seen by the Hawaii State Legislature as a way to deter criminal tendencies within our society?

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:37:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committe Representing We the Citizens of Hawai'i~

TY for your service to representing the people of Hawai'i.

I stand in **STRONG** opposition to this proposed bill as it infringes strongly upon the law-abiding citizens', hunters', collectors' & sports shooters' rights to legally acquire a 50-caliber gun. Make this make sense when you simultaneously as a Democrat Legislature want to give rights to undocumented immigrants who don't have to disclose their personal information for rights in our country? NO MAKE SENSE.

In conclusion, i strongly oppose this proposed bill & encourage you as a tax-paid Representative of the People of Hawai'i (me) to do the same.

Mahalo, Aloha & Godspeed,

Dawn O'Brien

Lifelong tax-paying resident of Hawai'i

President, HOPE HI, Inc.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:47:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Shedko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:18:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gene A. Castagnetti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all,

Please stop infringing on our Constitutional rights. Focus on criminals who should not have firearms. Ban on caliber size does nothing to stop or prevent any crime.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:05:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clardean Lehano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

Clardean Lehano

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:49:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimo galon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb401. It is said in the beginning of the bill that Hawaii is the safest state per capita because of its strong gun laws. I find it very interesting that we need more restrictions on top of restrictions to keep the citizens safe. Yet we have not seen any acts of violence using a 50 cal cartridge. These restrictions are ridiculous and unconstitutional and imposes more tax dollars on the citizens of Hawaii.

SB-401

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

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ali Ameden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop trying to take our freedoms and 2nd amendment.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:20:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB401.

stop trying to create rules to issues that dont exist. Target real issues like mental illness and education. NO for me

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:32:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:03:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CRISTON KAM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose SB401!

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is unconstitutional and directly infringes on our Second Amendment rights. The right to bear arms is a fundamental individual right that should not be arbitrarily limited by the government. Restricting choice of caliber hinders law-abiding citizens from effectively defending themselves and their families, which goes against the core principles of the Second Amendment. This bill unfairly targets responsible gun owners and undermines their ability to exercise their constitutional rights. It is essential to uphold and protect the Second Amendment as a cornerstone of our democracy, and SB401 clearly violates this fundamental right.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:08:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tad Sumida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:37:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Swanson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

Jesse Swanson

Keaau 96749

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:37:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Kitaoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a voting constitant, and LEGAL gun owner with the the State of Hawaii, I oppose this bill. As this bill states, we have the LOWEST Death per capita, etc etc etc. So why change the current Law on the books. We have must more things you as the legislature body should consider! ALOHA!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:41:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawn foronda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:43:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppse SB401 as it is in violation of my second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:00:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremiah Judd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:04:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:10:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lydel Cardoza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:25:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Seems like just another infringement to be placed on law abiding citizens. Literally that's all this bill is. You literally state that Hawaii has one of the lowest per capita gun related deaths and yet you continue to try to take away a fundamental right from every single law abiding citizen? Criminals do the crime and law abiding citizens get screwed. So now no more shotguns? What next? How about every single person who swore an oath to uphold the Constitution do so? Like I been saying before last time I checked murder was illegal, theft, drugs hey even fireworks...but restrict the law abiding? Doesn't even make sense. These bills do nothing to prevent these crimes that you say they're preventing. You just take from law abiding and criminals always get what they want.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:32:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Shitabata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:22:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 401

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:37:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEAKUKI ELIKAPIKA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE SB401

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:38:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Che Gonzales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose it doesn't align with my constitutional right to bear arms.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:42:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makane Black	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB401

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:57:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This infringes on the 1st amendment

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:01:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:08:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Head	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:07:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanayama, Galen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill, It does not benefit the people of Hawaii. Taking the right of law abiding citizens to own an effective and popular tool is not right. The motivation of Hawaii's politicians to disarm the people is debatable but the desire is not. Every year, new attempts are made to take a bit of my firearm rights. Restrictions on firearm features, magazine capacity, caliber, etc., are proposed to apply to people who the government has vetted and approved as suitable firearm owners. This bill and others like it, will financially and constitutionally harm only lawful firearm owners. Please target the bad guys, not your law abiding neighbors.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:16:50 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mr. & Mrs. O'Neill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing concerning SB 401. I strongly oppose this bill. This is another infringement on our Second Amendment rights.

Regards, Steve and Linda O'Neill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:19:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren kulberg ; laupahoe hoe HI 96764	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Another infringement on our second amendment right, for lawfully firearm owners in our state that already has some of the tightest regulations in the country.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:28:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Orrin Bigelow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:32:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J. Cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha, I oppose SB 401. Why is this being considered? The notion that “any projectile component thereof coated with Teflon or any other similar coating designed primarily to enhance its capability to penetrate metal or pierce protective armor” is false. Teflon bullets are designed to prevent the wearing the barrel and prolong its serviceability. As for 50 caliber restriction, it is my understanding that currently those can only be used at private ranges. If someone owns one and travels to the mainland for a long range match, that is their business and their business alone. This bill serves no purpose. V/R Kevin J. Cole, Mililani, Col USAF Ret
BTW The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence has been receiving illegal payments from USAID. Not the best source for information or endorsement.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:35:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Desa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill this is no help to the people

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:37:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Farron Moylan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:45:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alwyn Ballesteros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:03:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Deponte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Im strongly against bill SB401 which goes against my 2nd amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:05:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, as it infringes my 2nd amendment rights as a US citizen.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:12:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Gillis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose against SB401 due to its direct violation of our second amendment rights.

Roy Gillis

Keaau, Hawaii 96749

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:28:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Cavitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today to express why I am opposed to SB401. I am writing to educate and encourage this committee to see how unnecessary this bill is for Hawaii and the United States for that matter. Hawaii has an extremely low number of crimes committed with firearms. This is thankfully due to the way of life and choices of the people here, far more so than the laws created to hinder certain firearm ownership. Facts should not be ignored when making laws to prevent violent crime. The facts in regards to this bill is that is wholesomely unnecessary and in fact unconstitutional. I will prove my claims later in this testimony and ask you to please do your duty and read this entire testimony and see that this is if fact unconstitutional and should not be passed.

First let's define the .50 caliber firearms being discussed in the bill, specifically those that would be banned. The .50 caliber BMG is used with a rifle platform. The 50 caliber handgun load is used with various modern handguns that are widely in circulation and are commonly owned. Both would be banned by this bill if it becomes law. Neither the .50 BMG nor any .50-caliber handguns are widely used in crimes and that is a fact. In fact, in an attempt to refute a 2004 statement from an NRA spokesperson that "The simple fact is that .50-calibers have not been used in crimes.", the Violence Policy Center lists a long list of criminals and crimes where a .50-caliber firearm or round was found, but there were only four cases in the United States, since the early 1990s, where a .50-caliber firearm was actually used to commit a crime. Most importantly, none of those crimes were in Hawaii. I firmly believe anti-gun lawmakers within Hawaii work to continue to chip away at rights regarding gun ownership each year. They prove that in any small, even meaningless bill that becomes law, they feel vindicated in their efforts at disarming honest Americans.

Last year when this bill was being heard (it was not passed then) KHON2 reporters asked Karl Rhoads why the .50 caliber "should be banned if criminals do not often use them," a point not even lost on the reporter for the station.

"Because it's a weapon of war," Rhoads told the channel. "All these gun bills are drawing lines. There's a kitchen knife on this side, and there's a nuclear weapon on this side. So, where is it that you allow civilians to keep having it?" Just so you're aware Mr. Roads, the second amendment was not written strictly for hunting. Recreational range/ sport shooting, plus defense against

threats foreign and domestic are integral factors to keeping this nation safe, as clarified within the amendment. The United States Constitution is very clear. This right is not to be infringed. This is an inalienable right and is not a privilege. This right isn't granted by the government, it is recognized as something granted by God.

As per the Supreme Court Bruen decision, this bill must pass two standards, that I will prove that it fails in both in order to be seen as consistent with the United States Constitution. The first of the two standards is if a firearm is both unusual and dangerous, and the second requirement is if the law matches historical intentions and laws of the land based on the founding father's intentions. The first point of review is that all firearms have some form of danger but they must be scrutinized as whether or not they are unusual and not something seen in the hands of the civilian population. Nuclear bombs would be both dangerous and unusual and would in fact fail the Bruen standards and could be banned from civilian use. The .50 caliber firearm though is something used in this nation widely by citizens throughout the entirety of American history. They are not unusual and are commonly owned by Americans and many of those located in the state of Hawaii. They are not unusual and dangerous so they fail the first test under the Supreme Court Bruen decision. They are in fact useful for hunting wild boar when a knife and dogs isn't enough for protecting a boar hunter in Hawaii specifically. I have encountered fully grown wild boar first hand and I doubt many in this committee have themselves. This tool saves lives and is perfectly useful for that purpose. Anyone who says otherwise is either ignorant or lying. The second point of scrutiny under of this bill would be in regards to historical precedent. This bill does not pass muster there either. This was a common caliber for firearms, hence the addition within this bill to exclude antique .50 caliber firearms. This bill is unconstitutional and will fail when brought to the Supreme Court.

The costs incurred in tax dollars spent defending an unconstitutional bill could be far better spent on actual firearm education, medical/ mental health care for Hawaii citizens and even free firearm safety programs throughout all islands that people can attend for free at all ages. A new approach should be considered. Something that addresses the issues and not the tools used. Make our islands safer while not demonizing law abiding citizens and ignoring the actual problems.

I encourage you to consider facts and reasoning beyond feelings. This bill will not stop crimes that literally are not being committed. This bill will make criminals out of currently law abiding citizens. This unconstitutional bill shall not be passed and will not hold up. Please vote NO on SB401.

Mahalo,

Chase Cavitt

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:28:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB401. This bill is an infringement on both the second amendment of the United States Constitution, and Article one; section 17 of the Hawai'i State Constitution. The language and the intent of this bill are, unconstitutional. SB401, is a solution for a problem that does not exist.

The language used in this bill is too vague. The passing of this bill may inadvertently prohibit the sale, use and ownership of most shotguns, paint ball and airsoft replicas, and may also lead to the ban of less lethal, personal protection options, like pepper ball pistols and rifles.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:36:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
logan chamberlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly appose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

Logan chamberlin paho, hi 96778

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:38:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this measure. Fifty caliber firearms are not a problem. They are big, heavy, and bulky rifles to handle and transport. These are not concealable weapons by any stretch of the imagination. They are not suitable for criminal behavior at all. There is no place to shoot them legally on Oahu. You lawmakers are wasting time on a problem that doesn't exist. Are you just trying to emulate the State of California?

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:46:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanoa Chamberlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB401

Chairperson, Members of the Committee,

I come before you today to express my strong opposition to SB401, a bill that stands in direct conflict with my constitutional right to bear arms as protected by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The Second Amendment guarantees that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." SB401 seeks to impose unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding gun owners, making it harder for responsible citizens to exercise their fundamental rights. While I understand the desire to promote public safety, this bill does so at the expense of those who follow the law, rather than focusing on those who commit crimes.

Time and again, we have seen that restrictive gun laws do not stop criminals from obtaining weapons illegally. Instead, they create bureaucratic hurdles that hinder law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves and their families. The right to self-defense is a cornerstone of personal liberty, and any legislation that threatens this right should be met with serious scrutiny.

Furthermore, SB401 could set a dangerous precedent, paving the way for further erosion of Second Amendment protections. If we allow such restrictions to be enacted, what is to stop future legislation from further limiting or outright infringing upon our right to bear arms?

I urge this committee to reject SB401 and to instead focus on measures that address the root causes of violence--such as strengthening mental health resources, enforcing existing laws against violent offenders, and improving community safety initiatives. Law-abiding gun owners should not be punished for the actions of criminals.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask that you vote against SB401 in defense of our constitutional rights.

Sincerely,

Shanoa K. Chamberlin

P.O. Box 6919

Hilo, HI 96720

808-498-8872

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:51:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan Fergerstrom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB308 as it is a violation of second amendment rights and has no affect whatsoever on safety.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:51:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Harrington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB401. My rights Shall not be infringed.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:52:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William R Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 401.

This bill would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms.

Thanks

William R Smith

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:55:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angie Folcik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I oppose this bill.

-Angie

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:04:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shellby Yamada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen and responsible gun owner, I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our 2nd amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:59:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 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 SB401. This bill is a blatant infringement on law abiding citizens ability to exercise their 2nd amendment rights if they so choose to.. What is this bill trying to accomplish? The 2nd amendment clearly states, “the right to keep and bear arms, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.”

Mahalo and thank you for your consideration.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:05:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chasity Subia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation to our second amendment rights!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:06:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:08:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:37:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikolas Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a violation of my 2nd amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:45:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francesca Martin-Howe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of my 2nd ammendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:48:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Arnold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are literally ZERO crimes being committed with 50 cal firearms. Stop wasting my time and my hard earned money! Leave the 2nd amendment alone! SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:16:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Moylan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a DIRECT VIOLATION of our 2nd ammendment rights as an American citizen.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:02:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarrod Goode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Please stop I fri.ging on my 2nd ammendment right.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:03:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley Gantala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

To the Representatives of the State Legislature,

I oppose the passing of this bill as it only criminalizes law-abiding citizens infringing on their Second Amendment right to bear arms. This bill is an overreach by the State government against the 2nd amendment of the U.S. constitution and it is absurd to even be presented in the first place.

This bill does nothing to effectively reduce gun violence or violent crime activity here in Hawaii but will embolden malicious individuals who aren't going to follow the provisions of this bill in the first place. Hawaii already has some of if not the strictest gun laws in the country, but we still have gun violence.

I sincerely hope there is some reconsideration to the progression of the passing of this bill. This legislative body could better serve its constituents by focusing its efforts and resources on improving the local economy, reduce the cost of living, or possibly enhance mental health resources in Hawaii. Those would be more effective solutions towards reducing the amount of gun violence here, but it's obvious that isn't the intent behind this bill. This bill is an overt attack against Hawaii's responsible citizens who are law-abiding firearms owners.

I'm appalled at the attempt of this legislation to supersede the amendment of the U.S. Constitution that myself among others have put years, blood, sweat, and tears to defend. As a Hawaii Resident, U.S. Citizen, Combat Veteran, and Taxpayer, once again, I strongly oppose the passing of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Aguigui', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sincerely,

Brian Aguigui

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:05:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harley Erlandiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

Harley Erlandiz

Kapolei 96707

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:05:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chyann Andrews	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:12:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Longo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again it sounds unconstitutional.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:13:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamal Jaynes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment right.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:17:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB401, no matter how much the government tries to stop the people of having these items, the people with bad intentions will always find a way to hurt others! The law abiding citizens will always loose no matter what! I bet the the amount of people who may already have these items are not willing to use them and loose their good character amongst our community! For example people could use a car and just keep running people over. Are you going to ban cars next?

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:19:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Today I write in opposition to SB308. This bill shows gross government over reach and abuse of power by further infringing upon citizen's second ammendment right to keep arms and protect themselves.

Mahalo,

Samantha

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:28:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Kenui-Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

As a US citizen, a veteran and a Native Hawaiian, I oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:26:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tenessa Cavitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today to express why I am opposed to SB401. This bill is unnecessary for Hawaii and will not make anyone safer. Hawaii has an extremely low number of crimes committed with firearms and that is a great fact. Facts should not be ignored when making laws to prevent violent crime. The facts in regards to this bill is that is wholesomely unnecessary and in fact unconstitutional. I will prove my claims later in this testimony and ask you to please do your duty and read this entire testimony and see that this is if fact unconstitutional and should not be passed.

First let's define the .50 caliber firearms being discussed in the bill, specifically those that would be banned. First off, it bans all shotguns by way of ignorance of firearms via the authors of the bill. A .50 caliber shotgun could be used to fire a .50 caliber round. This wouldn't be smart to do so and most of the powder wouldn't burn and it would be significantly less useful but it can be used with that round so this de facto would ban all 12 gauge shotguns by way of ignorance or possibly as intended by the authors. The .50 caliber BMG is used with a rifle platform and is the most common but not only .50 caliber rifle. A 50 baeowolf round is also common and would be made illegal to possess with this bill. The 50 caliber round designed for a handgun is used with various modern handguns that are widely in circulation and are commonly owned. All three types of firearms would be banned by this bill if it becomes law. Neither the .50 BMG nor any .50-caliber handguns are widely used in crimes and that is a fact. I would go out on a limb to say not one crime ever has been committed with a shotgun with .50 caliber ammunition yet it would be banned by this bull. In fact, in an attempt to refute a 2004 statement from an NRA spokesperson that "The simple fact is that .50-calibers have not been used in crimes.", the Violence Policy Center lists a gives a list of criminals and crimes where a .50-caliber firearm or round was found, but there were only four cases in the United States, since the early 1990s, where a .50-caliber firearm was actually used to commit a crime. Most importantly, none of those crimes were in Hawaii. I firmly believe anti-gun lawmakers within Hawaii work to continue to chip away at rights regarding gun ownership each year. This is a death by a thousand cuts tactic designed to dissuade and diminish opposition and to make lawmakers used to the process of removing rights in an attempt to make it easier for them to choose to do again in the future. Regardless of how small, even meaningless a gun bill that becomes law, they feel vindicated in their efforts at disarming honest Americans.

Last year when this bill was presented and did not pass. Also the year before. The United States Constitution is very clear. This right is not to be infringed. This is an inalienable right and is not a privilege. This right isn't granted by the government, it is recognized as something granted by God.

As per the Supreme Court Bruen decision, this bill must pass two standards, and I will prove that it fails in both in order to be seen as consistent with the United States Constitution. The first of the two standards is if a firearm is both unusual and dangerous, and the second requirement is if the law matches historical intentions and laws of the land based on the founding father's intentions. The first point of review is that all firearms have some form of danger but they must be scrutinized as whether or not they are unusual and not something seen in the hands of the civilian population. Nuclear bombs would be both dangerous and unusual and would in fact fail the Bruen standards and could be banned from civilian use. The .50 caliber firearm though is something used in this nation widely by citizens throughout the entirety of American history. They are not unusual and are commonly owned by Americans and many of those located in the state of Hawaii. They are not unusual and dangerous so they fail the first test under the Supreme Court Bruen decision. They are in fact useful for hunting wild boar when a knife and dogs isn't enough for protecting a boar hunter in Hawaii specifically. I have encountered fully grown wild boar first hand and I doubt many in this committee have themselves. This tool saves lives and is perfectly useful for that purpose. Anyone who says otherwise is either ignorant or lying. The second point of scrutiny under of this bill would be in regards to historical precedent. This bill does not pass muster there either. This was a common caliber for firearms, hence the addition within this bill to exclude antique .50 caliber firearms. This bill is unconstitutional and will fail when brought to the Supreme Court.

The costs incurred in tax dollars spent defending an unconstitutional bill could be far better spent on actual firearm education, medical/ mental health care for Hawaii citizens and even free firearm safety programs throughout all islands that people can attend for free at all ages. A new approach should be considered. Something that addresses the issues and not the tools used. Make our islands safer while not demonizing law abiding citizens and ignoring the actual problems.

I encourage you to consider facts and reasoning beyond feelings. This bill will not stop crimes that literally are not being committed. This bill will make criminals out of currently law abiding citizens. This unconstitutional bill should not be passed and will not hold up in court if it is passed and will waste Hawaii tax dollars. Please vote NO on SB401.

Mahalo,

Tenessa Cavitt

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:33:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Kelii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:31:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Christopher Kamau

17 hoonani pl,Hilo HI 96720

Lona.kamau@gmail.com

2/10/2025

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed legislation that would ban firearms and rifles capable of firing .50 caliber or higher ammunition, excluding antique pistols, revolvers, and muzzleloaders. This proposed ban is unnecessary, ineffective, and a direct infringement on the rights of responsible gun owners.

First, firearms chambered in .50 caliber or higher are rarely used in crimes. These firearms are primarily owned by collectors, competitive shooters, long-range enthusiasts, and hunters. There is no compelling evidence that restricting their ownership would have any measurable impact on public safety. Instead, this legislation unfairly punishes law-abiding gun owners who use these firearms responsibly.

Second, banning these firearms would have a detrimental effect on sportsmen and hunters who rely on them for ethical and effective hunting of large game. Many states allow big-game hunting with calibers of .50 or higher due to their ability to ensure a quick, humane kill. By banning these firearms, the legislation would limit hunting options and negatively impact conservation efforts funded by lawful hunters.

Furthermore, the claim that .50 caliber firearms pose a unique threat is misleading. These firearms are large, expensive, and not suited for criminal activity. Their size and weight make them impractical for illicit use, and their rarity among crimes underscores the fact that this ban is a solution in search of a problem.

Rather than restricting the rights of responsible gun owners, lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws against violent criminals and addressing mental health issues that contribute to gun violence. This legislation is an overreach that does nothing to enhance public safety while setting a dangerous precedent for further firearm restrictions.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose this bill and instead pursue policies that respect constitutional rights while targeting actual criminal activity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Kamau

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:38:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill SB401, which proposes to ban centerfire firearms chambered for .50 caliber or higher. This legislation, if enacted, would criminalize the possession of legally owned firearms overnight, undermining both the rights of citizens and the principles of justice.

Constitutional Rights Violation:

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution ensures the right of the people to keep and bear arms. By arbitrarily banning firearms based on caliber size, SB401 directly infringes upon this constitutional right. The Supreme Court has affirmed in cases like *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the Second Amendment protects arms commonly used for lawful purposes, including self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting, which includes .50 caliber firearms.

Legality and Fairness:

Ex Post Facto Law Concerns: Making legal gun owners into felons overnight for possessing firearms that were lawful at the time of purchase is not only draconian but potentially unconstitutional under the ex post facto clauses of both the U.S. and Hawaii Constitutions, which prohibit retroactive criminalization.

Due Process: Such a ban does not respect due process, as it does not account for current owners who have complied with all existing laws. These individuals would be left with no legal recourse for their substantial investments in these firearms without compensation or a reasonable transition period.

Practical and Safety Implications:

Hunting and Shooting Sports: In Hawaii, as in other states, .50 caliber firearms are used for specific types of hunting and competitive shooting. Banning these firearms would eliminate certain sporting events and could negatively impact wildlife management practices where larger calibers are necessary. As military personals require practice with thier own .50 cal centerfire

rifles off duty, this bill would make US service members become criminals overnight. As .50 cal centerfire rifles are large, heavy, and expensive these are not known to be used in criminal activity in Hawaii. Locals with these types of firearms generally fly them to the CONUS to use. For sport shooting, for defending against a tyrannical government or an invading foreign force, these centerfire guns that are .50cal or larger are necessary and protected under the 2nd Amendment.

Enforcement and Legal Challenges:

Unnecessary Burden on Law Enforcement: This bill would require extensive resources for enforcement, including the identification, seizure, and legal processing of firearms now deemed illegal, potentially diverting resources from more pressing public safety concerns.

Litigation: There would likely be significant legal challenges to this bill, leading to costly and lengthy court battles, potentially at the taxpayers' expense, as the constitutionality and fairness of such a measure would be contested.

Economic Impact:

Local Economy: Gun shops, shooting ranges, and related businesses would face economic downturns due to the sudden illegality of a segment of their inventory and services.

In light of these considerations, I urge the committee to reject SB401. Instead, we should focus on measures that genuinely enhance public safety without criminalizing law-abiding citizens for exercising their constitutional rights.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

Ryota

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:44:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bunnie Harrington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.
Shall not be infringed.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:47:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyson Ambrosio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because there is no reason to band high caliber firearms

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:51:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional. I oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:51:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose on this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:54:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'eo Ortiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a direct violation of our 2nd ammendment rights. The only thing this does it stop law abiding citizens from possessing these types of firearms arms. Criminals are not going to follow laws no matter how many are passed.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:02:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I oppose on this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:04:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karl Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose SB 401. This bill does nothing for public safety. There has been no one here killed by a 50 cal firearm. There have been more people killed and hurt here by big lifted, over powered automobiles than firearms.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:08:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lekeli Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401. These firearms are mostly for collectors. I don't see any reason why we should ban them.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:18:50 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony Opposing Hawaii Senate Bill 401****

Aloha Senators.

I write to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 401, which seeks to ban firearms or rifles capable of firing ammunition of .50 caliber or higher. Here are several key points against the passage of this bill:

1. ****Second Amendment Rights****: The bill infringes upon the constitutional right to bear arms as protected by the Second Amendment. This amendment is designed not only for personal protection but also as a safeguard against tyranny. Banning specific types of firearms based solely on caliber size without clear, compelling evidence of public safety benefits undermines these constitutional protections.
2. ****Precedent and Overreach****: Hawaii already has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation and enjoys the lowest gun-related death rate. This suggests that existing laws are effective. Adding more restrictions, particularly on firearms that are rarely used in crimes, seems unnecessary and could set a precedent for further overreaching gun control measures.
3. ****Misunderstanding of Firearms****: The bill incorrectly assumes that .50 caliber firearms pose a unique threat. In reality, these firearms are mostly used for specific purposes like long-range target shooting, historical reenactments, or by collectors. They are not commonly used in crimes due to their size, cost, and specialized nature. The legislation paints with too broad a brush, potentially affecting lawful activities without addressing actual criminal behavior.
4. ****Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens****: This bill would disproportionately affect law-abiding citizens who own these firearms for legitimate, legal reasons. There's no evidence suggesting that those who own .50 caliber firearms contribute to public safety risks in Hawaii. Instead, this law would disarm citizens who might need such firearms for sports or self-defense in extreme scenarios, without addressing the source of gun violence.
5. ****Economic and Cultural Impact****: The ban could have negative economic implications for local businesses that deal in firearms or related sports. Additionally, Hawaii has a rich cultural history with firearms, including their use in cultural practices and historical education. This bill could inadvertently diminish these aspects.

6. ****Enforcement and Compliance Issues****: The specifics of what constitutes a "firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher" could lead to confusion and unnecessary legal challenges. The exemptions for antiques and muzzleloaders further complicate enforcement.

In conclusion, while the intent to enhance public safety is commendable, Senate Bill 401 seems misguided in its approach. It targets a narrow segment of firearms without a demonstrated link to public safety improvements. I urge the legislature to reconsider this bill and look for solutions that genuinely address the root causes of violence without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Tiare Smith

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:20:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanu Shimaoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:17:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jadeen Freitas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose on this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:21:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skyler Tehero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of my second amendment right.

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose SB 401. This bill will violate the Hawaii State Constitution, United States Constitution, and the Supreme Court Bruen decision. The government needs to provide historical evidence of a historical analogue at the time the United States Constitution was ratified, and this bill contains no historical evidence. In fact, Section 134-8 violates the Hawaii State Constitution, United States Constitution, and the Supreme Court Bruen decision. During the Revolutionary War citizens could own cannons. SB 401 would also outlaw large caliber hunting rifles. The chances of someone being murdered by a hunting rifle meant to hunt elephants are astronomical. In addition, all arms regardless of size, are protected by the Second Amendment. Due to this bill providing no historical evidence and being a categorical ban on certain firearms, I strongly oppose SB 401.

Thanks,

Jordan Au

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:23:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke malczon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose. This is a direct violation of the constitution and the people second ammendment right.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:26:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Freitas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose on this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:26:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Bruce Buffett, i oppose this bill ,i feel it breaks our 2nd ammendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:37:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Howell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I am a resident of the Puna area and I oppose this bill. It is an infringement on our constitutionally protected 2nd amendment. Additionally, as you all well know, criminals will not follow the law, all you are doing here is stripping law abiding citizens of the ability to protect themselves and their families. Restricting 50cal is arbitrary and nonsensical.

Mahalo,

Calvin Howell

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:38:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Fogarty	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:44:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it impinges on our Second Amendment rights!!! Hawaii is already recognized as a safe place to live and visit!!! You senators should stop wasting time on bills such as these and concentrate on other more important bills!!!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:45:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Matsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:18:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure. This is a ridiculous ban that vilifies 50 caliber firearms which are not inherently any more dangerous than other calibers and chamberings of firearms. 50 caliber firearms are only viewed as being so dangerous because they are commonly used by the military and they are big and loud, but there are many more deadly cartridges out there that are totally legal for any civilian in the USA to own. There are more powerful cartridges with higher muzzle energy. There are cartridges that fire with more velocity. There are cartridges with more penetration. There are cartridges that are more aerodynamic and can be used to shoot longer distances.

It is just silly to even come up with these laws to try and ban a totally legal cartridge being used daily for legal purpose by law abiding citizens across the USA.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:18:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Miyao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee,

Please oppose SB401.

Thank you!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:20:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The number of times that a 50 caliber gun has been used for crime in Hawaii can be rounded down to zero. Why does this garbage bill keep getting introduced?

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:31:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Kukona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of
our second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:31:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A J Duarte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This rule is insane. Criminals do not use 50 caliber rifles 50 caliber handguns. It's too expensive. This is strictly targeting law abiding citizens who own these caliber Fire Arms I have one 50cal caliber firearm a desert eagle it is used for light target practice. It is simply a unique firearm so you expect people to give up their 50 caliber very expensive pistols, which would never be used for crime. This is an impractical law, not designed at all for the safety of the community. I will definitely be keeping track and not voting for anyone to who pushes this bill and encourage anyone I know not to vote for them either

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:44:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this measure.

50 caliber firearms are completely legal for normal citizens to own in the United States. There is no reason to ban a specific caliber just because it sounds scary.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:51:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnny Alvaro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second ammendment rights.

John Alvaro

johnnyalvaro@gmail.com

Kamuela, HI 96743

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:12:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

[Senate Bill 401](#) would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:48:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. The government should not put limits to what type of firearms & ammunition I am able to purchase or aquire. This infringes on the rights of hunters, sport shooters and collectors.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:57:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Wela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Opposed

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:51:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua V. Aguinaldo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:54:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marvie Bustos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:03:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimbal Ward	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It's violates my second amendment rights. I will vote against any politician who supports this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:53:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Thomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:58:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Juan Kuponon Pasion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Criminals can't afford to have access to these types of weaponry, let alone the ammunition that is required. Your average citizen also can't afford this. Citizens who collect these firearms like collectors or recreational shooters, are the people who will be affected. The second amendment was not limited to certain types of weaponry, let alone who can access them.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:14:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanekawaiola Pai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:51:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stop trying to violate our 2nd amendment!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:56:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We the people oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:41:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Napihaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:25:15 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Shall not be infringed.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:36:42 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Yokoyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it is a violation of my second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:37:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erek Riccobuano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Second Amendment is absolute; it's not a buffet where the government gets to pick and choose what rights we can have. Banning 50 caliber or bigger weapons? That's just another way to punish law-abiding citizens. These laws don't disarm criminals; they only handicap those who respect the law. If someone wants to misuse a weapon, they'll find a way regardless of the caliber. It's about time we recognize that our right to bear arms encompasses all arms, not just the ones the government deems acceptable. Punishing responsible gun owners isn't the answer; respecting the Constitution is.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:37:53 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:41:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
davin asato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in opposition of SB401. The change to the current law looks to expand the restriction of firearms to any firearm that is capable of firing a 50 caliber round or higher. 50 caliber ammunition is classified by the diameter of the projectile. With this law change, any firearm capable of firing this size of round would be banned. This includes single shot rifles and handguns, shotguns, semi-auto rifles and handguns and with no clarifications, some air guns. The known amount these types of firearms in circulation in the US are difficult to come to an exact number. The last known research showed that the data reflected that there were 1.2 million 50 BMG caliber rifles in law abiding hands. This is just 1 type of firearm that is able to fire this ammunition. The report did not include handguns, shotguns or airguns. With this number of firearms in citizen's hands, it shows that this type of caliber is in common use. This bill would turn law abiding citizens in to criminals overnight. Resources and funds to enforce such a law would put a burden on tax paying dollars and much needed police community resources.

Please join me in opposing SB401. Thank you for your time and attention.

Davin Asato

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:44:33 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Covert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable members of the committee,

I oppose the proposed legislation to include high-caliber firearms in the list of prohibited weapons. These firearms are primarily used for sport shooting, target practice, and hunting, and are rarely involved in criminal activity. By targeting this small subset of firearms, this bill distracts from addressing the more prevalent issues of gun violence.

Banning high-caliber firearms unfairly limits the rights of responsible gun owners who use them legally for recreation and hunting. This proposal infringes on lawful activities and is an overreach that does little to improve public safety.

Existing laws already regulate firearm ownership and use. Rather than adding more restrictions, we should focus on enforcing current laws and addressing the root causes of violence.

I urge you to reconsider this legislation and focus on solutions that respect the rights of law-abiding citizens while effectively addressing public safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:51:56 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 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 conosidered unfit for their positions and grounds for their removal.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:55:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose bill sb401.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:06:05 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Nakasato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Blatant attempt to infringe on Second Amendment rights. Infringes on rights of hunters, collectors, and sport shooters.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:11:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle HIromoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:16:35 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raul Echevarria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:19:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vern Hiromoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:35:48 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ross Akiona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

Ross Akiona

rosskaleo@yahoo.com

Mountain View,Hi 96771

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:02:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Cabreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. You are going after a problem that doesn't exist. The caliber is not the issue. Why vilify a person for diameter of projectile?

OPPOSE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:08:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimo Gugudan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:22:59 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miles Chong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly **oppose** SB401!

This arbitrary bill clearly violates a fundamental and constitutionally protected right, and unfairly targets lawful and responsible gun owners!

Miles Chong

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:27:48 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose SB401

Paul Giles

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:30:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of my second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:31:19 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Ley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Brian Ley county GMAC commishioner distric 4

I strongly oppose SB 401 50 caliber has already been taken to court and found that it is a commonly used caliber. Hawaii needs to stop these ridiculousBills, most of them have already been found unconstitutional, and is a waste of tax payer money and the courts time.

Once again I strongly oppse SB401

Brian Ley County GMAC commishioner Distric 4

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:32:44 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abraham Jazmin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:34:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 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

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:38:48 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:43:44 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ISAIH K REYNOLDS	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an infringement on my 2nd amendment rights as a US citizen to keep and bear arms. There is no constitutional law putting any restrictions on the type, caliber or size of firearms, ammunition or magazine size. By passing SB401 you are restricting my 2nd amendment rights. I strongly oppose SB401

Isaih Reynolds

Hilo, 96720

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:43:57 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Eck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislators,

I opposed SB401. This infringes upon both constitutional 2nd Amendment and 14th Amendment rights of citizens of the United States. These rights are not to be infringed upon by the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Erik Eck

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:56:41 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janessa Bonifacio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, I strongly oppose SB 401.

This bill would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms. Additionally, individuals with a disrespect for the law will not abide with this. I request that you oppose SB 401 and we look for ways to stop individuals participating in criminal activities. They are the ones that will use a knife, bat, firearm or vehicle as an instrument to cause harm to others.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:58:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Correia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, I strongly oppose SB 401.

This bill would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms. Additionally, individuals with a disrespect for the law will not abide with this. I request that you oppose SB 401 and we look for ways to stop individuals participating in criminal activities. They are the ones that will use a knife, bat, firearm or vehicle as an instrument to cause harm to others.

Thank you for your time.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:05:53 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William chase	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly ~~OPPOSE~~ this bill. The State is not to nanny its citizens. Second amendment of the Constitution, we have a right to keep and bear arms. Some of the things in this bill are not considered dangerous or unusual, but the way you have worded this bill you are attempting to make that connection, when precedent for dangerous and unusual arms is already set via *DC vs HELLER*, *DUNCAN vs BECERRA*.

Below is the order signed by the President of the United States, which will have trickle down effects to the states that form the Republic we are apart of.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

2/7/2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. The Second Amendment is an indispensable safeguard of security and liberty. It has preserved the right of the American people to protect ourselves, our families, and our freedoms since the founding of our great Nation. Because it is foundational to maintaining all other rights held by Americans, the right to keep and bear arms must not be infringed.

Sec. 2. Plan of Action. (a) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Attorney General shall examine all orders, regulations, guidance, plans, international agreements, and other actions of executive departments and agencies (agencies) to assess any ongoing infringements of the Second Amendment rights of our citizens, and present a proposed plan of action to the President, through the Domestic Policy Advisor, to protect the Second Amendment rights of all Americans.

(b) In developing such proposed plan of action, the Attorney General shall review, at a minimum:

(i) All Presidential and agencies' actions from January 2021 through January 2025 that purport to promote safety but may have impinged on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens;

(ii) Rules promulgated by the Department of Justice, including by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, from January 2021 through January 2025 pertaining to

firearms and/or Federal firearms licensees;

(iii) Agencies' plans, orders, and actions regarding the so-called "enhanced regulatory enforcement policy" pertaining to firearms and/or Federal firearms licensees;

(iv) Reports and related documents issued by the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention;

(v) The positions taken by the United States in any and all ongoing and potential litigation that affects or could affect the ability of Americans to exercise their Second Amendment rights;

(vi) Agencies' classifications of firearms and ammunition; and

(vii) The processing of applications to make, manufacture, transfer, or export firearms.

Sec. 3. Implementation. Upon submission of the proposed plan of action described in section 2 of this order, the Attorney General shall work with the Domestic Policy Advisor to finalize the plan of action and establish a process for implementation.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:12:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas M. McCamley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

According to the office of the Attorney General of the State of Hawai‘i, for years now there have been more lawfully registered guns in this state than the total resident population, yet Hawai‘i 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. SB401 is clearly another example of such an unlawful act, whose sole purpose is to torment and rob the citizens of Hawaii of their Bill of Rights, as there is blatantly no countervailing public policy basis for it whatsoever.

Depending on the survey, somewhere between 40% and 70% of the population here is seriously considering leaving this state.

This is incontrovertible evidence of the effects of decades of anti-business, anti-growth and increasingly anti-constitutional governance, yet as SB401 shows, there clearly are legislators who feel that their time would be better spent obeying extremist public policy groups and attacking our Bill of Rights rather than upholding their oath of office - and so the people, a lot of people, simply have no choice but to vote with their feet, and they are doing so in increasing numbers.

We call on those legislators of goodwill, who retain their commitment to the lawful rights of the people, to vote against all bills of the ilk of HB 893, and keep the focus of the Legislature on pulling this state out of the crisis it is in.

Mahalo

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:16:43 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pa'akaula Kalawai'anui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure, SB401

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:24:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in opposition as .50 caliber weapons are rarely used in any criminal action and this is an over reach to limit the second amendment rights of the citizenry

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:24:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roseann Elisaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB401

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:28:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
taylor sumida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:30:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanine Acopan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2nd amendment right!!!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:34:08 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401. Banning something because at some point a criminal who has no business having any type of gun goes out and uses the object to commit a crime doesn't stop the action from occurring. Look at aerial fireworks, you legislators have banned their use by the public in Hawaii but every year millions of dollars are spent by the public to illegally buy them. They are breaking the law because they can and would risk being arrested because the consequence of their action is so minor. If you want to make Hawaii safer due to gun violence, instead of demonizing the gun and making life difficult for those of us that follow the laws, make the penalties harsher for criminals that use guns to commit their crimes. Make their minimum sentences so steep and make them serve the full sentence so that they will think twice about the crimes they commit. This is why we do not trust you. You prove every year that you do not trust gun owners in Hawaii to do the right thing. With this bill you will be blanket banning muzzleloaders, handguns, and rifles because they all have a 50-caliber model across 100s of manufacturers. Not all 50 caliber firearms have the same capabilities as the next. 50 Caliber muzzleloaders are used by hunters every year during muzzleloader hunting season. Are they dangerous? Yes, every firearm has the ability to be dangerous, but its capabilities are nowhere near as strong as a rifle that shoots a 50 BMG cartridge. Blanketing all 50 caliber firearms in a single category to be banned is lazy and will only hurt the people who already own these firearms legally in our state. Hawaii gun owners should not be required to remove from their possession legally acquired property because some day you, one of a handful of citizens out of over a million people living in this state are lucky enough to have been given this opportunity to hold one of the few Senate Seats by your district.

Bradnon Leong

President

Lessons In Firearms Education

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:35:41 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Fukuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:37:15 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laney Azevedo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** SB401.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:41:08 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB401 as it's a direct violation of our second ammendment rights.

Ian Silva O'okala 96774

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:51:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Nakashima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passage of this bill would make violators of lawful citizens who currently use their .50 caliber firearms for competition and hunting.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:55:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Thank you.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:02:14 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:12:47 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Iobst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401. It goes against my 2nd amendment rights and sets to criminalize law abiding citizens! DO NOT PASS SB401!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:15:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas McCormick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 because as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:22:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt salboro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Matthew Salboro, oppose Bill SB401.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:25:53 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Mejia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401. This bill is not needed as it will criminalize thousands of legal law abiding firearms owners here in Hawaii. This bill will only fuel the underground black market just the same as the fireworks ban in Hawaii. This Bill also further infringes on our 2nd amendment rights as United States Citizens.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:30:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Kauhane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of my second amendment rights, and as it is a direct violation of all of our second amendment rights as American citizens.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:35:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani Geiger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:38:28 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dubin Whitaker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of our second amendment rights.

Dubin Whitaker

Kailua Kona, Hi. 96740

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:44:18 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This bill is addressing a non-existent problem. If a hardworking person so chooses to purchase a .50 caliber for his/her recreation then it is their right and prerogative. This type of firearm is not used by criminals. This only infringes of the rights of hardworking, law abiding citizens.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:54:08 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reginald Eubanks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 401. The proposed ban on .50 caliber firearms and ammunition will not make the community safe or deter crime, because .50 cal crime does not exist.

The rhetoric about .50 cal being a “weapons of war,” or “not a hunting rifle” is irrelevant to the collector and enthusiast who acquires them. They have been protected by the 2nd Amendment since our founding and the Bruen decision solidified that.

I am requesting that we do not waste taxpayer money like California, Illinois, New Jersey and D.C. on an unconstitutional law that will be overturned by SCOTUS.

Please vote NO on SB 401.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:46:18 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tira Kamaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose of this measure.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:57:05 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose

My grandfather didn't scramble for cover on his ship during Kamikaze attacks while clutching a picture of grandma so that one day I would surrender my guns.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:01:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rozalynn Marae Erickson	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.

Not only is it unconstitutional, but the most important part is that criminals don't abide by the law and that leaves hard working, tax paying, law-abiding citizens more vulnerable to criminals that have no conscience to abide by the law.

Unconstitutionality and Second Amendment Violation

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*.

Supreme Court Precedent: Bruen and Its Impact

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.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:01:28 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharan Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is an infringement of Constitutional rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:08:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Tabarejo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm based on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

Aaron Tabarejo

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:10:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Oppose SB401. This is infringement of our 2A right

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:16:48 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Mersburgh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think this bill is unconstitutional. It fails the text, history and tradition standard.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:21:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Penner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The second amendment was not designed to give citizens access to hunting. It was designed to limit the governments ability to become tyrannical by empowering citizens with the right to defend themselves against their very own government. For this reason I do not consent to the further criminalization of citizens of the state who are legal, law abiding gun owners exercising their first amedment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:28:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Mazone	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as a direct violation of our second amendment rights!

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:35:25 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Tanouye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, SB401, as it takes away my rights to the Second Amendment and only hurts law abiding citizens such as myself.

Mahalo nui loa,

Jon Tanouye

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:35:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard D Gore III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will harm my family's safety

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:36:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark W Iobst II	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401. It infringes on the rights of gun owners, and will criminalize hunters, collectors, and sport shooters.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:42:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to SB401 because it is a violation of our 2nd amendment rights.

-Michael Mitchener

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:42:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Creighton Phillips	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For a motor vehicle to be considered an antique, it must reach 30 years of age. The .50 caliber round has been around for longer than that, and most of the rifles and small arms developed to fire this cartridge were developed more than 30 years ago, making them "antique".

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:46:31 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neil Wehrsigg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly oppose SB401!

SB401's ban on .50 caliber firearms is a clear violation of the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. By prohibiting a specific type of firearm bases on its caliber, the bill infringes on the fundamental rights of law-abiding gun owners. The Second Amendment was intended to protect the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense, hunting, and other lawful purposes. Banning .50 caliber firearms undermines this constitutional right and sets a dangerous precedent for further restrictions on gun ownership.

Thank you

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:55:24 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha: I OPPOSE banning the 50 caliber. Please vote no. Mahalo.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:57:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is absurd - what crimes have been committed with a firearm over 50 cal? NONE. Why don't you focus on laws that might actually make the public safer and not waste our tax dollars

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:13:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Stanley Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB401, as it is a violation of my second amendment right.

Mahalo,

Paul Stanley Jr.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:25:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nigel shuken	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it infringes on my second amendment rights. We pay taxes that pays your salary to represent the interests of the people. We have far worse problems to focus on in Hawaii right now. How many people are sick and dying because of lack of tax payer funding instead we're wasting time on stupid bills like this that only make law abiding citizens criminals, criminals always get any gun you already know that banning them won't stop them, it will only stop law abiding citizens

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:27:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Hawkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to SB401

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

As a father, Registered Nurse, U. S. Navy Veteran, and having seen firsthand the carnage firearms can unleash, I can understand the notion to keep Hawai‘i safe. What I cannot understand is this state and legislators constant attack of the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment. The United States Constitution, to which swore an oath, and continue to protect and defend, guarantees that certain inalienable rights are not infringed. Yet legislators, that clearly do not represent ALL peoples but more so only the people who pay for their votes. WE the people demand that the Second Amendment face no more attack or violation. Simply put, and I know you all know, “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.”

SB401 amends HRS 134-8 to criminalize “The manufacture, possession, sale, barter, trade, gift, transfer, or acquisition of...” “any firearm or rifle with the capacity to fire ammunition of fifty caliber or higher;” This amendment is proposed despite the fact that fifty caliber firearms are not weapons of choice for criminals simply due to cost of the rifle itself and the cost of ammunition. Further, there have so few crimes committed with this caliber that it is difficult to find data of just how many crimes have been committed. It is safe to say that there have been ZERO crimes/murders/assaults committed with a fifty-caliber firearm in Hawai‘i. In 2024, 81 traffic deaths occurred through just the first 10 months, compared to data from a nine-year retrospective study (2014-2023) whereby 129 deaths (an average of 14 per year) occurred from firearms related incidents, with an annual high of 76 in 2018. None of these deaths are or can be attributed to fifty-caliber weapons. So, if we are going to be regulating weapons, why are vehicles not being banned? It is a privilege to drive in any state, yet it is a Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms and driving is afforded to anyone and not regulated nearly as much as the firearms industry. You don’t need a permit from the state to purchase a car, the most popular killing machine in Hawai‘i. Does anyone see the irony in limp laws that are passed aimed at the wrong population. Let’s start by prosecuting those who commit crimes and put them in prison, rather than a deluge of laws that NEVER affect criminals. This amendment and criminalization of a firearm that is used for sport and distance recreation shooting will do nothing to reduce gun related deaths in Hawai‘i, as these firearms are simply not used.

Again, please accept this opposition to SB401, and do not pass this legislation further.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:54:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Kalawaianui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't not support this bill

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:58:24 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Muneoka-Nagy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it is unconstitutional.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:09:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The first two sentences of SB401 support the position that Hawaii does not need any further restrictions on law-abiding citizens. The legislature finds that Hawai'i has some of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, and in 2023 Hawai'i received an A-minus rating from the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Additionally, Hawai'i had the lowest number of gun deaths per capita among the states in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For this reason I urge you to oppose SB401. This bill would prohibit the possession of any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms.

Please oppose SB401.

I appreciate your consideration,

Brittany Anderson

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:16:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 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 SB401 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.

Specific arguments against this legislation –

- The ban on .50 caliber firearms is opposed on the grounds that these weapons are rarely, if ever, used in crimes.
- The bill lacks a factual basis and is driven by fear rather than evidence.
- Supreme Court rulings and historical precedent declare that banning these firearms is unconstitutional.
- Additionally, such firearms serve legitimate purposes, such as hunting and self-defense.

General arguments against all current proposed gun legislation in Hawaii are –

- The bills are unnecessary, ineffective, and infringing on Second Amendment rights.
- The legislation targets law-abiding gun owners rather than criminals.
- The laws will create legal traps for gun owners through vague wording and overreach.
- The bills are politically motivated rather than factually justified.
- Crime prevention should focus on criminals, not restricting legal gun ownership.

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 SB401!

Thank You!

Aloha,

Sam Cavitt

Kihei, HI

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:22:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Haught-Aliotti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this because these regulations go against individuals second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:22:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB401 which would be the proposed ban on .50 caliber or higher firearms. I firmly believe that such a ban would be an overreach and would not meaningfully address the real issues of gun violence in our country. Instead, it would infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens and fail to achieve the desired outcomes.

1. Misunderstanding of .50 Caliber Firearms

A .50 caliber firearm is not the type of weapon typically used in crimes of passion, street violence, or even mass shootings. These are specialized, high-powered rifles primarily used for long-range shooting, hunting, and sport shooting. The vast majority of .50 caliber firearm owners use them responsibly and for lawful purposes such as recreational shooting, collecting, and target practice. Banning these firearms would disproportionately impact responsible gun owners without addressing the types of weapons commonly used in violent crimes.

2. Rare Use in Crimes

The reality is that .50 caliber or higher firearms are exceedingly rare in criminal activity. They are not the firearms of choice for criminals or those committing violent acts. Handguns and assault-style rifles are much more commonly involved in gun violence. By focusing on a narrow segment of firearms, such as .50 caliber or higher rifles, the proposed ban ignores the broader issue of illegal firearms and criminal behavior.

3. Second Amendment Rights

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Banning .50 caliber firearms or similar weapons infringes on this constitutional right. While there are certainly valid arguments for regulating certain types of firearms, the government must balance this with the preservation of individual rights. The right to own firearms, including large-caliber rifles, is protected under the Constitution. A blanket ban on firearms based solely on caliber disregards the rights of law-abiding citizens to legally own and use firearms for legitimate purposes.

4. Ineffectiveness of a Caliber-Specific Ban

A ban on .50 caliber or higher firearms would be ineffective in addressing gun violence or crime. Criminals are unlikely to be deterred by such a ban, as they are already operating outside the law. Such a restriction would only affect responsible gun owners who follow the rules, leaving criminals to obtain weapons through illegal means.

5. **Impact on Legitimate Uses**

Many people legally own .50 caliber firearms for legitimate reasons, including precision long-range shooting, hunting, and collecting. These firearms are important tools for certain types of competitive shooting and specialized hunting, and banning them would unfairly limit the rights of individuals who use them for lawful, recreational purposes.

6. **Historical Precedent and Effectiveness**

Historically, bans on specific firearm types or calibers have been shown to be ineffective in reducing violence. The 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban is a prime example, as it did not lead to a significant decrease in crime or mass shootings. When a specific category of firearms is banned, criminals quickly find alternatives, and the law-abiding public is left with fewer options to protect themselves and their families.

7. **Criminalizing Law Abiding Gun Owners**

The context of this bill if signed into law would instantly criminalize law abiding citizens banning 28, 20 and 12 gauge shotguns which are the most commonly used calibers in the civilian market. This is a major overreach and targeting the wrong demographic of people.

In closing I ask that this bill be deferred as there is no justification for this ban and would do little to nothing in addressing gun violence.

Thank you,

Robert Doi

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:24:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Louise Fronte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a law-abiding, tax-paying gun owner, I greatly oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:29:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:42:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Battista	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Extremely opposed to this bill AGAIN, as it was tried to pass last year and/ or the year before.

This is ludicrous! Crimes aren't being committed with .50BMG or other large calibers. This ridiculous law would ban shotguns, which are used for hunting and home defense. These firearms are not used in mass shootings or crimes, as they are too long to even be concealed or carried easily.

This is another instance of a solution where there isn't even a problem

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:43:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB401 due to its infringement on my second amendment rights.

It is either unprofessional or dishonest for a legislator to introduce a bill with language this sloppy, especially considering the bill consists of only several dozen new words.

Barring intentional legislative subterfuge, it can be reasonably assumed that the intent of SB401 isn't to ban shotguns, but that's not what the words in this bill mean to a legal layman familiar with firearms. A shotgun is a firearm, and the most-common shotgun (12 gauge) has a bore .729" in diameter. Shotguns are explicitly excluded in most other bills and laws of this sort. The nearly century-old National Firearms Act, which is the federal law on the matter, imposes additional restrictions on:

*any type of weapon by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, the barrel or barrels of which have a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter, **except a shotgun...***

So it certainly seems like SB401 would ban shotguns, be they single shot, double barrel, pump action, or semiautomatic. This would be so far outside of the Overton window found anywhere in the country, or even much of the world, that I feel silly even needing to oppose it. Shotguns are extremely common for sporting, hunting and self-defense purposes. Such a ban would be met with popular outrage and judicial blowback of an enormous extent.

I should be able to testify on the bill as written, but in this case I am compelled to also testify on what I can reasonably assume the bill will be amended to attempt to do. The typical points against bans on **non-shotgun** 50 caliber firearms are:

A) the targeted firearms have extremely little practical use to a common criminal,

B) (non-shotgun) firearms above 50 caliber are already tightly restricted by federal law, so it's extremely capricious to move the legal limit from "over 50 caliber" to "under 50 caliber". This language seeks to play an audaciously punitive game of whack-a-mole. 50 caliber bores have been standardized on largely because they've been the legally-defined upper limit; banning 50 caliber bores would make "49 caliber" bores the upper legal limit. This would put a great strain on the legal firearms community to retool from 50 caliber to 49 caliber, but afterwards there'd be a legal product functionally identical to what it used to be. I'd personally be compelled to sell my 50 caliber rifle and buy a 49 caliber rifle. Would I then need to trade that in for a 48 caliber rifle a year later? What'd be the point of this?

Please oppose this bill, and also please insist that colleagues write better bills.

-Cassidy Kohout, Kihei

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:50:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Another clear violation of the 2nd amendment aimed to limit only the law-abiding citizen. This will make law-abiding citizens who own one such caliber automatic felons. This, again, has nothing to do with public safety but misguided information by our lawmakers. In the same way that they banned suppressors based on their perception of how they make the gunshot like a whisper (based on movies) instead of its intended use, which is to protect the hearing of users and minimize sound pollution. Kitchen knives have been used in committing crimes way more than the 50 cal. Should we ban possession of them as well?

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:54:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter J Long III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony in OPPOSITION to SB401.

At the present time I'm not sure I have the need to own a 50 caliber rifle. HOWEVER my Constitutional Rights are not in place and should not be stepped upon based on my NEED. They are in place to keep the Government from violating those rights and making an unlawful decision that denies that right. With the high number of restrictions and bans already in place in Hawaii, I don't care to give another damn inch, even for an item I don't think I would use often.

i would also like to point out to the committee that a 50 caliber projectile has the bore diameter of .5 inches. A 12 gauge shotgun has the bore diameter of .73 inches. Is the intent of this bill to also outlaw SHOTGUNS in some underhanded and misleading way?

I urge this committee to reject this proposal.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:05:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justen Dang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB401 as it is a direct violation of my second amendment rights.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:05:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audie Gerilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon.

I oppose this bill 401 and other related bills namely 308 363 as these bills impede on my constitutional right to own firearms. This bill is poorly worded as-is that it does not provide any benefit to legal gun owners but criminalize responsible gun owners.

I urge you not to endorse and proceed on measures stated in this bill 401 and other related bills 308 363 from infringing on the constitutional rights of the American citizenry. Please contact and discuss with your respective constituents in your community on how to address and fight crime without stepping on the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.

I look forward on discussing further on more practical alternatives.

Sincerely,

Audie F Gerilla

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:09:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NoAh Go	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:10:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly OPPOSE Senate Bill 401 because it has already been determined unconstitutional at higher courts that this type of law would prohibit a law abiding citizen to possess any firearm capable of firing ammunition of 50 caliber or higher. If passed, law-abiding gun owners would become criminals overnight for possessing their currently legal firearms.

David

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:12:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romeo Yadao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB401. In section 1, it states Hawaii having the strongest gun safety laws in the nation but does not recognize the last couple years with the rise in gun violence how many .50 caliber or higher firearms were used during those incidences. This bill will affect the use of 28, 20, & 12 gauge shotguns which is typically used for hunting or defending the home.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:18:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the honorable members of the Senate,

My name is Ryan Yamada and I am writing in opposition of Senate Bill SB401. I have been a law abiding, citizen of Hawaii, and a firearm enthusiast for over 20 years.

Senate Bill SB401 would not benefit in improving crime rates in Hawaii. Statistically speaking, Hawaii has some of the lowest crime rates in the country, mostly due to its demographics and unique "island culture". Passing SB401 only hurts law abiding citizens that enjoy, and take advantage of their second amendment rights, whether it be for sporting, hunting, collecting, or even self defense. Due to Hawaii's already stringent gun laws, the vast majority of firearm owners in Hawaii are responsible and practice firearm safety like a religion. Passing SB401 essentially turns all of Hawaii's firearm enthusiasts into criminals overnight.

I would respectfully urge everyone to please vote in opposition of Senate Bill SB401. Thank you for your time and allowing me to express my concern for Senate Bill SB401.

Sincerely, Ryan Yamada

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:28:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

February 11, 2025

Testimony for SB401

Aloha Committe members,

I oppose this bill as it is part of a stripping our rights as citizens to keep and bear arms as applied to not only of the State of Hawaii but also of the US Constitution adopted and part of of the Hawaii constitution.

2nd Amendment US Constitution

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, ratified on December 15, 1791, 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."

Your oath

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as to the best of my ability."

In my opinion this body is looking more and more like the British Crown, God forbid!!

I can and would believe you all might agree that the right to bear arms may be revoked or infringed or denied for criminals of record and those found abusing this unalienable right.

Declaration of Independence In Congress, July 4, 1776

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. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government.

Please search your soul and hopefully your understanding of how we got here here as a free people; and please do not reject the the unalienable rights the of Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution! For our form of Government is a representative Constituional Repulic and NOT a Democracy as so many in error believe.

Please vote NO to SB 1314!! Thank you.

Best regards, Allan Rietow

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:41:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandi Lyn Cabreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a US Citizen, an indigenous citizen of the state of Hawaii, a contributing member of our community, and a wife and mother , I OPPOSE SB401. This bill, like so many others, are unconstitutional, and an infringement on my 2nd amendment rights. These bills do absolutely NOTHING to stop crime or criminals, while criminalizing law abiding citizens and responsible gun owners, like myself. Please protect our constitutional rights! Do NOT let this bill slide through, to be a gateway to stop responsible gun ownership, that will leave citizens without the means of protecting ourselves and our families. Our children. Oppose this bill.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:46:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a law abiding citizen and firearms owner, I disagree with SB401. It is clearly not well thought out and is jumbling a multitude of different things into one. It appears that SB401 was put together to encompass many ranges of firearms calibers into one, and was done so, by uneducated or inexperienced people as it pertains to firearms. Should the Bill be relooked at, by those whow are experienced and knowledgable with firearms, this Bill may have merit, but as it stands, it is definetely without merit.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:48:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This takes away the right to hunt for food, a basic God given right to animals for food, and eating for survival.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:13:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lolita Keni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill...you are taking away rights of hunters and sport shooters. This government needs to work on the people's rights, and stop trying to control every aspect of our lives.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:17:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sahar Sadeghi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:44:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodney Freitas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The constitution does not specify what we can have or purchase. This should not be limited and what is currently available should not be effected.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:08:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Go	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fight poor education

no waste time on band aid

no scape goat our 2nd amendment rights

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:09:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Addison K Caluya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wish to submit my testimony staunchly in opposition to SB401.

The arbitrary suggestion that any firearm chambered in 50 caliber or higher should be banned seems ill informed and questionable in terms of any applicable benefit to public safety.

This measure would also create the issue of making shotgun cartridges illegal. A firearm with a valid use case for home defense and hunting. I fail to see how setting a caliber restriction is intended to yield an appreciable impact to crime. I cannot for the life of me remember the last time a crime in Hawaii was committed with a .50 BMG. Allowing this measure to pass would set a horrible precedence in which any arbitrary caliber can be flagged. Again, I ask that this measure be stricken in it's entirety as being wholly unconstitutional and without merit.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:09:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

The 12-guage shotgun has been a standard bird hunting round for decades, as well as a preferred tool by farmers for neutralizing pests like feral dogs that eat livestock and other invasive ungulates that eat crops.

It is also utilized extensively for home defense since it can be loaded with shot that won't keep going through multiple walls, further protecting loved ones if shooting at an armed home invader.

.50 caliber rifles cost over \$4000 on the low end and go up beyond \$17000 in the civilian market, with the ammunition not being carried by most of the gun stores on island, and individual rounds cost between \$5 and \$10 per round. This makes both the weapon and ammunition not readily available for the criminals this bill hopes to stop.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:23:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I respectfully oppose this bill. This bill seeks to make many legally owned firearms illegal. Shotguns in gauges of 28 through 12 are very common and have been since the founding of our country. This bill is misguided, no crime has ever been committed using a 50 caliber firearm and can easily be verified by law enforcement. shotguns and rifles of a caliber larger than .50 cal are commonly used for hunting and sporting purposes. Please don't make average law abiding citizens into criminals by no fault of their own.

thank you for your time and consideration

Nathan Roldan

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:42:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jared nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, it infringes on my 2nd amendment right. Gun owners are the most law abiding and humble people I have ever had the pleasure to be around. These bills are just trying to brand us as criminals, all while legislature's protect real criminals. I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:16:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Shaheen Mulkern	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Senators Elefante & Wakai,

I OPPOSE this bill. SB 401 would immediately make legal firearms owners criminals overnight for possessing legal firearms. This is not right.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mulkern

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:11:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phil Rarick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong OPPOSITION of this bill. This goes well beyond the title, and the author is trying to camouflage the real intent of total rifle ban. Will NOT pass the court challenge of constitutional rights.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:25:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Libby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:28:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please oppose SB 401.

This bill, if passed, would make owners of the firearms mentioned in the bill criminals overnight.
This is wrong.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:12:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I firmly oppose SB401.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:46:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Lono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly ***OPPOSE*** bill **SB401**. This is another bill aimed to restrict citizens to protect ourselves and family. Doesn't matter if you think its a nonsense to own a powerful caliber or not. **SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED!!!**

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:49:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Sweet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:01:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
FRANCIS PAREL	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

LATE

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)
Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
Regarding: **SB401 (Relating to Firearms)**
Voter Position: **OPPOSITION**

Senators of the PSM Committee,

I express my **opposition** to **SB401 (Relating to Firearms)**.

Irrational Premise

SB401 mirrors its legislative House companion bill, **HB893**, by seeking to criminalize ownership of a rifle with no express justification.

Solution to a Non-Existent Problem

Similar to a provision within **HB893**, **SB401** likewise seeks to ban .50 caliber rifles without an express reason. Also similar to **HB893**, in **SB401**, 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.

No Valid Threat Doesn't Constitute Enhanced Public Protection

SB401 continues to fail the logic test once again in 2025. Without a justifiable threat, there is no justifiable need for a ban other than for the sake of virtue signaling. If mere conjecture is all that is needed to justify passage of **SB401**, then the conjecture .50 caliber rifles can save lives of your constituents at some point in the future is a sufficient conjecture to counter **SB401**.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony.

Respectfully,

Ryan C. Tinajero

Constituent of **Senate District 23**

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:20:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this Bill because, making Shotguns illegal is stupid. We have two areas at Koko Head just for shotguns. Have somebody that has a working knowledge of firearms, before trying to ban them.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:47:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
steven a kumasaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose this UNCONSTITUTIONAL OVERREACH

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:49:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwayne Lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable members of the committee, Hawaii Senate Bill 401 is an unnecessary and unjust restriction on law-abiding firearm owners. This bill does not enhance public safety, lacks empirical support, and infringes on constitutional rights. Instead of targeting responsible citizens, lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws to combat criminal activity.

There is no data supporting the claim that banning .50 caliber firearms will reduce crime. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), .50 caliber firearms are almost never used in criminal activity. A Congressional Research Service study confirms that these firearms are not a significant factor in violent crime. Proponents of the bill argue that these firearms have the potential to cause extreme damage and should not be accessible to the public. While they may be powerful, they are rarely misused. Most crimes involve handguns, not large-caliber rifles. The bill is a solution in search of a problem.

This bill unfairly targets sportsmen, collectors, and responsible gun owners. Many .50 caliber firearms are used for legal long-range target shooting. The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) recognizes precision shooting as a legitimate and highly regulated sport. Proponents declare these weapons are not necessary for civilian use and that banning them reduces the risk of potential misuse. However, need should not dictate rights. Law-abiding citizens should not be stripped of their rights because of hypothetical risks.

There have been no reported crimes involving legally owned .50 caliber firearms in Hawaii. The state already has stringent gun control laws, including background checks and registration. This bill punishes law-abiding citizens for no reason. Lawmakers' state that prevention is key and it is better to ban them before a problem arises. However, banning a firearm that has never been misused in the state is not sound policy. Laws should be based on facts, not fear.

The Supreme Court ruling in District of Columbia v. Heller (2008) reaffirmed the Second Amendment right to bear arms for lawful purposes. This ban could face legal challenges for arbitrarily restricting firearm ownership without compelling justification. Supporters of this bill feel the government has the authority to regulate firearms for public safety. However, regulation should be based on crime statistics and public need, not on arbitrary classifications that do not contribute to public safety.

Banning .50 caliber firearms would negatively impact businesses that manufacture, sell, or service these firearms. Competitive long-range shooting events, which contribute to local

economies and tourism, would also suffer from unnecessary restrictions. Sponsors of SB 401 argue that public safety outweighs economic concerns. However, there is no proven threat from these firearms, making this restriction an unjustified economic burden on legitimate businesses and sporting industries.

If we ban .50 caliber firearms today, what will be next? This bill sets a dangerous precedent where firearms could be banned arbitrarily rather than based on evidence of criminal misuse. Proponents argue that regulations must evolve to address modern threats. However, laws should be based on data, not speculation. A restriction without merit only erodes constitutional rights further.

Hawaii Senate Bill 401 is an ineffective solution to a nonexistent problem. It does not enhance public safety, unfairly targets responsible gun owners, and creates legal risks. Instead of passing ineffective bans, lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws and addressing the root causes of violence. For these reasons, this bill should be rejected.

Thank you.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:50:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable members of the committee, Hawaii Senate Bill 401 is an unnecessary and unjust restriction on law-abiding firearm owners. This bill does not enhance public safety, lacks empirical support, and infringes on constitutional rights. Instead of targeting responsible citizens, lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws to combat criminal activity.

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Hawaii Senate Bill 401 is an ineffective solution to a nonexistent problem. It does not enhance public safety, unfairly targets responsible gun owners, and creates legal risks. Instead of passing ineffective bans, lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws and addressing the root causes of violence. For these reasons, this bill should be rejected.

Thank you.

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:24:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

This is an infringement on my second amendment constitutional rights. Why do our lawmakers get to break the law by violating individuals constitutional rights?

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:42:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Mulkern	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB 401 it will do nothing to improve public safety.

Kevin Mulkern

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 2:21:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislature Member,

I humbly submit my testimony in opposition of SB401.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:16:31 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

Strongly oppose

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:16:59 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradford Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:35:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clinton Lewe-Song	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing this as a retired police officer and a person profoundly affected by gun violence. I understand the natural tendency to reach for additional firearm legislation to cure some of our problems with criminal behavior. The issue is multifaceted and I appreciate the attempts to find a solution, but recent years have seen action that is more akin to a drowning victim trying to do anything, including worsening the circumstances, and drowning potential rescuers for the sake of doing something. My experience as a child losing his grandfather to an armed robbery in Los Angeles, to being a tactical officer in Hawai'i has taught me that appropriately addressing the criminal will have more of the desired effect than addressing any chosen device or tool. Please blaze a trail to a safer Hawai'i. Following the footsteps of Los Angeles, Chicago, or New York is not the way.

Mahalo,

Clinton Lewe-Song

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 6:51:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherlene Rosario	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:36:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zach Montizor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unnecesary law that will only harm the tax paying, law abiding gun owner/enthusiast.

LATE

SB-401

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 8:42:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ian Cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill, .50cal firearms are primarily long range target guns, this bill will do nothing to prevent crime. there are hunting pistols which are over .50 cal as well and are not a criminal weapon.