



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 664, H.D. 1, RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 225

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Melina D. Sanchez, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comments.

This bill establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) within the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct community outreach on gun violence, develop and administer a grant program for gun violence prevention, and develop and administer a gun violence resource bank. The bill also makes an appropriation to establish the new office.

There appear to be overlapping responsibilities with the proposed OGVP and the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVVCC), codified under chapter 134C, HRS.

GVVCC is tasked with identifying criminal data that could be used to reduce gun violence and violent crimes and to maximize the sharing of that data between criminal justice agencies. GVVCC's membership includes individuals with expertise in research from different public sectors including the Judiciary. Examples of overlapping responsibilities are:

(1) Data Identification and Collection:

GVVCC: Identify relevant data that may be used to reduce gun violence and violent crimes.

OGVP: Collect relevant data to support efforts in reducing gun violence.

(2) Identification of Data Gaps:

GVVCC: Identify areas where relevant data is unavailable.

OGVP: Identify gaps in available data.

(3) Data Sharing:

GVVCC: Maximize data sharing among represented agencies and stakeholders.

OGVP: Facilitate data sharing among law enforcement, researchers, and the public.

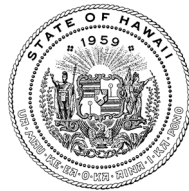
(4) Research:

GVVCC: Conduct research on gun violence and violent crimes.

OGVP: Support researchers in analyzing data and improving data collection methods.

To avoid overlapping responsibilities that may cause confusion and duplication of efforts, we recommend the Committee consider amending this bill to first consolidate GVVCC's responsibilities into the new office, and then repeal chapter 134C, HRS. Consolidating GVVCC's responsibilities into the new office will better accomplish the objectives of this bill by: (1) centralizing data collection to support efforts in reducing gun violence; (2) improving collection and facilitating data sharing among law enforcement, researchers, and the public; and (3) making government more efficient by reducing duplicative meetings that public servants attend.

We are available to work with the Committee on any potential amendments to the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 664, H.D. 1

March 19, 2025
3:00 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 664, H.D. 1:

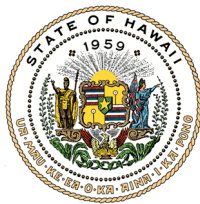
- Establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) within the Department of Law Enforcement, for administrative purposes only.
- Requires the OGVP to: 1) conduct public awareness campaigns in a culturally appropriate manner to educate Hawai'i residents about State and federal laws and existing resources relating to gun violence prevention (GVP); and 2) develop a plan to address gun violence in Hawai'i and coordinate, improve, and expand upon existing plans for GVP.
- Establishes a GVP grant program to be developed and administered by the OGVP to conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives.
- Establishes a GVP Special Fund (GVPSF) to be administered by the OGVP which will be funded by grants, donations, and appropriations made by the Legislature.

- Requires the OGVP to create and maintain a resource bank of regularly updated and accurate materials and resources as a repository for data, research, and statistical information regarding gun violence in the State.
- Requires the OGVP to submit a report to the Legislature containing a summary of its activities during the preceding year.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 26 and FY 27 to be deposited into the GVPSF.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds in FY 26 and FY 27 from the GVPSF for grants to organizations to conduct community-based gun violence initiatives.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 26 and FY 27 for the establishment of a gun violence resource bank, including the hiring of personnel.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund, which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 664, H.D. 1, it is difficult to determine if the GVPSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 664, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 3:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
Testifiers: Mike Lambert

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 664, House Draft 1. This bill establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct community outreach on gun violence prevention, develop and administer a grant program for gun violence prevention, and develop and administer a gun violence resource bank.

The DLE believes this Office would be a valuable asset in our mission to protect public safety in Hawaii. By creating a dedicated entity focused on research, community engagement, and evidence-based prevention strategies, we can address gun violence through a comprehensive public health approach that complements existing law enforcement efforts. DLE prefers that the Office of Gun Violence Prevention be established within the Department of Law Enforcement rather than being administratively attached.

The establishment of a Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund would provide sustainable resources to support community-based initiatives, research, and intervention programs that have proven effective in other jurisdictions. The grant program would enable the DLE to collaborate with and support community organizations already doing important work in this field.

The resource bank would provide valuable data and research to inform policy decisions and prevention strategies, ensuring that Hawaii's approach to gun violence prevention is guided by the most current research and best practices.

We believe this Office would strengthen Hawaii's existing gun violence prevention framework and enhance coordination across government agencies, community organizations, and other stakeholders committed to reducing gun violence in our state.

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

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS; Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund

BILL NUMBER: HB 664 HD 1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Finance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to conduct community outreach on gun violence prevention, develop and administer a grant program for gun violence prevention, and develop and administer a gun violence resource bank. Establishes the Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund and appropriates funds into and out of the special fund.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new chapter to the HRS entitled Office of Gun Violence Prevention, (“Office”). The Office would conduct appropriate public awareness campaigns, administer a grant program, and develop a plan to address gun violence and expand upon existing plans for gun violence intervention..

The new chapter establishes a gun violence prevention Grant program to award grants to organizations to conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives.

The measure establishes a Gun violence prevention special fund (“Fund”) to be used to award grants to organizations to conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives. The Fund would receive moneys from grants, donations, and legislative appropriations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 3000.

STAFF COMMENTS: This bill creates a new special fund, administered by the newly established Office of Gun Violence Prevention, to award grants to organizations to conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives.

Special funds are pots of money that exist for a specific purpose and largely bypass the legislative appropriation process. The existence of hundreds of these special funds has often confounded those who seek answers to simple questions like “How much money does the State have?”

Our Legislature is supposed to be the steward of all state moneys, but special funds make it very easy to lose track of where the money is and how it is being spent. Departments are supposed to tell the Legislature if they have special funds and how much is in them, but let’s just say they don’t always. Recently, in Report No. 20-01, the State Auditor took DBEDT to task for failing to report \$6.5 million in non-general fund moneys. DBEDT’s response? Just that they’ll “take corrective action.” Not even a “Whoops! We screwed up and promise to do better next time!” This followed closely on the heels of Report No. 19-16, where the Auditor found that \$1.04 million in non-general fund moneys administered by the Attorney General wasn’t reported. That department responded that they “shall establish procedures to assure required

reports are issued.” Is it any wonder that it’s getting harder and harder to follow the money and rein in government spending?

Perhaps as the result of the foregoing concerns, the Legislature has itself established criteria for when a special fund may be maintained (HRS section 37-52.3). Those criteria are that the special fund:

(1) Serves a need, as demonstrated by:

(A) The purpose of the program to be supported by the fund;

(B) The scope of the program, including financial information on fees to be charged, sources of projected revenue, and costs; and

(C) An explanation of why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process;

(2) Reflects a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the program users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue, as opposed to serving primarily as a means to provide the program or users with an automatic means of support that is removed from the normal budget and appropriation process;

(3) Provides an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity that is used only when essential to the successful operation of the program or activity; and

(4) Demonstrates the capacity to be financially self-sustaining.

Of these, at least two of the criteria are violated. There is no indication that the proposed fund can be financially self-sustaining, and there is no indication why the general fund appropriation process is incompatible with the program. Establishing this special fund is inappropriate.

Digested: 3/18/2025



March 11, 2025

Representative Darius Kila
322 State Capitol
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 664 – Gun Violence Prevention – **Support**

Dear Representative Kila:

The Church State Council is the oldest public interest advocacy and legal services organization in the Western United States devoted exclusively to issues of liberty of conscience, religious freedom, social justice, and the separation of church and state. We are a Seventh-day Adventist organization serving a five-state western region (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada & Utah) for the Adventist Church. We are writing this letter in support of HB 664.

The Church State Council supports legislation that helps to bring about equality and freedom. All Americans are entitled to the fundamental rights of conscience, religious freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

Statistics show that the United States has one of the highest rates of gun deaths in the world.¹ Debate has focused on gun regulation and keeping deadly weapons out to the hands of those with mental illnesses and potential killers. Gun violence not only affects the men, women, and children killed, injured, or present during these horrific acts, but entire communities and families with consequences on child development and mental health concerns. HB 664 proposes a wholistic approach to address this serious issue of gun violence, and for this reason we support this legislation.

Thank you for your important work in authoring HB 664.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Allred
Director of Government Relations

¹ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gun-deaths-by-country>

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



Testimony of Ramya Swami, Policy Counsel, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
Support for HB 664 Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs,
March 19th, 2025

Dear Chair Elefante, Vice-Chair Wakai and Distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs,

Founded in 1974, Brady works across Congress, courts, and communities, uniting gun owners and non-gun owners alike, to take action, not sides, and end America's gun violence epidemic. Brady today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans from coast to coast, red and blue, young and old, liberal and conservative, to combat the epidemic of gun violence. **In furtherance of our goal to reduce firearm violence across Hawai'i, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is proud to support the passage of SB HB 664.**

Hawai'i leaders have persisted in prioritizing the safety and well-being of the people of Hawai'i by enacting and implementing proactive, research-informed policy solutions that prevent gun violence, save lives, and spare entire communities from loss, trauma and cycles of violence. However, the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that 56 people in Hawai'i are killed by gun violence each year, over 50% of whom die by firearm suicide.¹ This number does not include those who are shot and survive with life-altering physical and mental injuries, nor does it account for survivors and families left with grief, expensive lifelong care, trauma, or many other consequences of gun violence.

One firearm death is too many, and these numbers demonstrate that there remains more work to be done to ensure the safety of Hawai'ian residents and visitors.

It is imperative that we start treating gun violence as a public health epidemic, because it is. By prioritizing research and programs that are tailored towards addressing the root causes of gun violence, this legislature has the chance to disrupt cycles of violence and create safer, healthier communities for all citizens of Hawai'i.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *WISQARS Injury Data*,
<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

The proposed Office of Gun Violence Prevention would serve as a vital first step towards expanding access to funding for the state to address various forms of gun violence, including suicides, mass shootings, and surges in other forms of gun violence. The Office's focus on data collection will empower future State Legislatures to continue to lead in this space, by introducing and implementing violence reduction policies that are backed by data. HB 664 would enable the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to conduct public awareness campaigns on important subjects including, but not limited to, safe and responsible ownership, lost and stolen reporting requirements, and the safe storage of firearms. In addition, the office would administer a grant program for community-based gun violence intervention initiatives to interrupt the cycle of gun violence without additions to mass incarceration. Lastly, more resources would be provided to create a resource database on gun violence in Hawai'i and the formulation of a plan to address gun violence throughout the state. The resource bank would partner with organizations to identify gaps in available data, enhance gun violence prevention tools, and improve understanding of the barriers to safety.

Conclusion

This Office would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs.

For these reasons, Brady urges the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs to vote YES on HB 664.

Sincerely,

Ramya Swami
Policy Counsel
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence



Submitted via web portal

RE: HB 664 (Kila): Relating to Gun Violence Prevention - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Elefante, 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 HB 664.

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.

Creating a state Office of Gun Violence Prevention would bring Hawai'i in line with its peer gun safety states which have such offices, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois.

After the uptick in gun violence in Hawai'i over the past few years, it's critical to approach this crisis from every angle. A state Office of Gun Violence Prevention can serve as a centralized hub working towards the clear mission of ensuring Hawai'i's gun laws are reaching their maximum potential. A statewide office will support the state's gun violence prevention goals at multiple stages – from collecting and tracking data to inform policy, to increasing public awareness campaigns of secure firearm storage and ERPO, to administering funding to lifesaving community violence intervention programs that prevent shootings.

Community violence intervention programs, through their use of evidence and community-informed, comprehensive support to individuals at greatest risk of gunshot victimization, are demonstrated to reduce gunshot injury and death in areas most impacted by gun violence. State investments in these programs, which are often led by

community-based organizations, are critical to their ongoing stability.

For these reasons listed above, Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action, and Students Demand Action strongly support HB 664.

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



Testimony of Deborah Nehmad, Chapter Lead, Brady Hawaii
Support for HB 664 Before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary
March 20, 2025

Dear Chair Rhoads and Distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary,

In furtherance of Brady's goal to reduce firearm violence across Hawaii, the Hawaii Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is proud to offer its strong endorsement of HB 664, HD 1.

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

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

Since the US Supreme Court has eased the way for more firearms to be carried in our public places, there has been an increase of gun-related violence in Hawaii. **HB 664** is an important step in the right direction. The proposed Office of Gun Violence Prevention would serve as a vital first step towards expanding access to funding for the state to address various forms of gun violence, including suicides, mass shootings, and surges in other forms of gun violence. The Office's focus on data collection will

empower future State Legislatures to continue to lead in this space, by introducing and implementing violence reduction policies that are backed by data. HB 664, HD1 would enable the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to conduct public awareness campaigns on important subjects including, but not limited to, safe and responsible ownership, lost and stolen reporting requirements, and the safe storage of firearms. In addition, the office would administer a grant program for community-based gun violence intervention initiatives to interrupt the cycle of gun violence without additions to mass incarceration. Lastly, more resources would be provided to create a resource database on gun violence in Hawai'i and the formulation of a plan to address gun violence throughout the state. The resource bank would partner with organizations to identify gaps in available data, enhance gun violence prevention tools, and improve understanding of the barriers to safety.

Conclusion

This Office would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs.

For these reasons, Brady Hawaii urges the Senate Committee on the Judiciary to pass HB 664 HD1.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Nehmad

Chapter Lead, Brady Hawaii

dnehmada@bradyunited.org



Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Chair Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair Glen Wakai

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 3:00 pm
Room 225
HB664, HD1 — Relating Go Firearms

TESTIMONY

Judith Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 664, HD1

The League of Women Voters supports the establishment of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Such an office can support Hawaii's gun violence prevention goals through research, public awareness campaigns for proper handling and storage of firearms, supporting violence intervention programs, supporting persons at greatest risk of gunshot victimization.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 12:53:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lisa Dau | Testifying for Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition supports HB664 HD1.

Thank you,

Lisa Dau, RN, MBA, BSN, CPSTI
Injury Prevention Coordinator, KIPC

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 6:11:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Terriann Mohideen | Testifying for Hawai'i Chapter Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members~

My name is Terriann Mohideen, I am a mother, a resident of Hawai'i and a volunteer with the Hawai'i Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I support HB664 which would establish an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. We need to collect information about what is happening specifically here in Hawai'i and to be able to use that data to come up with impactful programs to prevent gun violence at its roots. We need to educate our Hawai'i residents via public awareness campaigns about how to safely store their firearms or about how they can keep a loved one safe who has access to a firearm, but is distressed and clearly a danger to themselves or others. We need a gun violence prevention resource bank for all - especially for our counselors and community partners to be able to access available mental health and substance use resources as a way to decrease gun violence. All of these things need a "quarterback" office here in Hawai'i to help co-ordinate them. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 2:56:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Chris Marvin | Testifying for Vet Voice Foundation | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Chris Marvin, US Army combat veteran, testifying for the Vet Voice Foundation.

We support HB664 and believe that the creation of an Office of Gun Violence Prevention in Hawai'i will help to address the rise in gun violence we've seen in the wake of the the Bruen decision.

In the two years since that deicsion, gun permit applications in the state have increased 280%. And these applications are being approved. Gun purchasers no longer have to demonstrate a specific need to purchase a firearm. That means there are many, many more guns out there.

And we've seen the requisite uptick in gun violence. In the same period, we've seen a 70% increase in gun deaths. And just in the last two weeks we've seen a shooting at Ala Moana Beach Park, a drive by shooting in Kapolei, and not one, but two, manhunts in East Hawai'i Island after violent use of firearms -- both of which resulted in the deaths of armed suspects and one of which resulted in a police officer being shot.

The guns are out there. We can't put this toothpast back in the tube. We now live in a more violent state, and gun violence will continue to increase. This bill will -- at the least -- support and assist the governor, legislators, and law enforcement as we all figure out what to do about it.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:57:24 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------|
| David Popham | Testifying for Hawai'i Conference, United Church of Christ | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee,

I am the Rev. Dr. David K. Popham and I am writing in support of HB664, establishing an Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP). Our annual gathering in 2022 voted positively on the resolution On Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence. With that vote our congregations noted, "For far too long, our nation has been torn apart by gun violence. As people of peace, we cannot accept gun violence as the norm. We cannot conform to this painful pattern of violence." To this end I strongly urge creating an OGVP which will allow our communities to approach this crisis from multiple angles..

With OGVP, we can address gun violence in our communities through the collection of data and targeted intervention programs that help address the root causes of gun violence. A data-informed, community-driven effort is our best bet at keeping our communities safe, and I firmly support the creation of OGVP to this end.

I urge you to act in the interest of the people of Hawai'i and support HB 664.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. David K. Popham
Minsiter
Honolulu, HI 96813

Conference
Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ



March 18, 2025

Aloha, Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members:

My name is Erica Yamauchi, and I live in the Kaimukī area. As a gun violence survivor, business owner, mother of two children in our public schools, and adjunct faculty member at the University of Hawai'i. I also serve as volunteer state co-lead of the Hawai'i chapter of Moms Demand Action. On behalf of our three local groups on Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i and O'ahu, and our 2,000+ supporters across the islands, **I'm writing today in strong support of House Bill 664.**

These bills would create a state Office of Gun Violence Prevention, bringing Hawai'i in line with our peer gun safety states that already have such offices, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York and Illinois.

With the increase in gun violence we have witnessed in our state over the last decade, including a mass shooting in Wai'anae last year and a shootout just a few days ago in Waikīkī, we need to ensure that we're approaching this crisis from every possible angle.

A statewide office will be able to direct, coordinate and support the state's gun violence prevention efforts at multiple stages – from collecting and tracking data to inform policy, to increasing public awareness of secure storage and extreme risk protective orders (ERPOs), to administering funding to lifesaving community violence intervention programs that prevent shootings.

Our lower incidence of gun violence historically here in the islands hasn't been by accident, but due to sound public policy and commonsense gun safety laws. We urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

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

Erica Yamauchi, Volunteer State Co-Lead

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:57:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Deborah Ann Harada | Testifying for Moms Demand Action | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Deborah Harada

Testimony: Office of Gun Violence Prevention [HB664]

I'm here to voice support for HB 664, the creation of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. I'm a writer. My days revolve around harnessing the power of story and communication. I'm also mother to two daughters. In the years I've served as a nonprofit professional, I've had the opportunity to study systems thinking and community. And unfortunately, I've seen first hand the impact gun violence has had on people I care about. The intersection of all these things is what brings me here today.

A few years ago, a long-time friend of our family, shot and killed his wife and then himself. His name was Dave, and he'd struggled with mental health issues for decades. He kept a large store of weapons in his home. He was physically and emotionally abusive to his wife and sons. Like so many other families, we're left asking if this tragedy could have been avoided. Too often, we throw up our hands and the conversation ends with the words, "We'll never know." But Dave's story doesn't have to end at the cemetery or in a newspaper headline. Understanding patterns in behavior, triggers and actions can help save lives. Having an office dedicated to communicating, sharing and studying gun violence protects our community.

Issues around gun control are often lightning rods for division. But preventing gun violence, whether from mass shootings, suicide, domestic abuse or other crimes, seems like an issue we could all get behind. No one wants to see families and communities ripped apart. Understanding what works with responsible gun ownership, strengthening coordination between legislators, law enforcement and the judiciary, studying how mental health issues play a part in gun violence and then sharing this data and information with the public are some of the ways this office could function. Thank you.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 7:17:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Jerry Yuen | Testifying for Pu'uloa Rifle and Pistol Club | Oppose | In Person |

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to its failure to address the root cause and focus only on an specific neutral object. This bill should be a comprehensive violence prevention and deterence platform and should look at all methods criminals use violence, as well as ways to deter violence, and mitigate violent encounters.

HAWAII PATRIOT REPUBLICANS

Written Testimony in Opposition to H.B. No. 664

Submitted to the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

March 16, 2025

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I urgently implore you to vote NO on H.B. No. 664, which establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Law Enforcement. Though framed as a tool to curb gun violence, this bill is a costly, redundant, and perilous overreach that strains Hawaii's taxpayers, threatens constitutional rights, and defies the Trump administration's clear agenda—risking severe consequences for our state. As a concerned citizen rooted in limited government and practical solutions—values that cross party lines—I offer the following objections to prove this bill's folly.

1. Squandering Taxpayer Money on Bureaucratic Waste

H.B. 664 demands unspecified funds from Hawaii's general revenues for a new office, staff, and special fund, all while our state struggles with housing and healthcare crises. Democrats prize fiscal responsibility—why drain our budget on a redundant agency when existing departments can tackle gun violence more effectively?

[California's Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#), launched in 2022, devoured millions by 2024, yet a [report](#) showed negligible impact on gun violence, with funds lost to administrative bloat. Hawaii cannot afford this taxpayer-funded flop—our resources should yield results, not headlines.

2. Duplicating Existing Efforts and Eroding Efficiency

The bill replicates duties already managed by the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Health, and local police—public outreach, mental health support, and crime prevention. Its vague call to "assess policies" and "coordinate plans" adds inefficiency, not value. Democrats value streamlined government—why clog our system with overlap when we can strengthen what works?

[Illinois' Office of Firearm Violence Prevention](#), started in 2021, floundered due to redundancy. A [2023 audit](#) found it muddled existing efforts, wasting time and money. Hawaii risks the same chaos—let's reject this bureaucratic burden.

3. Jeopardizing Second Amendment Freedoms

H.B. 664's broad mandate to "advise on legislation" and push "prevention" policies could pave the way for restrictive gun laws, burdening law-abiding citizens—hunters, sport shooters, and those defending themselves. Democrats who respect personal liberties should recoil—why back a bill that tilts toward control over balance?

[New York's Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#), established in 2021, drove policies like expanded red flag laws, triggering a [lawsuit](#) from gun owners claiming Second Amendment violations. Hawaii's diverse communities need fairness, not a one-sided bureaucracy.

4. Defying Trump's Agenda Risks Hawaii's Standing

The Trump administration, with Attorney General nominee Pam Bondi and Vice President JD Vance, champions a pro-Second Amendment, law-and-order approach. Bondi, a Trump loyalist, has pledged to

prioritize “traditional law enforcement” over prevention schemes, while Vance has dismissed expansive gun policies as inadequate, favoring security over outreach. H.B. 664’s focus on grants and awareness clashes with their agenda, risking federal backlash—potentially lost grants or legal fights—that could harm Hawaii. Democrats who value pragmatism should weigh this: defying Bondi and Vance could cost us dearly.

[Washington State’s Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention](#), funded in 2020, lost [DOJ grants](#) in 2021 under Trump’s first term for its perceived anti-gun stance. With Bondi at DOJ and Vance in the White House, Hawaii could face worse—why invite that punishment?

5. Unproven Grants Threaten Community Stability

The bill’s grant program for “community-based initiatives” lacks solid evidence of efficacy and risks misfiring, wasting funds or stirring unrest. Democrats who demand accountability should demand proof—where’s the data showing this succeeds?

[Philadelphia’s grant program](#), begun in 2021, faltered. A [2023 analysis](#) revealed funds squandered on overhead while gun violence rose in some areas due to sloppy execution. Hawaii deserves tested solutions, not gambles that could backfire.

Conclusion: A Principled NO Vote Protects Hawaii

Members of the Committee, H.B. 664 offers a façade of safety but delivers waste, redundancy, and risk—flaws Democrats and Republicans must reject. It burdens taxpayers, duplicates efforts, threatens rights, defies Bondi and Vance’s Trump agenda at our peril, and bets on shaky grants. From California to Philadelphia, similar measures have failed, leaving communities no better off.

Vote NO on H.B. 664 to safeguard Hawaii’s finances, freedoms, and federal ties. Let’s unite for practical, proven answers—not a costly defiance of national priorities.

Sincerely,

Andrew Crossland

Hawaii Patriot Republicans

hawaiipatriotrepublicans@gmail.com

HB-664-HD-1

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

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Samira Fatemi | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

I support HB664, which establishes the office of gun violence prevention.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 2:54:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Jay Franzone | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

I study violence and how to prevent it. This office would be mission control to prevent gun violence across our islands. It cant be overstated how important this bill is.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 4:22:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| David Ball | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To the Members of the Committee,

I support this legislation to strengthen our existing gun laws.

With aloha,

Dave Ball, Waialae-Kahala

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 4:25:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashley de Coligny | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Kaneohe writing in strong support of HB664.

This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 4:30:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Jane Davis | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

HB 664, HD1 - This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms Into our public spaces.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 4:45:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert I Nehmad | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and support HB664

Please consider approving and implementing HB664

Your consideration of this request is appreciated

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 4:46:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D. | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Let's get serious about addressing the scourge of gun violence that affects all of us directly or indirectly.

An Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces.

Mahalo.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 5:27:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to coordinate research and prevention of gun violence, so as to create best practices for reducing our injuries, suicide and deaths from gun violence.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Ellen Godbey Carson

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 7:16:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Lynn Otaguro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 7:00:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Fisher | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 10:05:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Linda White | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I fully and enthusiastically support HB 664.

We need to increase our work in gun violence prevention here in Hawaii, as evidenced by so many shootings and how these incidents have ticked up over the years.

Thank you for your support

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 10:31:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathryn Braun | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB 664, HD1. This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms Into our public spaces.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 10:58:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Thomas M. Klobe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

HB 664, HD1 - This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms Into our public spaces.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 8:09:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Nadine Ferraro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I fully and seriously support HB664

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 3:44:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Johnnie-Mae L. Perry | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Gun violence education is much needed in District 8, Kapolei and Wai'anae.

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry STRONGLY SUPPORT 664 HB RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 5:29:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Beth Anderson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I don't believe guns belong anywhere in Hawaii, except for law enforcement, hunting and military use. Because of an increase of guns in our communities, partially due to Supreme Court decisions, we have increased gun violence in our State. All of us no longer feel protected from encountering the possibility of gun violence anymore. We have lost something that was very precious and it doesn't look like we will ever get it back. In order to gain some degree of safety from gun violence for citizens of Hawaii, it has become necessary to

Gun violence occurs in our communities so much more frequently than years past. Gun violence in Hawaii increased 71% between 2013 to 2022. That is just not acceptable for the Aloha State, or any state, for that matter. Efforts have to be made to address the gun violence problem so that we once again feel safe in our communities.

This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces.

Thank you for supporting HB664 and working to make our communities safer from gun violence again.

Aloha,

Beth Anderson

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 5:54:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Judith Cucco | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 9:28:59 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul Weissman | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating all federal, state, and local agencies towards reducing community violence. This seems a commonsense response to the Supreme Court's expanding the proliferation of guns within our communities.

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday March 19, 2025, 3:00pm

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR225 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong supports HB664 HD1 Relating to Firearms

Dear Chair Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair Senator Glenn Wakai and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, support HB664, which establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to conduct community outreach on gun violence prevention, develop and administer a grant program for gun violence prevention, and develop and administer a gun violence resource bank.

This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a commonsense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms into our public spaces.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB664.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members:

I am testifying in support of HB664.

I'm originally from Hilo and I am a physician with a background in public health and healthcare quality improvement. I spent many years in Missouri working to improve community health in collaboration with academic faculty, a regional hospital system, and community organizations.

From that experience, I can attest that having data to focus efforts, a 'backbone organization' to help convene the many stakeholders involved with an issue, and the community partnerships to effectively engage community members is critical.

Although Hawai'i has a strong record of gun safety, the rate of gun deaths in the state has increased markedly over the last decade, outpacing the rate of increase nationally.

Having an Office of Gun Violence Prevention would:

- allow resources to be spent in the areas where they are most needed,
- support coordination of efforts to avoid duplication of services, and
- engage and share information with community members, so that prevention efforts can be effective

I urge you to support HB664.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elna Nagasako
Makiki

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 8:09:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Soudabeh Almasizadeh | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB664.
Mahalo.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 10:35:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Adam Fatemi | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB664.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 7:39:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Heide Kila | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Heide Kila

Waianae, HI

aloha I am in support of this Bill HB664 I am from the westside and I seen how the community has changed with an increase of Violence and Crime . Definitely not like the days when we were younger I am don't feel safe anymore. I believe this Bill will help decrease the number of crime and violence for our future Keiki. We need to start sooner than later!!

mahalo

Heide Kila

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:46:28 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lori Yamashiro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lori Yamashiro and I am writing in strong support of HB664, establishing an Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP). Gun violence and mass shootings have unfortunately become common occurrences in the USA. I pray that it never gets like that in Hawai'i. We must be proactive. I am concerned at the growing number of incidences of gun violence in Hawai'i. Creating an OGVP will allow our communities to approach this crisis from every angle.

Through programs administered by the OGVP, we can begin to address gun violence in our communities through the collection of data and targeted intervention programs that help address the root causes of gun violence. A data-informed, community-driven effort is our best bet at keeping our communities safe, and I firmly support the creation of OGVP to this end.

I urge you to act in the interest of the people of Hawai'i and support HB 664.

Sincerely,

Lori Yamashiro

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:34:46 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Rev. Mary Herbig | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rev. Mary Herbig and I am writing in strong support of HB664, establishing an Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP). Gun violence and mass shootings have unfortunately become common occurrences in the USA. I pray that it never gets like that in Hawai'i. We must be proactive. I am concerned at the growing number of incidences of gun violence in Hawai'i. Creating an OGVP will allow our communities to approach this crisis from every angle.

Through programs administered by the OGVP, we can begin to address gun violence in our communities through the collection of data and targeted intervention programs that help address the root causes of gun violence. A data-informed, community-driven effort is our best bet at keeping our communities safe, and I firmly support the creation of OGVP to this end.

I urge you to act in the interest of the people of Hawai'i and support HB 664.

Sincerely,

Rev. Mary Herbig**Kailua, HI 96734**

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 12:55:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Rev. Jeannie D. Thompson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rev. Jeannie D. Thompson, and I am writing in **strong support of HB664**, establishing an Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP). Gun violence and mass shootings have unfortunately become common occurrences in the USA. I pray that it never gets like that in Hawai'i. We must be proactive. I am concerned at the growing number of incidences of gun violence in Hawai'i. Creating an OGVP will allow our communities to approach this crisis from every angle.

Through programs administered by the OGVP, we can begin to address gun violence in our communities through the collection of data and targeted intervention programs that help address the root causes of gun violence. A data-informed, community-driven effort is our best bet at keeping our communities safe, and I firmly support the creation of OGVP to this end.

I urge you to act in the interest of the people of Hawai'i and support HB 664.

Sincerely,
Jeannie Thompson

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:24:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kristen Young | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristen Young and I am writing in strong support of HB664, establishing an Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP). Gun violence and mass shootings have unfortunately become common occurrences in the USA. I pray that it never gets like that in Hawai‘i. We must be proactive. I am concerned at the growing number of incidences of gun violence in Hawai‘i. Creating an OGVP will allow our communities to approach this crisis from every angle.

Through programs administered by the OGVP, we can begin to address gun violence in our communities through the collection of data and targeted intervention programs that help address the root causes of gun violence. A data-informed, community-driven effort is our best bet at keeping our communities safe, and I firmly support the creation of OGVP to this end.

I urge you to act in the interest of the people of Hawai‘i and support HB 664.

Sincerely,

Kristen Young
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha,

My name is Olesya Noerper, and I am a freshman at Punahou Academy who strongly supports HB664.

Before I transferred to the Academy, the middle school that I attended was shaken by a gun scare that left a lasting mark on all of us. It started as a whisper in the morning that I arrived—a rumor that a student had brought a gun to campus. At first, I brushed it off. Gossip spreads easily in school, with a majority of it contributing little. Soon, however, reality set in. I watched as students checked their phones, faces growing pale and fingers rushing to call buttons. Some bolted from campus before the first bell even rang. Others, like me, called their parents and left, unwilling to take the risk. By the end of the first period, nearly a third of the school had disappeared. Those who stayed sat in uneasy silence, their teachers struggling to maintain a sense of normalcy while fear pulsed beneath the surface.

In the end, there was no gun. But there was a threat. The student at the center of it all had posted online, stating his intent to bring a gun to school, even taking a photo of the weapon. The fear that gripped us that morning was not imagined—it was justified. And though the threat never materialized, the damage was already done. The school faced an avalanche of backlash, but no amount of explanations or apologies could erase the terror we had felt. I remember how my hands shook as I texted my parents, my friends and classmates mirroring my rushed and panicked movements. I remember the way my chest tightened every time I thought about what could have happened, about how close we might have been to tragedy. That day, I learned how fragile the illusion of safety is. For many students across the country, that fear turns into something much worse—something irreversible.

This is why having HB664 is critical. Establishing an Office of Gun Violence Prevention in Hawaii would allow the state to gather essential data on gun-related incidents, ensuring that lawmakers and community leaders have the necessary information to make informed decisions. Without reliable, Hawaii-specific data, we are left in the dark about the patterns and causes of gun violence in our own communities. This office would also support Community Violence Intervention programs that aim to address conflict before it escalates, providing resources and outreach to those most at risk. By taking a proactive approach, we can prevent tragedies and build safer communities.

When the Bill of Rights was written in 1791, the firearms in existence were muskets—single-shot, muzzle-loaded weapons that required time and effort to fire. The concept of semi-automatic rifles or modern firearms was not even conceivable. To suggest that the Second Amendment protects the ownership of weapons that did not exist at the time of its creation ignores both historical context and common sense.

We must acknowledge that times have changed. The framers of the Constitution could not have foreseen a world where the threat of gun violence was constantly looming over their shoulder. The laws that govern us must evolve with society to keep us safe. HB664 is a necessary step in ensuring that we have the data and resources to understand and prevent gun violence. No student should have to experience the fear that my classmates and I felt that day. No community should have to grieve because of preventable violence. This bill is not just about policy—it is about protecting lives.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 12:59:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Allegra Giacchino | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please pass HB664, establishing a state Office of Gun Violence Prevention. There has been an alarming increase in gun violence in Hawaii. A statewide office will be able to direct, coordinate and support the state's gun violence prevention efforts at multiple stages – from collecting and tracking data to inform policy, to increasing public awareness of secure storage and extreme risk protective orders, to administering funding to lifesaving community violence intervention programs that prevent shootings. Joining the many other states that have established an office of gun violence prevention will help us to most successfully address this multi-dimensional public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Allegra Giacchino

Kahala

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 1:56:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Daniel Kawaiʻaeʻa Shaver | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

ATTN: Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Dear Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee,

My name is Daniel Kawaiʻaeʻa Shaver and I am writing in strong support of HB664, establishing an Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP). I am concerned at the growing number of incidences of gun violence within the state of Hawaiʻi. Creating an OGVP will allow our communities to approach this crisis from every angle.

Through programs administered by the OGVP, we can begin to address gun violence in our communities through the collection of data and targeted intervention programs that help address the root causes of gun violence. A data-informed, community-driven effort is our best bet at keeping our communities safe, and I firmly support the creation of OGVP to this end.

A close friend of mine lost his brother to gun violence so I am hoping that HB664 can prevent further tragedies.

I urge you to act in the interest of the people of Hawaiʻi and support HB664.

Sincerely,

Daniel Kawaiʻaeʻa Shaver

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 2:39:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Marcella Alohalani Boido | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This is a thoughtful bill. I hope it will be passed and made effective this year.

I would like to suggest that the provision for a special fund be eliminated. I prefer to reserve the authority to appropriate and allocate funds to the Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M.A.

Moiili'i

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 2:41:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Jack Edward Belsom | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Jack Belsom** and I am writing in strong support of HB664, establishing an Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP). Gun violence and mass shootings have unfortunately become common occurrences in the USA. I pray that it never gets like that in Hawai‘i. We must be proactive. I am concerned at the growing number of incidences of gun violence in Hawai‘i. Creating an OGVP will allow our communities to approach this crisis from every angle.

Through programs administered by the OGVP, we can begin to address gun violence in our communities through the collection of data and targeted intervention programs that help address the root causes of gun violence. A data-informed, community-driven effort is our best bet at keeping our communities safe, and I firmly support the creation of OGVP to this end.

I urge you to act in the interest of the people of Hawai‘i and support HB 664.

Sincerely,

Jack Belsom
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

LATE

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 9:39:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Elba Reyes | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This Office of Gun Violence Prevention would be a vital resource for coordinating efforts between federal, state, and local agencies, facilitating data collection and research, and developing best practices for community violence intervention programs. This is a common sense provision to help keep our citizens safe as U.S. Supreme Court decisions have superseded state laws and enabled the proliferation of firearms Into our public spaces.

Can also go back to no guns on the street when it was safe to walk not worried if will get shot if go ou at night now even in Waikiki you have kids yes kids shotting each other when will gun lobbies under stand guns on the street don't make pepole safe! King Kam didn't want guns in civilians hands! Please work on returning to safer times when No guns on the street!

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 5:57:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

While I agree with the intent of the bill to help reduce gun violence in the state, I have grave concerns that given the State's anti-gun bias that this office will be weaponized with the goal to tweak information to support anti-gun laws, as has been seen in similar offices throughout the nation.

Recently there have been cases where anti-gun groups have submitted manipulated data to similar offices with the goal of promoting further infringements on the Second Amendment. One includes the often repeated, and disproven statement that guns are now the leading cause of death for children. Among other offenses, the data was manipulated to include people up to the age of 25 as 'children', included instances of gang on gang violence where the only victims were rival gang members, and included instances of justified police shootings. The mentioned study has been fact checked by several sources and found to be false despite it being touted by the former Presidential Administration. **Simply altering the study to only include persons under the age of 18 debunked the claim that firearms are the leading cause of death in children.**

Another instance resulted in the ending of a popular and successful program that was having positive effects on reducing gun violence. **Giffords Law Center**, who has the stated goal of wanting to reduce gun violence, did a study on a program known as '**Oakland Ceasefire**'. **In their findings it was discovered that the program reduced gun violence in Oakland by 50%,** and in 9 other cities that had similar programs reduced crime from 30% to 60%. The Oakland Ceasefire program relied upon Community Outreach and Mentorship programs for at-risk youth, as well as enforcement and prosecution of current laws.

Giffords is being accused of trying to hide the study from the public, and of using their influence to end the highly successful program because it undermined the message that the only way to reduce gun violence is to get rid of guns. **Even if these accusations are false, the reality is inconsistent with their stated goal as there is little to no fanfare regarding such a successful program.**

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 6:21:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators of the committee,

I stand in strong opposition to this bill. It will just waste taxpayer dollars that could be beneficial elsewhere to prevent violence or teach the youth.

mahalo

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 7:27:35 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill further decreases accountability and transparency and creates a safe haven for tyrants in office who love nothing more than to infringe upon our constitutional right to bear arms while committing crimes working in an authoritative position. If anyone wants a definition of tyranny this bill is an example of it. This bill is more criminal, than preventative.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 2:41:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Brienna Gomes | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

There is no need for funds, especially if it's funded by the tax payers, to go to an organization focused on gun violence prevention. A.k.a. those who take an anti-gun stance. What we really need is actual consequences, HARSH penalties for those possessing and using firearms illegally. Penalize the criminals. STOP penalizing those who abide by the law and make it an "even playing field" by allowing law abiding gun owners to properly protect themselves, their family and their property rather than requiring them to retreat from those already committing an offense with ill intent.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 3:05:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Eric Kaneshiro | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The funds allocated for a Gun Violence Prevention is better spent on increased police presence and crime prevention programs. I'm also concerned that funding will be diverted to push a political agenda that infringes on the rights of law abiding citizens.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 4:16:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Dedely | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 4:19:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| kamakani de dely | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 4:21:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Mallory De Dely | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 8:12:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this measure. We do not need this office. We need to stop making government bigger and start to shrink it down. Do not pass this.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 8:00:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| chad maeda | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

i strongly oppose this bill. banning guns will not stop violence

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 11:55:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| David Fukuzawa | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislative Representative,

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition of HB664 HD1. Our government does not need another office and department that spends unnecessary funds. Government funds would be better used to enforce present laws.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa, SAS-5, Dept of Public Safety, Retired

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 10:40:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose becuae I know this will only be used to tell people how to take peoples 2nd amendment right away.

That's if the "funding" is used correctly and honestly.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 6:56:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Chase Cavitt | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today in strong opposition of HB664. I am not opposed to preventing harm or violence but I am strongly opposed to this legislative body voting in a bill designed to further take away law abiding citizens 2nd amendment rights. This state has proven to be unaware of the 2nd amendment or lacking care or violating it. The bills presented every year and many enacted are in violation of the second amendment and we can provide proof by how many have been determined to be so in the courts, just as it was this past week in regards to the postol registration process in Hawaii. A lack of knowledge of the constitution is a huge problem for this state and all involved in voting in these bills should do better in educating themselves before removing the rights of a citizen. We are not talking about privileges. The right to keep and bear arms is a right not given by this country, yet recognized as something that is inalienable and granted by god to man to defend one's self.

Based on past consistent actions of the state of Hawaii, I am certain this bill would cause harm to many more law abiding citizens than it could possibly help. The Federal Office of Gun Violence Prevention was dismantled this year and is a great victory for all. There simply is no need for this waste of tax payer dollars. I have a simple solution for the state. Simply convict and charge the actual criminals and hold them accountable. Stop with the slaps on the wrists and realize it is criminals, likely not allowed to be even be in possession of a firearm that are causing the turmoil we see. Do better with mental health programs and do your best to draw people out of destitude and poverty and work on education. This states public education is a joke and shows in statistics when compared around the world. These issues lead to the problems we all see. There you go I just saved the state whatever funds you wanted to spend on this department.

HB664 is unnecessary and arguably wrong to its core. Just add any other right in the name and swap out Gun Violence for the terms and you might get it. "Office of Speech Violence Prevention." I have a good one for you since this state has voted so far this year in support of illegal immigration and doesn't want to work with ICE. How do you feel about the department of Immigration and Customs? If this state could be trusted to respect our 2nd amendment rights then maybe this idea could work. Unfortunately this state will work alongside single political party sides to prevent firearm ownership and create more laws to take away the rights of the citizens. This bill is wrong and needs to be stopped. We have far greater things to spend tax dollars on. Please vote NO on HB664.

Mahalo,

Chase Cavitt

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 6:59:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Tenessa Cavitt | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today in strong opposition of HB664. I am not opposed to preventing harm or violence but I am strongly opposed to this legislative body voting in a bill designed to further take away law abiding citizens 2nd amendment rights. This state has proven to be unaware of the 2nd amendment or lacking care or violating it. The bills presented every year and many enacted are in violation of the second amendment and we can provide proof by how many have been determined to be so in the courts, just as it was this past week in regards to the postol registration process in Hawaii. A lack of knowledge of the constitution is a huge problem for this state and all involved in voting in these bills should do better in educating themselves before removing the rights of a citizen. We are not talking about privileges. The right to keep and bear arms is a right not given by this country, yet recognized as something that is inalienable and granted by God to man to defend one's self.

Based on past consistent actions of the state of Hawaii, I am certain this bill would cause harm to many more law abiding citizens than it could possibly help. The Federal Office of Gun Violence Prevention was dismantled this year and is a great victory for all. There simply is no need for this waste of tax payer dollars. I have a simple solution for the state. Simply convict and charge the actual criminals and hold them accountable. Stop with the slaps on the wrists and realize it is criminals, likely not allowed to be even be in possession of a firearm that are causing the turmoil we see. Do better with mental health programs and do your best to draw people out of destitude and poverty and work on education. This states public education is a joke and shows in statistics when compared around the world. These issues lead to the problems we all see. There you go I just saved the state whatever funds you wanted to spend on this department.

HB664 is unnecessary and arguably wrong to its core. Just add any other right in the name and swap out Gun Violence for the terms and you might get it. "Office of Speech Violence Prevention." I have a good one for you since this state has voted so far this year in support of illegal immigration and doesn't want to work with ICE. How do you feel about the department of Immigration and Customs? If this state could be trusted to respect our 2nd amendment rights then maybe this idea could work. Unfortunately this state will work alongside a single political party to prevent firearm ownership and create more laws to take away the rights of the citizens. This bill is wrong and needs to be stopped. We have far greater things to spend tax dollars on. Please vote NO on HB664.

Mahalo,

Tenessa Cavitt

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 7:51:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am Raymond Ishii and I oppose HB664

In this time of budgetary constraints, uncertainties of future Federal funding, reduced tax collection, high cost of living and our keiki leaving to the mainland due to our high cost of living. Do we need another Special Slush Fund to hire more State employees to do a function that is not needed in Hawaii and to add to our already tight State budget.

I oppose HB664 and ask you to vote NO.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 8:37:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Karl Kubo | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose HB 664. The proposed Office of Gun Violence Prevention is a useless, do nothing waste of tax payers money.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 7:43:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Sarah-Lyn Lokelani Jacobson | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

OPPOSE GOES AGAINST MY 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHT

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 8:05:41 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB664 for funding an anti-gun office. This is totally unconstitutional and against our 2nd Amendment.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 8:19:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacob Char | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly Oppose this bill. This goes against our Constitutional Rights.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 8:42:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Miles Chong | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB664.

This arbitrary bill only promotes the funding of an unnecessary beauracracy and clearly does nothing but fail to acknowledge, identify, and effectively address the **root** causes of crime!

Miles Chong

Hilo, HI 96720

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 9:09:44 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 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 per the highest law of the land. Uphold your oath

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 9:14:20 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms. It was ratified on December 15, 1791.

- 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”

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 9:14:48 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 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, I DO NOT want my tax money being spent on this unconstitutional anti-2a office.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 9:23:19 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Lani Primacio | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Oppose

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 9:31:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Jason Stanwood | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Just stop it with ignoring the second amendment. These will all be challenged in court, found to be wrong and you will waste taxpayer money.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 10:21:33 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Angela M Anderson | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The establishment of an anti-gun office funded by taxpayer dollars raises serious concerns about the erosion of Second Amendment rights. I oppose the use of public funds to support initiatives that are intended to unfairly target law abiding gun owning citizens while failing to address the criminals. This bill creates a framework for overreach that undermines personal liberties and may be a violation of second amendment rights

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 10:56:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Russell Garcia | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I don't even own a gun but the second Amendment is our constitutional right. I oppose thus ridiculous bill

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:06:41 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Bryan Revell | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This is another bill that takes away constitutional rights therefore is null and void! These types of bills only seek to take control away from the citizens you swore to protect and serve. As we all know criminals don't follow gun laws. The truth all gun regulations and licensing and permitting violates the second amendment which has been upheld numerous times in Supreme Court. Stop trying to disarm the people and resign as you have violated your oaths.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:12:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB664.

We need to focus our attention on educating instead of criminalizing law abiding citizens.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:31:15 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Keith Tajiri | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose to HB664.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:34:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:36:44 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Shari saiki Rodrigues | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I highly oppose this bill as a tax payer

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:39:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Jon-Louis Siracusa | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

“HB 664 strips law-abiding citizens of their constitutional rights. I carry to protect my family in a state where police response times can lag—last year, HPD averaged 12 minutes in rural areas. This bill leaves us defenseless.”

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:58:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Julie A Carter | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Opposed!

Infringes on the 2nd Amendment!

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 12:06:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Luke Reiss | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I Luke Kazuhiro Reiss oppose bill HB664 its is unconstitutional and a direct attack on the 2nd amendment. 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!

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 12:15:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

I oppose this bill as I beleive that we have more pressing matters at hand. Like the homeless crisis that has been going on for years and other things. I beleive that the grants and tax dollars could be better served elsewhere.

Thank you.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 1:02:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

i VEHEMNTLY OPPODE ANY BILL THAT ERODES OUR GOD GIVEN 2ND
AMMENDMENT RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS -

PLEASE FOCUS YOUR EFFORTS (AND OUR TAX DOLLARS,) ON SOMETING OTHER
THAN REWRITING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

SINCERELY, PP

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 1:20:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Cari Sasaki | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB664. We should not be using taxpayer money to set up an office to oppose the second amendment. This is an absolute waste of our money, funding unconstitutional activities. Stop wasting our tax revenue on leftist ideology and put it towards Hawaii's actual needs!

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 1:33:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Reina Loughlin | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose HB664 that is an attack on 2nd ammendment rights. It is not appropriate to use taxpayer money to fund an anti-gun office. Not only would the public argue it is misuse of their money to fund an attack on their 2nd ammendment rights, but it is an assault against the Constitution in general to do so. This bill would use all taxpayer's money to satisfy a controversial bill that serves only a portion of the public. This bill allows the state to position itself as an anti 2nd ammendment state, which it should not and is not, because it does not reflect a large community of 2nd ammendment supporters. Please work for the interests of all the people of Hawaii in using taxpayer money appropriately and beneficially by NOT passing this bill.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 2:01:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Dorinda Ohelo | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 2:23:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Aukai Ng | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We do not need a committy who's agenda is to take away our 2nd Amendments rights. You all have your secrect agendas to falsify and gas light the people about gun safety. You claim this is for gun violence prevention, but your own selfish plans will only be taking our firearms away!

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 2:43:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Ka'eo Ortiz | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This is a 2nd ammendment violation

LATE

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 3:21:49 PM
Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Duke malczon | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strongly oppose

LATE

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 3:38:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Cindy R Ajimine | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

OPPOSE

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 3:46:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB664. Leave our 2nd Amendment alone!
Thank You,

Noela von Wiegandt

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 11:20:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha All,

I Strongly Oppose HB 664. The Second Amendment, whether you like it or not, is an established right. You cannot and should not make offices against it. Just as you wouldn't make an office against people exercising their free speech.

This office will be filled with people who will be adamantly against the exercise of our rights. It won't be filled with those who support the 2nd Amendment. Are there any other offices created to control our other rights outlined by the Bill of Rights?

NO, THERE ARE NONE.**Mahalo,****Eric Hammond**

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:32:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sam Cavitt | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

1. Constitutional Concerns

- **Potential for Government Abuse:** The creation of a **state-run gun violence office** could lead to policies that **directly infringe upon Second Amendment rights**, especially if it is used as a vehicle to push restrictive gun laws in the future.
- **Lack of Transparency & Oversight:** Without clear **constitutional protections**, this office could become a **tool for anti-gun activists to push unconstitutional regulations** under the guise of "public safety."

2. Lack of Effectiveness

- **No Clear Purpose or Impact on Crime:**
 - There is **no evidence** that such an office will reduce crime or gun violence.
 - **Hawai'i already has some of the strictest gun laws in the country and one of the lowest rates of gun violence.** Additional bureaucracy is **redundant** and **wasteful**.
- **Gun Violence is a Criminal Issue, Not a Public Health Crisis:**
 - The bill treats **gun violence as a public health issue**, when in reality, **violence is a criminal issue**.
 - The focus should be on **criminal prosecution and mental health resources**, not restricting legal firearm ownership.

3. Legislative Overreach & Harassment of Law-Abiding Citizens

- **Backdoor Legislation for Future Gun Restrictions:**
 - The creation of an **Office of Gun Violence Prevention** opens the door for **more restrictive gun laws**, including potential **red flag laws, bans, and increased firearm regulations**.
 - This will **not impact criminals** but will **create more bureaucracy and obstacles for law-abiding gun owners**.
- **Wasting Taxpayer Money on Ineffective Bureaucracy:**
 - Instead of addressing **root causes** like **mental health issues, gang violence, and illegal gun trafficking**, the state is proposing a **bureaucratic office that will likely push ineffective, restrictive laws on gun owners**.

- Taxpayer money would be **better spent on law enforcement, mental health services, and crime prevention programs.**

4. Conclusion

- **HB664 is a bureaucratic overreach that will not reduce crime but will likely lead to more restrictive gun control laws that unfairly target law-abiding gun owners.**
- **Taxpayer money should be spent on enforcing current laws and addressing root causes of violence, not creating a government office that could push anti-Second Amendment policies.**
- **HB664 should be opposed.**

HB-664-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:08:46 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

i oppose HB664