



**WRITTEN 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, S.D. 1, RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2025

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Melina D. Sanchez,
Deputy Attorney General, at (808) 587-2978)

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

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 prevention, develop and administer a grant program for gun violence prevention, and develop and administer a gun violence resource bank. The bill amends sections 134C-1 and 134C-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to move the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVVCC) from the Department of the Attorney General to the Department of Law Enforcement.

We note that the amendments to section 134C-2, HRS, effectively remove the Attorney General from the GVVCC. To keep the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee as a member of the GVVCC and clarify that the Director of Law Enforcement or the Director's designee serves as the GVVCC chair, we ask the Committees to amend section 3 of the bill on page 8, line 17, to page 9, line 2, to read as follows:

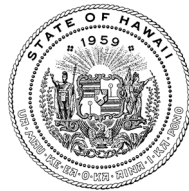
Section 3. Section 134C-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

"(a) The [~~attorney general~~] director of law enforcement or the [~~attorney general's~~] director's designee shall coordinate and serve as the chair of the gun violence and violent crimes commission.

(b) The following individuals, or their designees, shall serve as members of the gun violence and violent crimes commission:

- (1) The chief justice of the supreme court of Hawaii;
- (2) The director of health;
- (3) The [~~director of law enforcement;~~] attorney general;
- (4) A county prosecuting attorney to be selected by the chair of the commission;
- (5) The public defender;
- (6) The chief of police of each county;
- (7) The administrator of the Hawaii state hospital;
- (8) The dean of the college of social sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa;
- (9) The dean of the John A. Burns school of medicine;
- (10) One representative from a group that advocates for stricter gun safety laws; and
- (11) One representative from a firearm advocacy group."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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 WAYS AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 664, H.D. 1, S.D. 1

April 1, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 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, S.D. 1:

- Establishes the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) within the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) 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.
- Moves the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission from administratively under the Department of the Attorney General to administratively under DLE.
- 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, S.D. 1, it is difficult to determine if the GVPSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Testimony Presented Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS and
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

State Capitol



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

HB 664, HD1, SD1 (SSCR1229)

RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Chair Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and Chair Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Mike Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for providing this opportunity for Hawai'i nurses' voices to be heard.

Hawai'i - American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA) is the state's premier professional nursing organization that fosters high standards of professional nursing practice, promotes safe and ethical work environments, and advocates on health care issues that affect nurses and the public. Hawai'i-ANA appreciates the opportunity to provide **testimony in strong support of HB 664, HD1, SD1 (SSCR1229)**. The uptick in gun violence in Hawai'i over the past few years demands an approach to this crisis from every angle. A state Office of Gun Violence Prevention can serve as a centralized hub working towards 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, to administering funding to lifesaving community violence intervention programs that prevent shootings. As a professional

organization representing nurses across Hawai`i, Hawai`i-ANA firmly believes that gun violence is not only a public safety issue but also a pressing public health concern that demands the immediate and comprehensive action proposed in this bill.

This measure aligns with the national priorities of the American Nurses Association (ANA) which our local chapter fully supports as a critical measure for the health of our community. ANA has consistently called for meaningful legislation to promote firearm safety, reduce gun violence, and address the public health crisis that firearms pose in the United States. The nurses in our community are no different and stand firmly with our national leadership on this critical issue. The ANA's position is clear: gun violence is a public health epidemic that requires evidence-based solutions and sustained commitment from policymakers, healthcare professionals, and community stakeholders.

Hawai`i-ANA appreciates the intent of the legislature to establish the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to support Hawaii's gun violence prevention goals through research, public awareness campaigns for proper handling and storage of firearms, supporting violence intervention programs, and supporting persons at greatest risk of gunshot victimization. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Contact information for Hawai`i – American Nurses Association: References available upon request.

President: Dr. Denise Cohen, APRN president@hawaii-ana.org

Chair of Hawai`i-ANA Advocacy Committee: Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN vicepresident@hawaii-ana.org

Executive Director: Elizabeth M. Kahakua, RN, BSN executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org

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

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 5:44:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Rosa	Testifying for ROSA'S PROTECTION SYSTEMS LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, representing Rosa's Protection Systems LLC on the Island of Kauai "OPPOSE" Bill
HB664. This Bill will not make a difference in gun violence in Hawaii, but only waist
Tax Payers money to fund the attack on the Second Amendment Rights of the People.
The "Office of Gun Violence Prevention" does not address getting guns out of the
hands of criminals.



Submitted via web portal

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

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees:

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



April 1, 2025

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Vice Sharon Y. Moriwaki

Sen. Henry J.C. Aquino

Sen. Lynn DeCoite

Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante

Sen. Troy N. Hashimoto

Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye

Sen. Dru Mamo Kanuha

Sen. Michelle N. Kidani

Sen. Donna Mercado Kim

Sen. Chris Lee

Sen. Glenn Wakai

Sen. Kurt Fevella

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Chair Karl Rhoads

Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

Sen. Stanley Chang

Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura

Sen. Brenton Awa

Re: HB664 HD1 SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

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

On behalf of HSCADV and our 25 member programs statewide, I respectfully submit testimony in support of HB664 HD1 SD1, which seeks to establish the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Law Enforcement. This bill is a critical step toward enhancing public safety, reducing gun-related violence, and providing resources for intervention and prevention efforts in our communities. It is particularly crucial for addressing domestic violence.

Research has consistently shown that the presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation significantly increases the risk of homicide. According to studies published by the American Journal of Public Health, domestic violence victims are five times more likely to be

killed when their abuser has access to a firearm.¹ The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence also reports that in the United States, over half of all female homicide victims are killed by a current or former intimate partner, with firearms being the most common weapon used.²

By incorporating gun violence prevention into domestic violence response strategies, HB664 HD1 SD1 can help save lives by promoting education on firearm-related risks in abusive households, facilitating legal protections such as firearm relinquishment for individuals with domestic violence restraining orders, and providing resources for victims seeking safety.

These provisions will enhance public safety and provide communities with the tools and resources needed to address gun violence proactively. Prevention-based approaches, such as those outlined in HB664 HD1 SD1, have been proven to reduce violence in other jurisdictions, and Hawai'i can benefit significantly from similar strategies.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass HB664 SD1 and take this important step toward reducing gun violence and protecting domestic violence survivors in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director

¹ See study in *American Journal of Public Health*, available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26739680>

² Violence Policy Center, "When Men Murder Women" report, available at: <https://vpc.org/revealing-the-impacts-of-gun-violence/female-homicide-victimization-by-males>



STATE OF HAWAII ORGANIZATION OF POLICE OFFICERS

Robert Cavaco
State Board President

"A Police Organization for Police Officers Only"
Founded 1971

Term of Office
1-2022 to 12-2025

March 28, 2025

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **HB 664 SD1 – Relating to Contents of Citations**

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Honorable Committee Members:

I serve as the President of the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers ("SHOPO") and write to you on behalf of our Union in support of HB 664 SD1, which seeks to establish the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Law Enforcement. This bill represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to address and mitigate gun violence in our communities. The key provisions of this bill:

- creates an Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which will serve as the principal entity responsible for the development, performance, and control of programs and policies aimed at reducing gun violence in Hawaii;
- mandates the office to conduct culturally appropriate public awareness campaigns. These campaigns will educate residents about safe gun ownership, reporting lost or stolen firearms, and accessing mental health resources, among other critical topics.
- establishes a grant program to support community-based gun violence intervention initiatives. These initiatives are designed to interrupt cycles of gun violence and trauma without contributing to mass incarceration.
- calls for the creation of a resource bank to serve as a repository for data and research on gun violence. This will facilitate collaboration with researchers to identify data gaps and improve evidence-based prevention tools.
- establishes a Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund to finance these initiatives, ensuring that the office has the necessary resources to fulfill its mandate.

The establishment of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention is a proactive measure that will enhance the safety and well-being of Hawaii's residents. By centralizing efforts and resources, the office will be better equipped to coordinate statewide initiatives, foster community partnerships, and implement effective strategies to reduce gun violence.

Main Office & Honolulu Chapter Office
1717 Hoe Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3125
Tel: (808) 847-4676 "84 SHOPO"
www.shopohawaii.org Fax: (808) 841-4818

Hawaii Chapter Office
688 Kinoole Street, Room 220B
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3877
Tel: (808) 934-8405
Fax: (808) 934-8210

Kauai Chapter Office
3176 Oihana Street, Suite 104, Lihue
Mailing Add: P. O. Box 1708
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-5708
Tel: (808) 246-8911

Maui Chapter Office
1887 Wili Pa Loop, Suite 2
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1253
Tel: (808) 242-6129
Fax: (808) 242-9519

The public awareness campaigns will empower citizens with knowledge and resources, fostering a culture of responsible gun ownership and community vigilance. The grant program will enable local organizations to tailor interventions to the unique needs of their communities, promoting innovative solutions that have shown promise in reducing gun violence.

Furthermore, the resource bank will provide invaluable support to researchers and policymakers, ensuring that decisions are informed by the latest data and research. This will lead to more effective policies and interventions that address the root causes of gun violence.

SHOPO firmly believes that HB 664 SD1 is a crucial step in safeguarding our communities from the devastating impacts of gun violence. We urge the Legislature to pass this bill and demonstrate a commitment to the safety and security of all Hawaii residents.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
ROBERT CAVACO
SHOPO President

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 9:23:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the WAM and JDC committees,

The Hawaii Rifle Association, one of the oldest firearm associations in the United States; the oldest firearm Association in Hawaii and with members on all islands, Opposes this BILL - HB664.

This measure would not accomplish its stated goal. Similar organizations such as the proposed “Office of Gun Violence Prevention” end up becoming taxpayer funded lobbying groups whose purpose is to provide rhetoric of anti-second amendment groups and many times includes politicians. Legal firearm owners (already one of the safest and most responsible groups of people in the nation) will be asked to fund a group who will do little to promote safety and continue to undermine their Constitutional Rights. Resources would be better used for law enforcement efforts to track down illegal firearm possessors and get them off our streets and out of our communities.

We don't need another layer of tax funded programs. We have existing laws to handle any issues we have now.

Aloha from the Big Island,

Glennon T. Gingo

Board Member and Spokesperson

Hawaii Rifle Association



April 1, 2025

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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.

Erica Yamauchi, Volunteer State Co-Lead

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 8:12:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I write to you today as the President of the Hawaii Rifle Association to express our strong opposition to House Bill 664, which seeks to establish the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Law Enforcement.

While the Hawaii Rifle Association supports genuine efforts to enhance public safety, we have serious concerns that HB 664 is a political gesture rather than a practical solution to reduce violent crime. The proposed Office of Gun Violence Prevention is not only unnecessary but would also serve as a bureaucratic tool to further infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Primary Concerns:

1. Duplicative and Unnecessary Bureaucracy:
 - o The State of Hawaii already possesses extensive mechanisms for addressing crime and violence through the Department of Law Enforcement and existing law enforcement agencies.
 - o Creating a new, politically-driven office would only divert valuable resources away from effective crime prevention and place them in a redundant entity with no real authority to combat violent crime.
2. Misplaced Focus on Legal Gun Owners:
 - o Despite the bill's language about community-based interventions, the reality is that most of the attention will be directed toward regulating lawful firearm ownership rather than addressing actual criminal behavior.
 - o The focus on gun violence prevention should be on targeting illegal firearms and criminal misuse, not imposing additional layers of regulation and restrictions on responsible gun owners who already comply with some of the strictest regulations in the nation.
3. Funding Misappropriation:
 - o HB 664 allocates funds to organizations with agendas that may not reflect the needs or values of Hawaii's lawful firearms community.
 - o Without clear oversight or accountability measures, the proposed grant program could easily become a slush fund for politically-motivated organizations that promote restrictive and punitive policies against law-abiding citizens.
4. Data Manipulation Concerns:

- The creation of a resource bank of data and research is framed as a neutral initiative. However, experience has shown that selective data collection and biased research can be used to justify unconstitutional restrictions on firearm ownership.
 - There are already extensive studies and data available from reputable institutions, including the FBI and CDC. Establishing a state-run database that selectively focuses on gun-related incidents, without considering broader criminal factors, undermines objective analysis.
5. Lack of Meaningful Crime Prevention Measures:
- If the intent of this legislation is truly to reduce gun violence, then the focus should be on enforcing existing laws, increasing penalties for criminal use of firearms, and enhancing mental health resources.
 - Instead, this bill proposes to funnel money into community-based initiatives with vague goals and questionable effectiveness, while ignoring proven strategies that target criminal activity directly.

Conclusion:

HB 664 is a misguided effort that ignores the root causes of violent crime and instead focuses on creating an unnecessary government office that will waste taxpayer dollars and target law-abiding citizens rather than actual criminals.

The Hawaii Rifle Association urges you to reject HB 664 and instead pursue policies that focus on prosecuting violent offenders, improving mental health services, and enhancing law enforcement resources to combat crime effectively.

Mahalo,
Kainoa Kaku
President, Hawaii Rifle Association

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 4:57:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J. Cole	Testifying for NRA Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB664. This measure would not accomplish its stated goal. Similar organizations such as the proposed “Office of Gun Violence Prevention” end up being becoming taxpayer funded lobbying groups whose sole purpose is to provide rhetoric of anti-second amendment politicians. IOWs legal firearm owners (already one of the safest and most responsible groups of people in the nation) will be asked to fund a group who will do nothing but undermine their Constitutional Rights. Resources would be better used for law enforcement to track down repeat offenders and get them off the streets.

V/R

Kevin J. Cole

NRA Front Line Advocate (Volunteer) Hawaii

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 6:55:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

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.

I've recently been informed that we actually already HAVE an Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which shows how effective such offices can be since apparently not only myself, but even the legislature didn't know about it until someone in the Prosecutor's office mentioned it. Since it seems people are hellbent on pushing this through, I hope I am genuinely wrong and that this office will actually make some meaningful progress towards reducing gun violence here in Hawaii that doesn't involve drafting legislation that will infringe on citizens' gun rights.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 6:59:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in strong opposition to this bill, it is a waste of taxpayer dollars and will do absolutely nothing to prevent crime.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 7:24:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell kondo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 7:41:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We do not need another department especiually full of people who will not support Constitutional rights of law abiding citizens.

Just more government waste of our tax dollars that could be spent on educating our keiki or getting homeless off the streets.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 8:02:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB664 SD1, which seeks to establish a new Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Law Enforcement, along with related grant programs, a resource bank, and a special fund.

While I acknowledge the importance of addressing public safety and reducing gun violence, I have serious concerns about the scope, redundancy, and potential unintended consequences of this bill:

1. Bureaucratic Expansion Without Clear Need

HB664 SD1 proposes the creation of a new office and multiple programs, including a grant program and resource bank, duplicating efforts that are already within the purview of existing entities such as the Department of Law Enforcement and the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission. Creating another administrative body increases government size and spending without a clearly defined gap it intends to fill.

2. Vague Definitions and Broad Powers

The bill grants wide-ranging authority to a newly appointed “Director” to advise on legislation, administer funds, and assess state and county policies. However, it lacks sufficient checks and transparency measures to ensure the office remains nonpartisan, evidence-based, and accountable to the public.

3. Misallocation of Public Funds

Allocating funds to this new office—especially without specific appropriation amounts defined—raises serious fiscal concerns. Hawaii is facing significant budgetary challenges, and taxpayer dollars would be better invested in existing programs that have already demonstrated effectiveness in community safety and mental health services.

4. Potential for Ideological Bias in Outreach and Education

The office is tasked with conducting public awareness campaigns and community education initiatives. Without clear guidelines, this risks turning into one-sided messaging that does not respect Hawaii’s cultural diversity or the rights of lawful gun owners. Public education must be objective, not advocacy-driven.

5. Questionable Impact on Public Safety

Evidence from other states suggests that creating more administrative offices does not

necessarily translate to reduced gun violence. Effective interventions require a holistic approach involving community engagement, law enforcement, mental health services, and education—not simply the formation of another agency.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reconsider and vote **NO** on HB664 SD1. Let us focus on reinforcing existing efforts, supporting community-based solutions, and respecting both public safety and constitutional rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Wayne Asam

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 8:52:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I opposed HB664.Thank you!

Iric Viscarra

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 8:55:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this.

It's an unnecessary waste of our tax dollars and will not create a unbiased department for the betterment of our population. This will be a special interest funded business. for gun grabbing anti 2nd AMMENDMENT haters. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 9:15:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill, waste of money and a money grab to hide the taxpayer's money. We need to stop blaming the tools and focus on the real issue of mental health. Firearms are tools just like cast iron pots.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 9:39:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 10:46:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB664. The State of Hawaii does not need another office of gun violence prevention. We already have one and we also have plenty of lawmakers constantly violating the Constitution always taking away our rights. Guns are not the problem. People are. You are better off focusing on mental disorders, behavioral health, and family cohesion than using guns as a scapegoat. Gun control does not make the people of Hawaii safer, it only strips away our rights! It clearly violates our Constitutional rights. Furthermore, it criminalizes responsible gun owners, expands government overreach into legal firearm ownership, fails to address violent crime, and makes criminals out of law-abiding citizens. Stop wasting time and energy on unconstitutional bills, and focus on better education and training of the people. This type of office would continue to make exercising our constitutional rights by also making it more expensive than it already is for those that cannot afford all of the fees to acquire firearms.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:01:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwayne Lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairman and members of this committee,

I believe that Hawaii House Bill 664 (HB664) is unconstitutional and represents governmental overreach, inefficiency, and a violation of individual rights. The establishment of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Law Enforcement is a direct threat to the Second Amendment rights guaranteed to American citizens. By tasking this office with educating the public on gun laws and promoting so-called "best practices," I see it as a thinly veiled attempt to further regulate and restrict lawful gun ownership. Such measures risk undermining my constitutional right to bear arms.

Furthermore, the creation of this new office and the accompanying Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund appears to be a potential waste of taxpayer money. Establishing and maintaining this office could easily lead to unnecessary government spending without sufficient evidence of its effectiveness. I am concerned that this initiative will only contribute to governmental inefficiencies and create opportunities for abuse of public resources.¹

I also find it alarming that the roles of this proposed office overlap with those of the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVVCC), which is already charged with coordinating, facilitating, and planning to reduce gun violence across Hawaii. Creating a redundant government entity with similar responsibilities seems like an inefficient use of resources that further burdens taxpayers.²

Moreover, I fear that HB664 could impede my inherent right to self-defense. By potentially promoting policies that restrict access to firearms, this bill could limit my ability to protect myself and my loved ones. I view this as an infringement on a fundamental right that goes beyond the written law—it is a God-given right to protect one's own life and safety.

The creation of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention raises additional concerns about governmental redundancy and inefficiency. Hawaii already has the GVVCC tasked with addressing gun violence and violent crimes through coordination among various agencies. Establishing a new office with similar objectives could lead to overlapping responsibilities, misallocation of resources, and bureaucratic inefficiencies. Instead of creating a new entity, efforts and resources should be directed toward strengthening and supporting the existing GVVCC to enhance its effectiveness in combating gun violence.²

Finally, I am deeply concerned about the governmental overreach demonstrated by HB664. Establishing this office would expand the government's reach into areas that should be governed by individual choice and responsibility. I fear that it will lead to intrusive policies targeting law-abiding citizens, ultimately eroding personal freedoms under the guise of public safety.

In conclusion, HB664 is an affront to the Second Amendment, an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars, a redundant effort that already exists within the GVVCC, an infringement on my right to self-defense, and a clear example of governmental overreach. I strongly urge legislators to reconsider the passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

D. Lim

References:

1. "Testimony on HB664." Hawaii State Legislature, data.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/Testimony/HB664_HD1_TESTIMONY_FIN_02-25-25_.PDF. Accessed 27 Mar. 2025.
2. "Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission." Hawaii Attorney General's Office, ag.hawaii.gov/hcjdc/gun-violence-and-violent-crimes-commission/. Accessed 27 Mar. 2025.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:02:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chairman and members of this committee,

I believe that Hawaii House Bill 664 (HB664) is unconstitutional and represents governmental overreach, inefficiency, and a violation of individual rights. The establishment of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Law Enforcement is a direct threat to the Second Amendment rights guaranteed to American citizens. By tasking this office with educating the public on gun laws and promoting so-called "best practices," I see it as a thinly veiled attempt to further regulate and restrict lawful gun ownership. Such measures risk undermining my constitutional right to bear arms.

Furthermore, the creation of this new office and the accompanying Gun Violence Prevention Special Fund appears to be a potential waste of taxpayer money. Establishing and maintaining this office could easily lead to unnecessary government spending without sufficient evidence of its effectiveness. I am concerned that this initiative will only contribute to governmental inefficiencies and create opportunities for abuse of public resources.¹

I also find it alarming that the roles of this proposed office overlap with those of the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVVCC), which is already charged with coordinating, facilitating, and planning to reduce gun violence across Hawaii. Creating a redundant government entity with similar responsibilities seems like an inefficient use of resources that further burdens taxpayers.²

Moreover, I fear that HB664 could impede my inherent right to self-defense. By potentially promoting policies that restrict access to firearms, this bill could limit my ability to protect myself and my loved ones. I view this as an infringement on a fundamental right that goes beyond the written law—it is a God-given right to protect one's own life and safety.

The creation of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention raises additional concerns about governmental redundancy and inefficiency. Hawaii already has the GVVCC tasked with addressing gun violence and violent crimes through coordination among various agencies. Establishing a new office with similar objectives could lead to overlapping responsibilities, misallocation of resources, and bureaucratic inefficiencies. Instead of creating a new entity, efforts and resources should be directed toward strengthening and supporting the existing GVVCC to enhance its effectiveness in combating gun violence.²

Finally, I am deeply concerned about the governmental overreach demonstrated by HB664. Establishing this office would expand the government's reach into areas that should be governed by individual choice and responsibility. I fear that it will lead to intrusive policies targeting law-abiding citizens, ultimately eroding personal freedoms under the guise of public safety.

In conclusion, HB664 is an affront to the Second Amendment, an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars, a redundant effort that already exists within the GVVCC, an infringement on my right to self-defense, and a clear example of governmental overreach. I strongly urge legislators to reconsider the passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

K. Lim

References:

1. "Testimony on HB664." Hawaii State Legislature, data.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/Testimony/HB664_HD1_TESTIMONY_FIN_02-25-25_.PDF. Accessed 27 Mar. 2025.
2. "Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission." Hawaii Attorney General's Office, ag.hawaii.gov/hcjdc/gun-violence-and-violent-crimes-commission/. Accessed 27 Mar. 2025.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 7:24:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Creating another administrative money pit will not put criminals in jail. Please use funds to pay for more police on the West coast to arrest and prosecute criminals that are breaking our current laws. Please do not pass another bill that DOGE would consider a waste of tax money

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 8:09:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose the formation of a new gun violence study group.

I am not confident in the impartial bias of the make up of this group and that this really is an anti gun research group.

We need tax dollars to help find ways to lift up the working class of Hawaii not trying to stifle the second amendment.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 8:30:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose HB664.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 9:29:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB664. This measure would not accomplish its stated goal but instead would undermine our Constitutional Rights. If you are truly concerned about safety, resources would be better used to address mental health up to and including ensuring treatment even if it needs to be mandatory. Law enforcement does their job, but the judicial system does not. You want people to join the police force or have a positive impact as a police officer? Keep the criminals locked away. How frustrating do you think it is to have to address the same persons over and over again. The release of known criminals occurs every day is not accomplishing the goal of a civil society. How many prisons could have been constructed and maintained for the cost of the rail? Definitely 1-2. Failure to discipline criminals has been caused by woke political positions. It is in direct correlation to the rise in violence. The saying about giving an inch and taking a mile was not born out of fallacy. It's why you set boundaries for your children. This is what we call laws. This HB will do nothing as the existing laws, more specifically their punishments continue to fail to be enforced. Just start with that and accept that many people can't be reformed and need to be locked up. Have the judiciary enforce the laws instead of feeling sorry for repeat offenders. Maybe less people will want guns even though it is their constitutional right of people wasn't getting robbed and assaulted every day. Lock those criminals up. Institute a 3 strikes law. Give them 6 strikes if you are afraid of public comments. If criminals can't stop committing crimes after 6 convictions, they deserve to be separated from our society for life. Infringing on our constitutional rights won't make the citizenship feel safe. Locking up repeat offenders will.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:03:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB664. This is a good bill that can help us be smarter about gun violence and how to prevent it. Each act of gun violence is a tragedy with ripple effects across our islands. Many gun injuries and deaths are preventable. Without good data, it's challenging to have smart responses.

A statewide office of Gun Violence Prevention will support the state's gun violence prevention goals at multiple stages - from gun violence data collection that can inform policy-making to implementation assessments of existing laws to administering grants for community violence intervention.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Ellen Godbey Carson

Honolulu, Hawaii

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:20:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly oppose. This is another layer of beauracacy that does nothing to adress actual crime.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 11:36:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gena Whitten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important that Hawaii remain safe from large scale Gun Violence Incidents which the mainland has experienced. The Trump administration is supporting the gun industry and not the safety of the public. There is no longer a national Gun Violence Prevention office. The states must step up in education and safety for the public.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 12:04:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Good Morning,

I am submitting testimony in fierce opposition to HB664. This measure would not accomplish its stated goal. Similar organizations such as the proposed “Office of Gun Violence Prevention” end up being becoming taxpayer funded lobbying groups whose sole purpose is to provide rhetoric of anti-second amendment politicians. In other words, legal firearm owners (already one of the safest and most responsible groups of people in the nation) will be asked to fund a group who will do nothing but undermine their Constitutional Rights. Taxpayer dollars, would be better used for law enforcement to track down repeat offenders and get them off the streets.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 1:31:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB664. the duties that the office would provide already exist in other capacities. Law abiding citizens are already educated when they take their required gun safety classes (vetted by our government) on safe storage, safe use, protection. also each law abiding citizen is already required to submit to a health questionnaire and is subject to a mental health screening if "deemed necessary". any funds would be better used to improve law enforcement in enforcing the already stringent, current laws of gun misuse/violence/crimes and to prosecute those who break the current laws.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 1:33:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Logan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe an office of gun violence prevention is necessary due to the increase of gun violence we've seen in our state, this year alone. In this day and age, we need to act offensively to take steps to address gun violence in our community. This is one of the necessary steps, please pass HB 664.

Mahalo,

Rachel Logan

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 1:37:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Pascarelli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I a concerned law bidding citizen oppose HB664. This measure would not accomplish its stated goal. Similar organizations such as the proposed “Office of Gun Violence Prevention” end up being becoming taxpayer funded lobbying groups whose sole purpose is to provide rhetoric of anti-second amendment politicians. IOWs legal firearm owners (already one of the safest and most responsible groups of people in the nation) will be asked to fund a group who will do nothing but undermine their Constitutional Rights. Resources would be better used for law enforcement to track down repeat offenders and get them off the streets.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 3:17:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We no longer have a national Office of Gun Violence Prevention (GVP); creating one for Hawai'i is a solid and needed step in our efforts to keep our state, especially keiki, safe. In 2023, Hawai'i slipped from #3 to #7, in Everytown's ratings of gun-safe states. We need an organized system to collect the data to recommend the policies and interventions needed to correct this. A Hawai'i office of GVP can provide this. Firearms are currently the #1 cause of death for youth 0-18. Please support this measure!

Judith C White, Psy.D.

Kapaa

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 2:38:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Norman Akau Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I , Norman L Akau Jr oppose HB664 because it infringes on my constitutional rights as a true American citizen.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:36:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Napihaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm against this bill because it also aligns against responsible gun owners. There is no such thing as gun violence!! Like no such things a knife violence, car violence. Focus back on mental health programs, rehabilitation centers, and domestic violence..... that is a thing!

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:38:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terriann Mohideen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee. I am a resident of Hawai'i and a mother who urges your support for this bill. Recently on the Big Island a woman was shot and killed by the ex-boyfriend of her sister - unfortunately just one example here in Hawai'i of the problem of increased domestic violence that our state is facing. Could that incident have been prevented if the victim's family were aware that Hawai'i has a law making available an Extreme Risk Protection Order which can remove firearms from people who are a danger to themselves or others?

A child was tragically unintentionally shot in our state with an unsecured firearm in an incident on the Big Island a couple years back. Could this have been prevented if secure storage practices were better publicized here?

The news reported a random drive by shooting in Kapolei which makes locals fearful of what is going on.

A shooting in Waikiki causes tourists to scatter in panic recently and leaves a bullet hole in the glass window of H & M store.

Gun violence is costing our state money and if it keeps increasing, it will cost more in medical bills and mental health impacts to our residents, as well as loss of tourism dollars if tourists start questioning if we are a safe place to visit. Please spend the money now to form a dedicated Office of Gun Violence Prevention so we collect reliable standardized Hawai'i specific data on the problem, have public awareness campaigns for existing laws and ways to prevent gun violence, as well as funding for Community Violence Intervention programs that can halt the cycle of gun violence before it starts. Mahalo for your support.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 1:42:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 8:08:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly oppose this proposed measure. I will point out a few of the several reasons to oppose it below.

First and foremost is redundancy. It may come as a surprise that Hawaii already has the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (GVCC), enacted by Act 74 during the 2020 regular session and codified in Hawaii Revised Statutes § 134C et seq., the GVVCC's purpose is to provide coordination, facilitation, and planning among state and county agencies, federal agencies, and other appropriate partners to reduce gun violence and violent crimes. The commission's objectives include identifying relevant data, maximizing data sharing among agencies, and coordinating research on gun violence and violent crimes. This proposed measure indicates that the GVCC is so ineffective that we need yet another commission, or the current legislature is unfamiliar with the current HRS and their oversight responsibilities. Neither of these provide any support to moving this measure forward, unless the legislature is intentionally deciding to establish a duplicative commission which is obviously a waste of State resources and the tax dollars the citizens of Hawaii pay. In case you are unaware of current events, most US citizens are tired of government waste and this measure is exactly that.

Second, the promotion of special interest agendas by the State. These commissions are rarely comprised of balanced membership. I think we can all agree the "experts" who will chair and staff this commission will have strong ties to anti-gun special interest groups. This is an example of the State choosing "winners & losers" to promote an agenda. Those who oppose this agenda will see their tax dollars utilized to degrade our Constitutional right to keep and bear arms. As you are all well aware, criminals do not follow the law so passage of yet another law that restricts law abiding citizens does absolutely nothing to make us safer.

Third, is cost and effects on our already high cost of living. The proposed measure indicates there are many grants this commission with oversee. The sources of these grants are not identified and will likely require State matching funds. This infers the legislature will commit the tax payers to yet another funding requirement, whilst wringing their hands over the rising cost of living. Taxes and regulations are a major factor contributing to the cost of living here in Hawaii. Unless this redundant commission is an absolute priority, then I cannot see how this body can support further consideration of this proposed measure. We have recently seen at the

federal level that grants are often mis-managed, and here in Hawaii we all know that mismanagement and corruption is the rule rather than the exception.

While I understand the anti-gun special interest lobby funds political campaigns far better than a sole citizen like myself could ever do; I ask that you consider representation of the citizens of Hawaii over representation of a special interest lobby. If anti-gun organizations were truly grassroots they would have funds to provide these educational resources without reliance on the government, but these government funded non-governmental organizations utilize the force of the State to tax citizens to fund their agenda. Please break the cycle and vote this proposal down.

Mahalo.

Very respectfully,

Steven Takekoshi

Waipahu, Hawaii

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 5:45:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass HB664 HD1 SD1, 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 most successfully address this multi-dimensional public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Allegra Giacchino

Kahala

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 6:24:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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 month in regards to the pistol registration process in Hawai'i. 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.

A large majority of the supporting testimony is coming from groups that have national organizations and are paid affiliates. Even if not paid these members of organizations are being lead by paid members and repeating copied and pasted testimony in many situations regarding any bill looking to restrict firearm rights in Hawaii and other states. I watched testimony in Oregon this month that was nearly word for word to groups like Moms demand action in Hawaii and other groups alike. A good example is that Moms demand action have their testimonies sent to someone out of the state to review before being submitted. Examples of this were submitted in testimony in Oregon and this is not good for the people of Hawaii. Out of state actors should not be imposing their beliefs in Hawaii state law. Yet many Hawaii politicians align politically with these people and work together to take away firearm rights. I am not supporting this bill as many of these groups will be given a voice to express concerns about what they call gun violence and I and many others would simply call "violence." We need to do a wholesome job and protecting people in this state and it's far more encompassing that simply honing in on one tool used in violent crime.

Based on past consistent actions of the state of Hawai'i, 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 destitute 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 6:26:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB 664 HD1 SD1. This measure would not accomplish its intended goal. HB 664 HD1 SD1, would be a waste of resources, and put unnecessary burden on state and local law enforcement. HB 664 HD1 SD1, would be using taxpayer money, in order to undermine law abiding citizens second amendment rights. Resources and monies would be better used to give law enforcement the training and equipment needed to stop crime and to protect citizens.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 6:29:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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 Hawai'i. 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 Hawai'i, 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 8:40:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ellen Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to establish an Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

Financial Resources

- The bill allows for this office to apply for and receive funds from other sources in addition to state-allocated funds thereby leveraging financial resources.
- It allows for the disbursement of funds into the community through grants to support gun violence prevention to interrupt the cycle of gun violence.

Community Education

Unlike private, membership organizations such as the NRA, National Shooting Sports Foundation, or Hawaii on Target, the office would be accessible to all residents regardless of income level and educate all residents on the procedure for reporting lost and stolen guns, safe storage, filing and obtaining orders of protection, and accessing resources for mental health and substance use.

Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting

- Looks for best practices nationwide to support gun violence prevention thereby reducing the potential of waste.
- Will dispel myths about gun use and violence and potentially protect gun owners from misinformation and bias.
- Will inform law enforcement so they target criminals, activity, and locations that warrant scrutiny versus diverting and wasting resources.
- Provide research, information, and resources in a transparent and accessible manner.
- Create tools for gun owners and non-gun owners to reduce preventable gun violence to protect our families, institutions, and communities.
- Requires annual reporting that provides accountability to the public as well as transparency.

This bill invests in a safe and prosperous future for Hawai‘i residents and business community by preserving the state’s reputation as a safe place for tourists and business development. Please support this bill.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 4:57:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Franzone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I study violence and how to prevent it at Johns Hopkins University – after the uptick in gun violence in Hawai‘i over the past few years, it’s critical to approach this crisis from every angle. Hawai‘i has some of the strongest gun laws in the country, but laws alone aren’t enough—we need infrastructure to support violence prevention.

H.B. 664 is a driven solution that ensures our state remains a leader in public safety. I urge the committee to pass this bill. Mahalo.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 9:28:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samira Fatemi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 664. This bill will empower communities throughout the state to begin addressing gun violence in a proactive and people-minded manner.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 9:31:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 664. Mahalo.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 9:37:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB664.

Thank you.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 9:54:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reginald Eubanks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB 664. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention failed at the national level and it will continue to fail at the state level. Wasting taxpayer money on lobbying groups will not reduce crime because criminals do not follow the law.

The Supreme Court has upheld that citizens must be able to protect themselves in their home and in public, while declaring that all lives are created equal. However, political offices like this are the main culprits who infringe (calling it community outreach) on 2nd Amendment rights and funnel money through unnecessary "Special Fund" accounts.

Please vote no on HB 664.

HB-664-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 1:46:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Opposed.