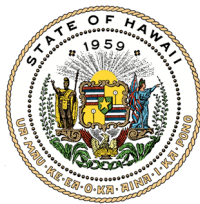


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
Director

ERNEST J. ROBELLO
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

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 SENATE BILL 3040
RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 3:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 016
Testifier: Ernest Robello

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 3040. This bill proposes to replace the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and includes an appropriation of funds for this purpose. The establishment of a dedicated Office of Gun Violence Prevention would provide a more focused, permanent, and comprehensive approach to addressing gun violence in our state.

The DLE is committed to reducing gun violence and enhancing public safety through evidence-based strategies. A dedicated Office of Gun Violence Prevention would allow for better coordination of prevention efforts, data collection and analysis, community outreach, and the implementation of targeted interventions to reduce gun violence.

The proposed office would serve as a central hub for gun violence prevention initiatives, including educational programs, community-based interventions, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, and community organizations. This

would significantly enhance our collective ability to address the root causes of gun violence and develop effective prevention strategies.

The appropriation of funds for this office is crucial for its successful establishment and operation. These resources would support staffing, research, program implementation, and evaluation efforts essential to effective gun violence prevention work.

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

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:06:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Asam	Testifying for Mid Pacific Pistol League	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Mid Pacific Pistol League respectfully submits this testimony in strong opposition to SB 3040.

SB 3040 restructures government oversight in a way that concentrates authority, eliminates balanced representation, and reduces transparency. Replacing a multi-member commission with a single political appointee removes critical checks and balances and limits meaningful stakeholder input.

The bill also eliminates the only guaranteed seat representing firearm owners and civil-rights perspectives. Excluding these viewpoints undermines public confidence and results in policy development that is inherently one-sided.

Furthermore, SB 3040 creates a new office designed to recommend additional firearm restrictions rather than evaluate the effectiveness of existing laws. This approach prioritizes expansion of regulation over evidence-based assessment. The bill also expands data collection without clear standards, safeguards, or limitations, raising serious concerns about privacy and misuse. Finally, it adds new layers of bureaucracy and public spending without demonstrating measurable improvements to public safety.

Hawai‘i deserves accountable, transparent, and balanced policymaking. SB 3040 fails to meet those standards.

For these reasons, the Mid Pacific Pistol League strongly urges the Legislature to oppose SB 3040.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Mid Pacific Pistol League

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:43:35 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

On behalf of **Bows N Bullets Ladies**, we respectfully submit this testimony in **opposition** to S.B. No. 3040, which proposes replacing the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with an Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of the Attorney General.

Bows N Bullets Ladies is an organization focused on **women’s safety, education, and responsible firearm ownership**. We work directly with women—many of whom are first-time firearm owners—seeking knowledge, confidence, and lawful means to protect themselves and their families. From this perspective, we have serious concerns with the approach taken in this bill.

First, S.B. No. 3040 removes the existing **multi-stakeholder commission structure**, which currently allows for balanced input from law enforcement, public health professionals, legal experts, academic institutions, and firearm-related advocacy groups. Eliminating this diverse representation in favor of a centralized office led by a single director risks excluding voices—particularly those of lawful firearm owners and educators—who play a critical role in violence prevention through training, outreach, and community engagement.

Second, while the bill emphasizes data collection and analysis, it does not sufficiently recognize or support **education-based prevention**, which is especially important for women. Education on safe handling, secure storage, situational awareness, and lawful use has been shown to reduce accidents, misuse, and fear surrounding firearms. Responsible ownership and informed decision-making are essential components of public safety, yet they are largely absent from the bill’s stated priorities.

Third, as an organization that supports women from diverse backgrounds—including survivors of domestic violence and women seeking personal protection—we are concerned that a singular focus on “gun violence” risks overlooking the realities many women face. For some women, lawful firearm ownership is a **last-resort safety measure**, not a threat. Effective policy must acknowledge this reality and ensure that prevention strategies do not unintentionally discourage education, training, or lawful access for those seeking to protect themselves.

Additionally, S.B. No. 3040 appropriates funds for new administrative positions without clearly demonstrating how these resources will directly improve safety outcomes. We believe state resources would be better directed toward **community-based education programs, mental health services, suicide prevention initiatives, domestic violence intervention, and**

partnerships with organizations that already work on the ground, particularly those serving women and families.

Finally, violence prevention is most effective when it addresses **root causes**—including mental health, substance abuse, economic stress, and lack of education—rather than relying on expanded bureaucracy. A collaborative, inclusive approach that values education and responsible ownership is far more likely to produce meaningful and lasting results.

For these reasons, Bows N Bullets Ladies respectfully urges the Committee to **reject S.B. No. 3040**, or substantially amend it to preserve stakeholder representation, prioritize education and responsible ownership, and invest in proven, community-centered solutions that enhance safety while respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:07:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terriann Mohideen	Testifying for Hawaii Chapter Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee~

My name is Terriann Mohideen, I live here and I'm a volunteer with the Hawai'i chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and I urge you to support SB3040.

What's going on with gun violence in our state? I believe many of our legislators and all of our law enforcement are trying to work on this issue every day. They get calls from community members concerned with it, concerned about the safety of their family. I turn on the local news and it seems like we have a problem - there's a shooting over here, there's a drive by over there. There was a domestic violence incident involving a firearm and now the victim is dead. There was an armed robbery nearby. There was a road rage incident with a gun. But what's the story behind these sound bites? How often is a person using a gun to commit a crime not the registered owner? Are there trends in how firearms are moving throughout the state? How many crimes were committed with licensed versus unlicensed firearms? How often are 3-D printed guns or ghost guns being used in crimes? Do we have a rise in youth firearms crimes? What can we do about gun violence here? Can we increase community engagement about this issue? Can we involve public health voices? There are so many questions and getting the answers to them as quickly as we can in a standardized way across all the counties in Hawai'i is important not because it is just some fun academic report-writing exercise, it is because getting the answers to these questions to our law enforcement can help them better respond to and solve crimes, and even prevent them - it can keep us all safer.

Data is not a flashy or exciting issue. But it is what we need if we are to work on gun violence in Hawai'i in a proactive manner- before it starts. We need reliable standardized data, shared across different groups that need to know about it. For a couple years now, we have had a group that was trying to work on this- a Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission, but it didn't come with any of the funding necessary to conduct research. It met a couple times and at its last meeting voted to end itself and merge into another group. One important thing that we did learn from a 2022 meeting of this Commission was that in that meeting, **police told the Commission that better data could help them better respond to crimes**, in particular access to more real-time data on violent crime, consistent data broken down into more categories and automated crime "hot spot" data. We need an Office of Gun Violence Prevention that can get this data to

our police- *one that is set up to succeed this time*, because it is a funded office that can get the answers our law enforcement needs across the islands. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:20:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Namiki Roberts	Testifying for Hawaii Firearms Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 3040

RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Hawaii Firearms Coalition respectfully submits testimony in **opposition** to SB 3040.

While we share the Legislature's interest in reducing violence and improving public safety, we are concerned that SB 3040 restructures state government in a way that reduces transparency, limits accountability, and narrows the range of perspectives involved in firearm-related policy development, without demonstrating that these changes will produce measurable public safety benefits.

Elimination of Balanced Oversight

Current law establishes a multi-member commission that brings together representatives from law enforcement, the judiciary, public health, academia, and a firearm advocacy organization. This structure ensures that firearm-related policy is informed by diverse expertise and viewpoints, including those of lawful firearm owners who are directly affected by these policies.

SB 3040 repeals this commission and replaces it with a single director appointed by the Governor. While executive leadership can play an important role, concentrating authority in one appointed official removes statutory guarantees of diverse representation and reduces the checks and balances that previously existed. In a policy area involving constitutional rights and complex social factors, broad participation is not only appropriate but necessary.

Predetermined Policy Focus

SB 3040 establishes an office whose mission is solely focused on “gun violence prevention” and explicitly directs that office to develop programs and recommend legislation. The bill does not require the office to evaluate the effectiveness of existing laws, assess unintended consequences, or consider alternative approaches to violence reduction.

As written, the structure and mandate of the office create the appearance that its role is to continuously generate new firearm regulations, rather than to objectively assess what policies are effective, ineffective, or unnecessary. Public policy is best served when analysis precedes conclusions, not the reverse.

Data Collection Without Clear Standards

The bill authorizes the collection and analysis of gun-violence-related data from multiple agencies, with appropriate redaction of identifying information. However, it provides little guidance regarding how that data is to be evaluated, what analytical standards apply, or how conclusions should be validated.

Without clear statutory guardrails, data-driven policymaking risks becoming selective or incomplete, especially when analysis is conducted within an office with a narrow policy mandate. Meaningful transparency and methodological standards are essential to ensure that data informs policy rather than simply supports predetermined outcomes.

Lack of Demonstrated Need or Measurable Outcomes

Hawai‘i already maintains extensive firearm regulations and consistently reports some of the lowest rates of gun violence in the nation. Multiple state and county agencies currently collect and analyze crime and public health data.

SB 3040 does not identify a specific failure of existing institutions, define clear performance benchmarks, or explain how the creation of this new office will produce better outcomes than current structures. Before creating a new bureaucracy and appropriating public funds, the Legislature should require a clear showing of necessity and effectiveness.

Absence of Civil Rights Considerations

The bill contains no reference to lawful firearm ownership, self-defense, sporting or hunting activities, or constitutional protections. Any public safety initiative involving firearms should explicitly acknowledge and respect the rights of law-abiding citizens while addressing criminal misuse.

Ignoring these considerations risks undermining public trust and further polarizing an issue that demands careful, balanced treatment.

Conclusion

Hawaii Firearms Coalition urges the Legislature to reject SB 3040 as currently written. The bill reduces oversight, concentrates authority, and advances a narrowly focused policy structure without demonstrating that it will improve public safety or respect constitutional principles.

We encourage the Legislature to pursue approaches that emphasize transparency, accountability, balanced representation, and evidence-based evaluation of existing laws before expanding regulatory frameworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Hawaii Firearms Coalition

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:48:24 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Violent crimes other than gun crimes should be retained in this office. Dropping them results in demonizing guns and gun owners while the problem of violent crime, firearms related or otherwise, remains an issue. This appears to be another scheme to center efforts on gun control to disarm citizens while ignoring the realities of criminal behavior, gun-related or otherwise.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:21:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:14:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Domenick Taylan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha everyone, I respectfully oppose SB3040, though we are all trying to reduce the violence is one I share. This bill imposes a new Office of Gun Violence Prevention that is concerning about government overreach, redundancy, and an impact on the rights of law-abiding citizens in the state of Hawai'i. Our state of Hawai'i has one of the strictest firearm laws and the lowest rate of gun violence. I believe that this bill adds new bureaucracy and spending without evidence improving public safety, it also allocates public funds to an office who's mission is narrowly focused on firearms rather than on violent behavior, mental health, substance abuse, or repeat criminal offenders.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:30:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB3040 because of the following reasons:

- It eliminates a multi-member commission and replaces it with a single political appointee
- It removes the only guaranteed seat for firearm owners and civil-rights perspectives
- It creates an office designed to recommend new gun laws, not evaluate existing ones
- It expands data collection with no clear standards or safeguards
- It adds new bureaucracy and spending without evidence it will improve public safety

Hawai‘i deserves transparent, balanced, and accountable policy, not one-sided government offices!

We do not need gun control. We need firearms education and training. Less fearmongering, and more familiarization and respect for our Constitution and each other. A politically appointee is not the solution. It is a single point of failure.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:35:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 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 sb3040, Mahalo

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:38:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel Kekauoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:39:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:44:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I stand in **OPPOSITION** to this bill, it goes to show this State's anti-gun stance. It literally strikes out all other types of violence from its stated goal of violence reduction. How often do we see all types of violence take place in the state and the common response is 'Well at *least* it wasn't a gun'?

Quite often non-gun violence leads to gun violence, we've seen that this year when a shooting had started as a mass brawl between two groups that had started over a fist fight which had started over an argument. Why are we ignoring all these root causes? Is it because we're actually fine with violence here as long as it doesn't involve a gun? Or is it because it's easier to go after guns than it is to actually address the behavior of the individuals that's the problem?

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.**

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:56:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Brissette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to SB3040. This bill lacks clarity and reasonable and measurable "guardrails"

1. Loss of Independent Oversight

- Replacing the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission (composed of multiple stakeholders, including community members who exercise their 2A, law enforcement, public health experts, etc.) with an office directly under the Attorney General may reduce independent oversight and diverse input. The new office risks becoming politically influenced, especially with the director appointed by the governor.

2. Centralization of Authority

- The bill centralizes leadership, vesting significant power in the director (appointed by the governor). This can lead to politicization of gun violence prevention strategies, especially if the director's priorities align more with political interests than evidence-based approaches.

3. Reduction in Stakeholder Engagement

- Commissions typically include broad representation from various sectors (public health, law enforcement, education, community organizations). An office within the Attorney General's department may not have the same level of stakeholder engagement, potentially missing important perspectives and expertise.

4. Lack of Specificity in Prevention Strategies

- The bill description lacks details on how the office will develop and implement prevention strategies. Without clear mandates, metrics, or required collaboration with public health agencies, community groups, and researchers, the office may be less effective.

5. Potential for Inefficiency and Redundancy

- If the new office's functions overlap with existing agencies or commissions (e.g., public health, law enforcement, social services), there is a risk of duplicating efforts and wasting resources. The bill does not clarify how it will coordinate with other entities.

6. Funding Concerns

- While the bill appropriates funds for operational costs, equipment, and data analysis, it does not specify the adequacy of funding or how resources will be allocated. Insufficient funding could render the office ineffective.

7. Unclear Accountability and Evaluation

- The bill does not outline mechanisms for accountability or evaluation of the office's effectiveness. Without performance metrics or required reporting, it may be difficult to assess whether the office is achieving its goals.

8. Disruption of Existing Progress

- If the current commission has established relationships, data systems, or ongoing projects, transitioning to a new office could disrupt progress, causing delays or loss of institutional knowledge.

Summary SB3040's flaws center on reduced independence, potential politicization, lack of stakeholder engagement, unclear strategy and accountability, possible redundancy, and funding ambiguity. Plus, it does address solutions to gun violence by enforcing existing laws and punishing those who break the law rather than penalizing law-abiding citizens with more laws that criminals ignore. Honolulu just experienced a "No Kings protest" yet it is wanting to appoint a King over a right outlined in the Constitution. The only right that is routinely treated as a second class right for anyone who chooses to exercise it.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:04:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Wayne Asam, and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB 3040.

This bill restructures government in a way that reduces transparency, weakens oversight, and removes balanced representation from decisions that directly affect constitutional rights. Replacing a multi-member commission with a single political appointee concentrates authority while eliminating diverse viewpoints and public accountability.

SB 3040 also removes the only guaranteed seat representing firearm owners and civil liberties. Any policy body tasked with influencing firearm-related decisions must include those most directly impacted. Excluding these voices undermines trust in government and creates a one-sided framework for future policymaking.

Additionally, the creation of an office whose primary purpose is to recommend new firearm laws — rather than evaluate the effectiveness of existing ones — signals a predetermined outcome rather than an objective approach to public safety. Expanding data collection without clear limits or safeguards raises serious privacy and due process concerns, while adding new bureaucracy and spending without measurable benefit to safety is fiscally irresponsible.

Hawai‘i deserves thoughtful, transparent, and balanced governance. SB 3040 moves us in the opposite direction.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 3040.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,
Wayne Asam

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:04:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Kai Asam, and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB 3040.

As a wife, mother, and community member, I believe public safety policy should be built on balance, transparency, and accountability. SB 3040 removes those safeguards by eliminating a multi-member commission and replacing it with a single political appointee, reducing oversight and public input.

Equally concerning is the removal of guaranteed representation for firearm owners and civil-rights perspectives. Public policy works best when all stakeholders have a seat at the table. Excluding certain voices does not lead to safer communities — it leads to distrust and division.

The bill also establishes an office designed to promote new firearm restrictions rather than evaluate whether existing laws are effective. Without objective review, we risk creating policy driven by ideology instead of evidence. Expanding data collection without clear protections further threatens individual privacy and civil liberties.

Hawai‘i families deserve policies that are fair, measured, and inclusive. SB 3040 fails to meet those standards.

I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kai Asam

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:05:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Xander Asam. I am a high school student in Hawai'i, and I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB 3040.

I have been taught that good government depends on checks and balances, transparency, and hearing from people with different perspectives. SB 3040 removes those principles by replacing a group commission with a single appointed official and removing guaranteed representation for law-abiding firearm owners and civil-rights viewpoints.

As a young person who will inherit the laws passed today, I believe it is important that government decisions are fair and accountable. Creating an office focused on recommending new gun laws, without evaluating whether current laws work, does not seem balanced or responsible. Expanding data collection without clear rules also raises concerns about privacy and misuse of information.

Public safety is important, but so are constitutional rights and open government. We should not sacrifice one for the other.

Please oppose SB 3040 and support transparent, inclusive policymaking.

Mahalo for listening to my voice.

Respectfully,
Xander Asam

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:07:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:16:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

A group of of non biased people should be responsible for collecting data on crimes involving firearms, not one single person. Data collected should be facts and not persuaded by anti gun groups, true data and Facts will show that law abiding gun owner do not commit crimes with their firearms...STOP PUNISHING LAW ABIDING GUN ONERS!! CRIMINALS DON'T FOLLOW THE LAW!!! If you were to have your way the only ones with the guns are the criminals...STOP PUSHING YOUR ANTI 2A AGENDA!!!

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:22:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NOAH DRAZKOWSKI	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Creating more bureaucracy and red tape for law abiding citizen. This will not stop the crimes with firearms. Firearms community should have a voice and this bill will take away that voice. Suppressing our freedoms and our rights.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:33:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is what I understand of this bill.

- Eliminates a multi-member commission and replaces it with a single political appointee
- Removes the only guaranteed seat for firearm owners and civil-rights perspectives
- Creates an office designed to recommend new gun laws, not evaluate existing ones
- Expands data collection with no clear standards or safeguards
- Adds new bureaucracy and spending without evidence it will improve public safety.

So in essence, this bill reduces oversight, removes balanced input, and sets the stage for more firearm restrictions without accountability.

Hawai‘i deserves transparent, balanced, and accountable policy, not one-sided government offices.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:47:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose sb 3040

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:09:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB 3040.

This bill reduces oversight, removes balanced input, and accountability.

Hawai‘i deserves transparent, balanced, and accountable policy, not one-sided government offices.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:18:24 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:11:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am opposed to SB 3040. Vote no.

We do not need more regulations from the State to restrict firearms .

Work on enforcement of existing laws. Stop criminals, Do not force more restrictions on law abiding registered gun owners. Hawaii is already the worse state in the entire nation for law abiding gun owners.

This bill creates a one-sided government office by eliminating the only guaranteed seat for firearms owners and civil rights perspectives.

Vote no on SB 3040

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:28:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Sentors:

I respectfully oppose this bill. It creates an office that does not need to be created. If anything it should fall under the Department of Law Enforcement. This office has no power to do anything and would be getting all of its data from the Dept of Law Enforcement and the various law enforcement agencies of the counties. It is redundant and a waste of government funds. It would be better to use the moneys for other areas which we need more help with such as the homeless.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:47:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:01:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joseph Alivero, and I am a resident, business owner and home owner on the island of Maui. As a responsible gun owner and law-abiding citizen who values the Second Amendment and our state's unique cultural traditions, including hunting and self-defense, I strongly oppose S.B. 3040. While the intent to reduce violence is commendable, this bill risks infringing on the rights of responsible gun owners, wasting taxpayer dollars, and creating an unbalanced bureaucracy that could lead to overreach without meaningfully addressing root causes of violence.

First, by replacing the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with a narrower Office of Gun Violence Prevention, the bill shifts focus exclusively to firearms, ignoring broader issues like mental health crises, substance abuse, and socioeconomic factors that contribute to violence in our communities. Hawaii already has some of the nation's strictest gun laws, including universal background checks, firearm registration, and bans on assault weapons. Yet, data shows that most gun-related incidents involve illegally obtained firearms or non-gun factors. This office could generate recommendations for even more restrictive policies—such as additional permitting hurdles, storage mandates, or limits on lawful ownership—that burden law-abiding citizens without deterring criminals.

Second, the bill empowers the office to collect and analyze extensive data from law enforcement and other agencies. Although it includes provisions for redacting personal information, the aggregation of ownership patterns, locations, and demographics raises serious privacy concerns. In an era of data breaches and federal overreach, this could lead to indirect surveillance of legal gun owners, eroding trust and potentially sharing information with external partners like federal agencies. Responsible owners, who already comply with rigorous state requirements, should not be treated as suspects in a data-driven dragnet.

Third, the repeal of the commission's diverse membership structure is troubling. The old commission included balanced representation from firearm advocacy groups, law enforcement, health experts, and others, ensuring multiple perspectives. Under this bill, a single governor-appointed director could steer the office toward biased outcomes, influenced by anti-gun stakeholders, without input from those who understand the practical impacts on everyday Hawaiians. This lack of accountability could result in one-sided reports and legislation that stigmatizes gun ownership rather than promoting evidence-based solutions.

Finally, the appropriation of unspecified general revenues for a new director position, staff, and equipment adds unnecessary financial strain during a time of economic challenges for our state. These funds could be better allocated to proven programs, such as mental health services, community policing, or education on safe firearm handling, which would more effectively reduce violence without targeting responsible owners.

I urge you to vote against S.B. 3040 and instead focus on holistic approaches that respect constitutional rights while enhancing public safety for all. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Alivero

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:12:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe the more people we have participating on the oversight of gun laws the more it will reflect the wants and needs of the majority. Outside of Oahu, the residents of Hawaii live very rural lives with practical applications for firearms.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:23:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Brian Ley, GMAC Commissioner district 4, and I strongly oppose SB 3040. we dont need to be wasting taxpayer money trying to lower gun crimes with a new committee in the AG office. All Hawaii needs to do is actually enforce the laws we arleardy have. Arrest, prosecute, and actully incarcerate the criminal element stop letting them go, to commit more crimes . stop going after the rights of law abiding citizens, and trying to turn them into criminals

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:35:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is nothing more than a waste of time and money. There is no checks and balances as only 1 side will give information, which means "here's more gun laws HI needs".

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:09:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanaloa H	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to S.B. 3040, as I believe replacing an existing commission with a new government office is an unnecessary waste of taxpayer money. Rather than creating new administrative positions the state should focus its resources on ensuring current law enforcement and agencies fulfill their existing responsibilities. We should be prioritizing fiscal responsibility and the efficient use of current department staff.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:23:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a critically important element to keep and strengthen Hawaii's low gun violence record.
Please pass!

Judith White, Kapaa

member, Hawaii Mom's Demand Action

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:58:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello, and thank you for reading my testimony. I urge you to oppose SB3040. I do not support replacing one entity of state government to form another. In addition, there are current laws under HRS 134 which address firearms.

In my opinion, what needs to happen in order to address violence in Hawaii, is prosecutors putting in the work, judges handing down the appropriate sentence, and the removal of the Hawaii Paroling Authority from setting minimum terms of confinement.

I do not support additional appropriations, our tax dollars, for the creation of a commission, which will be led by a political appointee of the governor.

Addressing violence in our state does not begin with drafting more legislation and forming new entities. It begins in the home, in our schools, within our communities.

I thank you for taking the time and reading my testimony.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:39:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claudia Pokipala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill restructures state government in a way that reduces oversight, removes balanced input, and sets the stage for more firearm restrictions without accountability.

Here's why it's bad policy:

- Eliminates a multi-member commission and replaces it with a single political appointee
- Removes the only guaranteed seat for firearm owners and civil-rights perspectives
- Creates an office designed to recommend new gun laws, not evaluate existing ones
- Expands data collection with no clear standards or safeguards
- Adds new bureaucracy and spending without evidence it will improve public safety

Hawai‘i deserves transparent, balanced, and accountable policy, not one-sided government offices.

I stand in opposition of SP 3040

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:51:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retired police officer with 34 years experience, I very strongly support SB3040 because I believe in public safety and this bill improves public safety by documenting an accurate depiction of gun violence in Hawaii.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 8:02:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill, this will only target firearms related violence and ignore all other forms of violence. This commission should not be changed. All forms of violence should be looked at. The tool used in the violent act should not be the focus, but the individual committing the act should pay the penalty. Leave the rest of the people out of it.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 8:13:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In opposition of this bill. I do not want my tax payer money going to this. I'd love the tax payer money to be audited first. I want accountability.

I don't trust the exsisting elected officials with properly allocating funds to projects. Address affordability first!

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:05:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Coy Coffman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it my concern!

Democratic run administration continue to restrict and in some cases create new policies that incriminate law abiding citizens. We are lawfully exercising are 2nd Amendment.

This is being done with the argument of "reducing gun violence", however these awful acts are being committed by criminals, and they don't care about what laws you create. They will continue to be criminals and unless they have rehabilitation; if and when they choose too.

So why will you punish law abiding citizens for exercising are second amendment to protect are families and selves from harm?

Hawai'i deserves transparent, balanced, and accountable policy, not one-sided government offices.

I oppose this bill for these reasons:

Eliminates a multi-member commission and replaces it with a single political appointee

Removes the only guaranteed seat for firearm owners and civil-rights perspectives

Creates an office designed to recommend new gun laws, not evaluate existing ones

Expands data collection with no clear standards or safeguards

Adds new bureaucracy and spending without evidence it will improve public safety.

Please remember the communities you serve holding that office. Remember your OATH's to the CONSTITUTION

Sincerely,
Coy Coffman

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:26:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a proud resident of Hawaii and a staunch advocate for the Second Amendment rights of all law-abiding citizens. I am writing to express my vehement opposition to SB3040, which seeks to replace the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with a new bureaucratic entity called the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. This bill is nothing short of a thinly veiled assault on our constitutional freedoms, masquerading as a "prevention" measure. It must be rejected outright to protect the rights enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and to prevent the wasteful expansion of government at the expense of taxpayers. First and foremost, SB3040 represents a dangerous shift toward an anti-gun agenda that prioritizes ideology over evidence. The Second Amendment guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms, a right that has been affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in landmark cases like *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*. By establishing an Office of Gun Violence Prevention under the Attorney General's department, this bill creates a taxpayer-funded apparatus designed to demonize firearms and push for further restrictions on responsible gun owners. Hawaii already has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, including mandatory registration, permits to acquire, and waiting periods—laws that have done little to curb crime but have burdened law-abiding citizens. This new office will only amplify that infringement, focusing narrowly on "gun violence" while ignoring the root causes of violence, such as mental health crises, socioeconomic issues, and criminal behavior. Why not address violence holistically instead of scapegoating inanimate objects? Moreover, the bill's emphasis on preventing "various types of gun violence, including suicide and mass shootings" is a red herring. Studies from sources like the RAND Corporation and even the CDC show that so-called "gun violence prevention" measures often fail to reduce overall violence rates, as criminals—by definition—do not obey laws. In fact, places with the most restrictive gun laws, like Chicago and California, continue to experience high rates of violent crime. SB3040 will empower a governor-appointed director to craft "comprehensive strategies" that could easily morph into calls for bans, red-flag laws, or other erosions of due process. This is not prevention; it's prepositioning for disarmament. As a 2A advocate, I see this for what it is: an attempt to erode our God-given right to self-defense, leaving families vulnerable while empowering the state. Financially, this bill is a slap in the face to Hawaii's hardworking taxpayers. Appropriating funds for yet another government office amid our state's ongoing economic challenges—high cost of living, housing shortages, and recovery from disasters like the Maui fires—is irresponsible. The existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission already addresses these issues without the need for a rebranded, potentially partisan entity. Why waste resources on bureaucracy when we could invest in proven solutions like better law enforcement training, community programs, or mental health support? SB3040 doesn't solve problems; it creates them by fostering an environment

hostile to constitutional rights. In conclusion, SB3040 is an unconstitutional overreach that threatens the liberties of Hawaii's residents. As someone who values the Second Amendment as a bulwark against tyranny and a means of personal protection, I urge you to vote NO on this bill. Protect our rights, reject wasteful spending, and focus on real solutions that respect the law-abiding citizens of our islands. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:29:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB3040 and ask you to vote against it.it is unconstitutional and more government overreach.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:28:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa K Zepeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the PSM committee,

I am submitting testimony to urge you to advance SB3040 which replaces the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention as well as appropriates funds.

Gun violence is an epidemic in our country. If the federal government will not pass laws against gun violence, we need to step up with our state legislation to protect our communities. Creating a Office of Gun Violence Prevention will protect our communities, especially our keiki. I urge you to consider supporting SB3040.

With Aloha,

Dr. Vanessa K. Zepeda

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:56:42 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose, doesn't help law abiding citizens

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:00:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:22:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ian silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB3040

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:50:14 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB3040 as wasteful government spending in an effort to subvert the Second Amendment rights of Hawaii's citizens.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:20:01 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB3040.

I am a competitive shooter and I oppose SB3040.

Hawaii already has numerous highly restrictive and unconstitutional gun laws.

SB3040 would be a waste of taxpayers funding and lead to an increase in un-necessary, ineffective restrictions on Hawaii's gun owners.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:47:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Please stop creating a totalitarian regime over our Constitution's second amendment. Imagine if you did this for speech and religious freedoms in our first amendment right??! Could you see the consequences to our freedoms as Americans?

This bill will not help crime or catch more criminals in the State of Hawaii. Please do not pass this bill.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:08:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mala Wingerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I will be brief. Every developed country in the world has created RATIONAL gun control laws and have greatly reduced (nothing will stop it completely) their gun violence. No one is "taking away your guns". We have laws about how we drive, no one took away your cars. We need to focus on the healthy and wellbeing of our children, families, schools, work places, places of worship, theaters, parks, on and on...THAT should be the primary focus now.

I find it interesting that one "non-violent" protester had a holstered, legal gun - and he was immediately tagged as a murdering terrorist and shot ~10 times after being beaten unconscious on the ground in the back. But over a thousand insurrectionists were "allowed" to storm the Capitol and that's OK?

Please help us restore our conscience w/in our democracy. Thank you.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:32:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha I am writing to express why I oppose SB3040. This bill is is proposed with possibly some good intentions but I strongly feel it is unnecessary, designed to infringe further the rights of Americans in Hawaii and isn't planned with thoughtfulness of the entirety of the issue it is designed to address. The lack of oversight with varying political beliefs is basically making this an anti firearms rights law suggestion center. The funding is coming from tax dollars that could be much better spent addressing the actual issues that cause violence in general. Firearm deaths in Hawaii have always been and are still very low thankfully. We have a special community throughout the islands and yes there are bad people even in Hawaii. The vast majority of firearm related deaths or violent attacks are being carried out by criminals and illegally accessed firearms. This bill should be regarding all violent offenses and not just focusing on firearms, which is arguably far less then attacks made with one's body, knives, and other items including vehicles such as road rage incidents. There is no representation for firearms owners who advocate for safe and responsible gun ownership. This fact is simply a horrible idea and proves to me that it's a us against them type of move that is designed to take away more rights but being a suggestion box for anti gun lawmakers who wish to destroy the second amendment in this state. The state does not have a right to take away the second amendment. The right is designed to tell the state and lawmakers this fact. The unalienable right to keep and bear arms is a right and not a privilege. This bill seeks to collect one sided data and to promote a theology that cripples Americans from the right to self defense and it is inappropriate. I will say again that this should be regarding all violence in Hawaii and not focusing on a tool used to inflict it. The data collected doesn't even have to come from a verified source and it's basically a feel good center for echoing further disregard for the 2nd amendment and a financial tool to devise techniques to take away our rights. This is definitely a waste of tax payer money and is being directly used against us.

Our police departments and AG should simply do their jobs to promote public safety, arrest criminals and our courts and prisons should do their jobs to pass proper judgement and hold these criminals accountable. State funded programs to help youth, disenfranchised individuals and schools should help to shape and build up the community who needs it the most. This bill is not needed for them to do their jobs and unfortunately too many violent people only get a slap on the wrist for repeat offenses and then go on to commit more dangerous crimes. Again crimes with a firearm are not even a major factor is violence in Hawaii. We do not have major mass shootings here and that is most certainly not due to laws. That is a result of society as a whole. People are the factor that makes the result happen. We need to focus on people and not an object.

Build up our youth and those who are down and out.

I understand that those who propose this bill think it will help but I strongly urge you all to use deeper thinking and not just walk a political party line. The office of gun violence prevention would be a political move, designed and ran by a one party government body in Hawaii with intentions to take away rights of law abiding citizens. I have said it before each year and will say it again. I am a law abiding citizen and firearm owner. Taking away my firearms or hindering my rights will never prevent a crime.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge you all to please vote NO on SB3040.

Mahalo,

Chase Cavitt

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:35:59 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express why I oppose SB3040. This bill is is proposed with possibly some good intentions but I strongly feel it is unnecessary, designed to infringe further the rights of Americans in Hawaii and isn't planned with thoughtfulness of the entirety of the issue it is designed to address. As a woman, a wife and a mother I do not feel that this bill is designed to help make me or my family safer. In fact I believe it is designed to take away rights to a tool that I can use to defend all of the above and protect myself or family if absolutely needed.

The lack of oversight with varying political beliefs is basically making this an anti firearms rights law suggestion center. The funding is coming from tax dollars that could be much better spent addressing the actual issues that cause violence in general. Firearm deaths in Hawaii have always been and are still very low thankfully. We have a special community throughout the islands and yes there are bad people even in Hawaii. The vast majority of firearm related deaths or violent attacks are being carried out by criminals and illegally accessed firearms. This bill should be regarding all violent offenses and not just focusing on firearms, which is arguably far less then attacks made with one's body, knives, and other items including vehicles such as road rage incidents.

There is no representation for firearms owners who advocate for safe and responsible gun ownership. This fact is simply a horrible idea and proves to me that it's a us against them type of move that is designed to take away more rights but being a suggestion box for anti gun lawmakers who wish to destroy the second amendment in this state.

The state does not have a right to take away the second amendment. The right is designed to tell the state and lawmakers this fact. The unalienable right to keep and bear arms is a right and not a privilege. This bill seeks to collect one sided data and to promote a theology that cripples Americans from the right to self defense and it is inappropriate. I will say again that this should be regarding all violence in Hawaii and not focusing on a tool used to inflict it. The data collected doesn't even have to come from a verified source and it's basically a feel good center for echoing further disregard for the 2nd amendment and a financial tool to devise techniques to take away our rights. This is definitely a waste of tax payer money and is being directly used against us.

Our police departments and AG should simply do their jobs to promote public safety, arrest criminals and our courts and prisons should do their jobs to pass proper judgement and hold these criminals accountable. State funded programs to help youth, disenfranchised individuals and schools should help to shape and build up the community who needs it the most. This bill is not needed for them to do their jobs and unfortunately too many violent people only get a slap on the wrist for repeat offenses and then go on to commit more dangerous crimes. Again crimes with a firearm are not even a major factor is violence in Hawaii. We do not have major mass shootings here and that is most certainly not due to laws. That is a result of society as a whole. People are the factor that makes the result happen. We need to focus on people and not an object. Build up our youth and those who are down and out.

I understand that those who propose this bill think it will help but I strongly urge you all to use deeper thinking and not just walk a political party line. The office of gun violence prevention would be a political move, designed and ran by a one party government body in Hawaii with intentions to take away rights of law abiding citizens. I have said it before each year and will say it again. I am a law abiding citizen and firearm owner. Taking away my firearms or hindering my rights will never prevent a crime.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge you all to please vote NO on SB3040.

Mahalo,

Tenessa Cavitt

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:00:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This statement copied from Indivisible says it all:

- SB 3040 replaces the “Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission” with an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. The bill would task the new Office of Gun Violence Prevention with developing comprehensive strategies to prevent and minimize the risk of gun violence. The OGVP will be a hub of data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations to the Governor and legislature.
- Strong gun laws require robust implementation infrastructure. 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 to reduce gun violence in the state. A statewide office can 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.
- SB 3040 would establish an Office of Gun Violence prevention at the statewide level, bringing Hawai‘i in line with its peer gun safety states. Statewide Offices of Gun Violence Prevention have been created in at least 13 states, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:24:25 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Wingerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Creating and enforcing gun control laws is best practiced with a reliable database on facts associated with gun useage in our State. The creation of the committee in accordance with the passage of SB3040 is a necessary step in the right direction of the implementation of gun controls for the health and safety of all citizens.

Chair and Vice Chair Members of the Committee

I am writing in strong **opposition** to Senate Bill 3040, which proposes to replace the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with a new Office of Gun Violence Prevention (housed within the Department of the Attorney General for administrative purposes), led by a gubernatorial appointee, and appropriates unspecified funds for its operations.

While I support reasonable efforts to address genuine public safety concerns, including violence prevention, this bill is problematic for several reasons that directly undermine the rights of law-abiding gun owners, skew representation, and impose unnecessary taxpayer costs.

1. **Elimination of Balanced Representation and Potential Bias Against Law-Abiding Gun Owners** The current Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission includes diverse perspectives, which presumably allows for input from stakeholders across the spectrum—including those who value Second Amendment rights and lawful firearm ownership. Replacing it with a single "Office of Gun Violence Prevention" under the Attorney General removes any guaranteed or structured representation for firearm owners, civil rights advocates, or pro-Second Amendment viewpoints.

The new office's focus is narrowly on "prevent[ing] and minimiz[ing] gun violence," including suicide and mass shootings, with duties centered on data collection, program development, and policy recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. Without balanced input, this office risks becoming a one-sided entity that prioritizes restrictive measures targeting legal gun ownership rather than addressing root causes of violence (such as mental health, criminal enforcement, or socioeconomic factors). Law-abiding gun owners in Hawaii—who already face some of the strictest firearm laws in the nation—could see their rights further eroded through biased recommendations, such as expanded restrictions, registration schemes, or funding for anti-gun advocacy, without counterbalancing voices.

2. **Threat to Gun Owners' Rights and Second Amendment Protections** Hawaii's gun laws are already among the most restrictive in the U.S., and recent legal challenges (including ongoing scrutiny of state policies post-Bruen) highlight concerns about overreach. Creating a dedicated state office with a singular "gun violence prevention" mandate could lead to:
 - Increased advocacy for policies that treat lawful firearm possession as inherently problematic.
 - Data collection and analysis are framed in ways that stigmatize gun owners rather than criminals.
 - Recommendations that indirectly support further limitations on carry rights, purchase processes, or storage requirements—potentially conflicting with federal constitutional protections.

This restructuring appears to institutionalize an anti-gun bias in state government, marginalizing the perspectives of responsible firearm owners who use guns for self-defense, hunting, sport, or family protection.

3. **Significant Fiscal Costs to Taxpayers** The bill appropriates funds for the new office, including staffing (a director and likely support personnel), operations, data systems, program development, and outreach. Hawaii faces ongoing budget pressures, including high living costs and needs in education, housing, and infrastructure. Diverting taxpayer dollars to create a new bureaucracy—when the existing Commission could be reformed or better balanced if needed—is inefficient and wasteful.

Without clear cost estimates in the bill, this could result in hundreds of thousands (or more) in annual expenditures for salaries, office space, consultants, and initiatives that may not demonstrably reduce crime but instead fund advocacy aligned against constitutional rights. These funds would be better allocated to proven public safety measures, such as increased law enforcement resources or mental health services.

In summary, SB3040 dismantles a potentially more balanced commission in favor of a narrowly focused office that excludes meaningful representation for gun owners, risks advancing policies harmful to Second Amendment rights, and adds unnecessary costs during a time of fiscal restraint. I urge the Committee to **reject** or substantially amend this bill to ensure balanced stakeholder input and fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I respectfully request that this bill not advance.

Mahalo,

Jason T Wolford

808-870-1796

Jasontwolford@gmail.com

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:39:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlon Calventas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill.

I want safer communities, but this is heading in the wrong direction. SB3040 misuses taxpayer money by building a new government office that produces reports, collects data, and recommends policy—while cutting back the kind of balanced oversight the public deserves.

This bill creates an “Office of Gun Violence Prevention” under the Department of the Attorney General and puts it under a director nominated and appointed by the Governor. That’s power concentrated in one appointed position, not a transparent, multi-member commission with real checks.

Worse, SB3040 repeals the commission membership statute, HRS §134C-2. That repealed membership list included a guaranteed seat for “one representative from a firearm advocacy group”. So, lawful gun owners lose a required voice, and stakeholder balance becomes optional.

The bill also directs the office to collect relevant data from law enforcement and other government entities. It talks about redaction and confidentiality, but it does not lay out strong safeguards—clear limits on what data can be gathered, who can access it, how long it’s kept, audit requirements, or penalties for misuse. If we’re paying for more data systems, the guardrails should be airtight, not implied.

Stakeholder engagement is not required—the office “may” engage stakeholders. And the bill sets up a taxpayer-funded pipeline for more controls by requiring recommendations, including “any proposed legislation”.

Finally, it’s open-ended spending: an unspecified appropriation for a director, operating costs, and data-analysis equipment, with funding starting July 1, 2026, while the broader Act takes effect January 1, 2027.

Bottom line: taxpayers pay more, oversight drops, data collection expands, and lawful voices aren’t guaranteed. I respectfully ask you to oppose SB3040.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:00:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3040.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:33:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Estrella S Marin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Estrella Marin, I live here in hawaii and I support SB3040. I am onboard for the replacement of the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Appropriates funds. I also volunteer with Indivible of Hawaii.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:59:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB3040. I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:13:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona Eisa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee, I am writing you today in strong support of SB3040, as it relates to gun violence prevention.

- SB 3040 replaces the “Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission” with an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. The bill would task the new Office of Gun Violence Prevention with developing comprehensive strategies to prevent and minimize the risk of gun violence. The OGVP will be a hub of data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations to the Governor and legislature.
- Strong gun laws require robust implementation infrastructure. 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 to reduce gun violence in the state. A statewide office can 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.
- SB 3040 would establish an Office of Gun Violence prevention at the statewide level, bringing Hawai‘i in line with its peer gun safety states. Statewide Offices of Gun Violence Prevention have been created in at least 13 states, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois.

For the reasons listed above, I urge you to support SB3040. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Mona Eisa, Honolulu, HI

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:30:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill because its a waste of our tax dollars, with no oversight. It will be just an overpaid gun control group.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:55:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chester Holt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments: This bill in my opinion is a waste of tax dollars on a political appointment with unfettered access to funds for vague directives. There is little or no oversight in the bill for how these tax dollars are spent. No where in the bill does it address investigating if current gun laws are effective safeguards or infringing on rights. The changes to the commissions original goals actually include striking the statement "3) Maximize the sharing between the agencies represented on the commission and other appropriate stakeholders of data relevant to reducing gun violence and violent crimes;" suggesting that less transparency is the goal. It is concerning that this a political appointment which could lead to more corruption and partisan politics. There is also no stipulation the appointed individual has to have a background in law, or statistical analysis. I oppose the appropriations of tax dollars for vague virtue signaling. It is clear from the well understood statistics that Hawaii doesn't have a gun violence problem. There are many other infrastructure, mental health, and substance abuse related problems that need addressing.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:52:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB3040.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisable Hawaii

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:56:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Rowe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I oppose Sb3040 as it written and currently edited with a tremendous amount of sentence cross outs and misdirection in its own form .

without including the lawful firearms community members and representatives to the table almost certainly ensures that any measures proposed will be challenged and likely overturned, it's is a consistent trend with law makers who choose to propose legislation that restrictions gun rights for lawful citizens that is not inline with the second amendment, such poor planning and efforts only waste tax payer monies to defend and generally loose in the court system

I urge you all to drop this bill and form a positive relationship with the firearms advocates to find common ground And for the sake of all turn your attentions to fixing the housing crisis and the keeping criminals in prison along with drug reform rather than pursue these anticdotal efforts to restrict gun laws

mahalo

Ben rowe

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:19:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- SB 3040 replaces the “Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission” with an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. The bill would task the new Office of Gun Violence Prevention with developing comprehensive strategies to prevent and minimize the risk of gun violence. The OGVP will be a hub of data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations to the Governor and legislature.
- Strong gun laws require robust implementation infrastructure. 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 to reduce gun violence in the state. A statewide office can 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.
- SB 3040 would establish an Office of Gun Violence prevention at the statewide level, bringing Hawai‘i in line with its peer gun safety states. Statewide Offices of Gun Violence Prevention have been created in at least 13 states, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois.
- Thank you, Jane Aquino Indivisible Hawaii, Hawaii J20

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:35:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Arnold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not like that this bill eliminates muliti member commision and replaces it with a single member decision.

I do not agree that a seat for firearm owners is not garanteed

I do not agree that a office to recommend more gun laws is needed, it is also unconsitutional.

Data collection expansion is an invasion of privacy.

AND, I do not want more private financing involved in legislation of my constitutionally protected rights.

ALL NO!

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:58:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
steven a kumasaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

replacing a committee that actually had pro-gun representation with a single bureaucrat?

make it make sense...

strongly oppose

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:16:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am opposing this unconstitutional bill.

Thank you.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:36:57 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB3040 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

Strong gun laws require robust implementation infrastructure. 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 to reduce gun violence in the state. A statewide office can 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.

Mahalo, Gail Morrison

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:22:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you -- I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:10:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB 3040

Aloha Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB 3040.

This bill restructures state government in a way that reduces transparency and balanced oversight by eliminating a multi-member commission and replacing it with a single political appointee. It removes the only guaranteed seat representing firearm owners and civil-rights perspectives, while creating an office designed to recommend new firearm restrictions rather than objectively evaluate existing policies.

SB 3040 also expands data collection without clear standards or safeguards and adds new layers of bureaucracy and cost without evidence that it will improve public safety.

Hawai‘i deserves accountable, transparent, and balanced policymaking—not one-sided offices with unchecked authority. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 3040.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

Wai'anae resident

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:29:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Gun violence is out of control in this country and we need to do something about it. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:06:03 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB3040 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill replaces the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

This bill will establish an Office of Gun Violence Prevention at the statewide level, which will bring Hawai'i in line with its peer gun safety states including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois.

Addressing this issue will require an organized approach with tracking gun violence data, making data-driven legislative decisions for prevention, and assessing currently implemented laws and programs. This bill is a step in the right direction in working toward gun violence prevention.

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

Joie Yonamine, Manoa

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:41:38 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I grew up on the east coast listening to the Philadelphia news broadcasts. Literally the first ten minutes of each night's news was a recouting of all the murders and gun violence across the city. When I moved to Hawai'i 20 years ago, I was amused and delighted at how "lame" the evening news was. It was months before I heard my first report of a violent crime and even longer until I first heard a report of gun violence. That is sadly no longer the case. Gun violence reports are now common on the news, despite the state's relatively robust gun laws.

Strong gun laws require robust implementation infrastructure. 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 to reduce gun violence in the state. A statewide office can 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.

SB 3040 would establish an Office of Gun Violence prevention at the statewide level, bringing Hawai'i in line with its peer gun safety states. Statewide Offices of Gun Violence Prevention have been created in at least 13 states, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois.

I strongly support efforts to reduce gun violence, and data-driven approaches are the smartest and best way to get after this problem. I thank you for your support to make our state free of the scourge of gun violence that haunts the rest of our country. Mahalo for helping to keep ma and my family safe!

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:33:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Cabreira	Testifying for NRA Instructor, Big Island, Hilo	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this bill. I represent over a thousand students that all feel the same.

This bill makes it a one sided opinion and removes input from people who it will affect negatively. None of these laws affect criminals. Nor do they do anything to protect people as evidenced from past laws here, the mainland and in the world. Focus should be on mental health. The is the biggest factor in "gun violence" is suicide by gun. 2023 had 70 guns deaths in Hawai'i, 50 were suicide, 70%. The National avg is 64% of 47,000 deaths were suicide by gun. But I've lost friends to other methods, it's not the tool. Medical malpractice caused 250,000 deaths in the same year, 100 was here in Hawaii.

Please stop trying to pass feel good laws, that only law abiding citizens will follow and hinder, and criminals love.

OPPOSE this bill

Mahalo

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:01:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Galli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This legislation endangers civil rights by replacing a committee representing various viewpoints with a single political appointee. It enables unsupervised and unrestricted data gathering. It has no source of funding. It is a position which is designed to be ineffectual and corrupt.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:50:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:15:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am Opposed to SB3040 as it threatens my ability to exercise my right to keep and bear arms as granted by our creator and guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of American and Article 1, Section 17 of the Hawaii State Constitution which states. "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

SB3040 proposes to replace a committee of Law Enforcement, Attorneys, pro and anti gun advocates with a bureaucrat and staff.

To replace committee members that are already on the state and county payrolls with a new bureaucrat and staff, especially in this time of reduced tax collection, reduced tourism and reduced Federal funding to be a criminal waste of tax payer funds.

Further this new bureaucrat position will only be tasked with reducing violent gun crimes and apparently the State will no longer care about reducing other violent crimes that are committed with a knife, blunt instrument, hands, chains, and vehicles.

Again I am Opposed to SB3040 and as the Committee to vote no.

Thank You

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:21:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3040 stop making us criminals with anti gun bills .

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:34:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr retired Navy Veteran, who took a solemn oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic, and that oath didn't expire when I retired. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL SB-3040.

SB-3040 expands government bureaucracy without clear limits or accountability. It replaces a broad, multi-stakeholder commission with a permanent office housed under the Attorney General and led by a politically appointed director, plus additional staff. This centralizes power in a single office with a built-in incentive to continually justify its existence by recommending more laws, regulations, and spending, rather than focusing on enforcing the many gun laws already on the books.

Second, the bill grants this office broad authority to collect and analyze "relevant data" from law enforcement and other government entities. Even with redaction language, this kind of centralized data-gathering around firearms raises serious privacy concerns and opens the door to de facto registries, risk-scoring, and future restrictions targeting law-abiding gun owners. There is no balancing language recognizing the constitutional right to keep and bear arms or the legitimate use of firearms for self-defense.

Third, SB-3040 removes guaranteed representation for firearm owners and other diverse voices that existed under the prior commission structure. The old law required participation from a wide range of institutions, including at least one representative from a firearm advocacy group. In contrast, the new office is only required to "may" engage stakeholders, which means viewpoints critical of further gun control can simply be excluded. That is poor policy design for any office claiming to speak for "gun violence prevention" statewide.

Finally, Hawai'i already has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation and those laws are currently being tested in the courts. Creating a new, taxpayer-funded policy shop inside the Attorney General's office to generate more restrictions is premature, fiscally irresponsible, and likely to deepen, not resolve, constitutional conflicts.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to defer SB-3040 and decline to advance this bill.

Respectfully,

Brett Kulbis

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:42:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Deitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Michelle Deitz from Kamuela on Hawaii Island. I support SB3040 because 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 to reduce gun violence in the state. Thank you.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:00:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Oppose SB 3040. It is a page right out of the TRUMP playbook. It is not "government by the people" but government by privileged political elitistest.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:33:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Lorinc	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in

strong opposition to SB 3040.

Hawaii has a long and well documented history of passing unconstitutional firearm laws that later require correction by the courts, at significant cost to taxpayers and at the expense of taxpayers losing their constitutional rights in the interim.

This pattern is unacceptable.

SB 3040 continues that pattern by restructuring government authority in a way that removes oversight, eliminates balanced representation, and concentrates policy development within a single politically appointed office.

SB 3040 dismantles the existing

Gun Violence and Violent Crimes

Commission and replaces it with a single

director appointed by the Governor and housed within the Department of the Attorney General. This change eliminates a multi member body that previously

included law enforcement, public health officials, the judiciary, prosecutors, the public defender, academic experts, and **representation from both gun control advocates and firearm advocacy groups.**

By eliminating the statutory firearm

advocacy seat and other stakeholder

positions, **SB 3040 structurally excludes lawful firearm owners from the policy development process**, replacing balanced deliberation with centralized authority.

The bill does not require the

Office of Gun Violence Prevention to evaluate whether existing firearm laws are constitutional, evenly enforced, or effective. Instead, SB 3040 directs the office to collect data, build analytical capacity, and develop programs and recommendations aimed at further gun violence prevention policies and regulations, **without any requirement for constitutional review, policy neutrality, or measurable public safety outcomes.**

SB 3040 contains no explicit requirements

for evaluating constitutionality,

enforcement fairness, or whether proposed policies meaningfully reduce crime or violence. It also **contains no requirement for independent review or outcome based reporting to ensure accountability.**

While the bill references redaction of identifying information, it provides no detailed privacy standards governing data scope, retention, secondary use, auditing, or safeguards against misuse.

Most concerning, this bill advances a framework that directly implicates a constitutionally protected civil right. The Second Amendment is not ambiguous. The phrase shall not be infringed is not a policy preference or legislative guideline. It is a constitutional command. Yet Hawaii lawmakers have repeatedly enacted firearm legislation that exceeds constitutional limits, forcing lawful citizens to rely on the courts after rights have already been burdened.

As a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, I am deeply concerned that SB 3040 **institutionalizes a one sided policy** process that excludes lawful firearm owners while empowering an office with no statutory obligation to respect constitutional boundaries.

Finally, SB 3040 appropriates new funding, staffing, and equipment without evidence that replacing a representative commission with a single appointee will improve public safety. At a time of serious cost of living pressures, the Legislature should demand proof of effectiveness before expanding bureaucracy.

Hawaii deserves transparent, balanced, and accountable policymaking, not centralized offices designed to advance predetermined outcomes without constitutional guardrails.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **OPPOSE** SB 3040.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit

testimony.

Respectfully,

Kai Lorinc

Lifetime Member

National Rifle Association

Co-Producer HIRA NEWS

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:34:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Trombley	Testifying for Gifford's Gun Owners for Safety	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chariman and members,

My name is Susan Trombley. I am a gun owner. I am the mother of a school shooting survivor. I am a retired teacher who had a student in my 8th grade classroom with a gun. I am a domestic violence survivor.

I support SB3040 which would establish an Office of Gun Violence Prevention tasked with developing comprehensive strategies to prevent and minimize the risk of gun violence. Recently, we have seen an increase in gun violence in our state. We must increase our efforts to protect all citizens from gun violence. Safety for all citizens is necessary to protect everyone's right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. All of us must have the right to be free from the fear of gun violence.

According to Giffords Gun Owners for Safety research,

- * In the United States, more than 125 people die every day from gun violence.**
- * 25 million US adults have been threatened or nonfatally injured by an intimate partner with a firearm.**
- * Gun violence is the leading cause of death among all children in the US.**
- * Access to a gun makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed by an abusive intimate partner.**

I urge you to continue to keep our community safe.

Support SB3040. Mahalo.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:08:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill as it will give the serious issue of gun violence a central office to ensure that the laws passed to help prevent death by firearms are enforced and given fiscal backing.

Suicide has been a Nationwide cause of death that affects rural and urban citizens, Political affiliation or not you can be affected by the loss of a loved one.

Anger, hatred, greed (plus other dark reasons) are all drivers of the action to shoot someone. The more the State of Hawaii does to have safe gun laws and see they are enforced the better for the citizens of this Aloha State.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:48:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,**My name is Eric Hammond, and I live in Laie, born and raised.****I OPPOSE this bill.****I love this country and the amazing Constitution that was gifted to us by imperfect but wise men.****Part of that constitution is the checks and balances to keep everyone honest.****The bill that established this commission was already flawed, as violence is violence, whether using a car, firearm, knife, club, or spoon.****The additions added by this bill will eliminate several checks and balances that will result in bad policy, such as:****Eliminates a multi-member commission and replaces it with a single political appointee. Political appointees are rarely unbiased. They are appointed to follow their appointer.****Removes the only guaranteed seat for firearms owners and civil rights perspectives. Yes, firearms are a civil right.**

Creates an office to recommend new gun laws, not evaluate new ones. And those laws are guaranteed to be biased against those who exercise their Second Amendment right.

Expands data collection with no clear safeguards or standards. This is a dangerous practice and may interfere with privacy rights.

Adds MORE bureaucracy and spending without evidence that it will improve public safety.

This bill will reduce transparency in our government, which is never a good thing. We deserve fair and balanced government offices.

Mahalo

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:41:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Rivers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, we must stop gun violence in the state of Hawaii before it gets worse. I support creating an office of gun violence prevention - non profit groups and voluteers are not enough to address this issue... Gun violence should not be the #1 cause of death for children in the USA. That is so tragic.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:57:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please put every tool into action to limit gun violence in our state. As an educator, I fear for the day we suffer a school shooting. Don't wait for more tragedies -- be proactive and employ all avenues to protect our communities.

mahalo,

a member of Indivisible Hawai'i

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)
Hearing: Monday, February 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
Regarding: **SB3040 (Relating to Gun Violence Prevention)**
Voter Position: **OPPOSITION**

Senators of the PSM Committee,

I express my **opposition** to **SB3040 (Relating to Gun Violence Prevention)**.

Lack of Democratic Infrastructure

I oppose SB3040 because the proposed bill eliminates a balanced, transparent, multi-stakeholder oversight commission by repealing the existing commission structure in favor of a single, governor-appointed director within the Department of the Attorney General. This irresponsible and undemocratic design contradicts the core policy of Hawaii's Sunshine Law, reduces public accountability, enables one-sided agenda-setting that favors State agencies and lobbyists over constituents, and leaves serious, unaddressed risks to the privacy of firearm owners' personal data with no express articulation of data protection.

State-weighted Unilateral Decision Making

SB3040 removes previously mandated firearm-owner representation and public oversight, thereby removing representation from the hands of constituents. **SB3040** repeals Haw. Rev. Stat. § 134C-2, which currently requires a multi-member commission with diverse stakeholder seats, including a firearm-advocacy representative. The proposed **SB3040** centralizes authority in a single director appointed by the Governor and housed in the Attorney General's office and removes guaranteed, balanced stakeholder input that eliminates structural checks on unilateral policy development. Such one-sided construct disproportionately removes constituent voice and imposes the voice of the State with no effective check.

SB3040 only provides that the new Office of Gun Violence "may work with and engage stakeholders," replacing prior mandatory, seat-based representation. Such permissive language creates no enforceable right to participate and allows the Office to exclude firearm-owner perspectives at will while permitting special interest lobby groups pontificate their own perspectives and legislative agenda. The single-appointee configuration contradicts the very essence of the Sunshine Law. The last time I reviewed it, the Sunshine Law gave us this important reminder: "In a **democracy**, the **people** are vested with the ultimate decision-making power. Governmental agencies exist to **aid** the **people** in the formation and conduct of public policy."¹ Moreover, the law proceeds to emphasize "the formation and conduct of public policy—the discussions, deliberations, decisions, and action of governmental agencies—[that] shall be conducted as openly as possible" and exceptions must be strictly construed against closed meetings.² A sole-director "office" established under SB3040 is not a public "board" and evades open meeting. By replacing a commission (a classic "board") with a single director, **SB3040** functionally removes formal open-meeting obligations and minutes, depriving the public of notice, attendance, testimony, and transparent deliberations. Such structure contradicts the Sunshine Law's core policy and invites opaque policymaking on matters directly affecting constitutional rights. **SB3040** doesn't sound legitimate when compared against a law about transparency. This lack of representative, transparent oversight conflicts with democratic governance and should be considered unconscionable. Concentration of power in one appointee undermines

¹ Hawaii's Sunshine Law Compliance Criteria. Hawaii Revised Statutes, §92-1 Declaration of policy and intent. <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol02_Ch0046-0115/HRS0092/HRS_0092-0001.htm>

² Ibid.

legitimacy: democratic governance is advanced by plural, publicly accountable bodies—including seats for affected communities—engaging in open deliberations. **SB3040**'s shift from a representative commission to a single executive appointee eliminates plural oversight and transparency, thereby reducing trust and legitimacy in consequential recommendations about lawful firearm ownership and public safety.

Special Interests Galore

SB3040 places the Office within the Department of the Attorney General and tasks it with developing programs and legislative recommendations by amending HRS § 134C-3(c)(4), (e). Without counterbalancing stakeholder seats or Sunshine-governed deliberations, the agenda will predictably reflect limited agency priorities (such as enforcement, administrative convenience, expanded authority) rather than balanced community interests, including the rights of lawful firearm owners. Arguing that the new office will function solely “for administrative purposes,” does not remove the ominous, one-sided business dealing configuration that disenfranchises constituents.

Basic Violation of Rights (in Addition to Reduced Representation)

Agency-centric proposals that burden typical, law-abiding firearm owners risk running afoul of the Second Amendment as interpreted in the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in *Bruen* and *Heller*, which prohibit regulations inconsistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation and protect arms in common use for lawful purposes.^{3,4} A unilateral office insulated from public scrutiny is more likely to produce one-sided proposals that are costly to defend and legally vulnerable. I find it imprudent to create a unilateral office that fails to properly represent tax-paying constituents and then use tax-payer funds to defend the very same office for future abuses against Constitutional rights.

Failure to Articulate Effective Data Protection Safeguards

SB3040 utterly fails to specify enforceable personal-data protections, risking privacy violations, a baseline requirement that should be a foremost concern. The poorly worded and overall vague confidentiality promise without governance standards constitutes a blind faith style trust in the State government. Although **SB3040** states that the new Office “shall redact and keep confidential any information that directly or indirectly identifies individuals,” **SB3040** does not clearly define what constitutes “indirectly identifies,” “adopt recognized de-identification standards,” “establish data-minimization and retention limits,” “set access controls,” “require encryption,” “provide audit trails,” or “mandate breach response.” All the parameters are entirely notional and constituents are essentially asked to blindly trust that the State will protect constituent data, should any constituent data be used. Again, the **SB3040** is poorly worded and does not expressly preclude the acquisition of private constituent data, nor does the **SB3040** expressly articulate how such data will be protected and to what degree. For example, does de-identification entail anonymity identifiers combined with metadata scrubbing? What level of encryption will be used? Will the Office of Gun Violence allow encrypted messaging apps (such as Signal) to be used to transfer data? Who will review the data audit trails? How can the public be assured that such audit trails can be verified? When there is a data breach, why isn't there already a mandate to deal with such breach of data? Will there be restitution afforded to the public should any individual's personal data be compromised in a breach? There are insufficient answers to all of the questions and there is no notional “public safety” argument that can justify the establishment of the new Office of Gun Violence without answering all of the questions asked herein this testimony in great detail.

An Enduring Privacy Concern

Hawaii's State Constitution and statutes require stronger protections. Hawaii's Constitution expressly protects individual privacy, requiring a compelling state interest to infringe it. To remind the members of the Committee and the general public, Hawaii Constitution's Article I, § 6 states: “The right of the people

³ *N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n, Inc. v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. 1 (2022)

⁴ *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008)

to **privacy** is recognized and **shall not be infringed** without the showing of a compelling state interest. The legislature shall take affirmative steps to implement this right.⁵ Public records and personal-information handling are governed by the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA) and other statutes and exemptions that must be applied with care.⁶

Vote No

With all the problems presented, a No vote on SB3040 is in order. If the Committee elects to vote Yes, then the following amendments should be included:

1. Restoration of a representative, multi-member commission subject to Chapter 92 with reserved seats for firearm-owner and civil-liberties organizations.
2. Require open and transparent meetings with public notice, meeting minutes, public testimony, and recorded votes for all policy deliberations and recommendations in accordance with the Sunshine Law.
3. Codification of rigorous data-governance requirements, such as data-minimization, role-based access, encryption in transit/at rest, de-identification standards, purpose limitation, data retention and destruction schedules, third-party-sharing controls, periodic independent information system audits, individual notice and remedies for data breaches, and integration with UIPA and breach-notification statutes.
4. Require annual public reports detailing data sources, categories collected, requests, sharing, de-identification methods, privacy impacts, and all proposed legislative recommendations, with public comment opportunities before submission to the Legislature.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony.

Respectfully,

Ryan C. Tinajero

Voting Constituent from **Senate District 23**

⁵ <<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/constitution/#articlei>>

⁶ Hawaii Revised Statutes, §92F-13 Government records; exceptions to general rule. <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol02_Ch0046-0115/HRS0092F/HRS_0092F-0013.htm>

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:52:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwight T. Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Hawaii registered voter living in Honolulu and a member of IndivisibleHawaii. I am in favor of creating an Office of Gun Violence Prevention, and the tasking this bill would give to the new Office of Gun Violence Prevention for developing comprehensive strategies to prevent and minimize the risk of gun violence.

Written Testimony Opposing SB 3040

Bill: SB 3040

Position: Oppose

Submitted by: Anonymous

Testimony

I respectfully oppose SB 3040 as drafted. The bill replaces the statutorily constituted Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with an Office of Gun Violence Prevention led by an appointed director and staffed at the Attorney General's discretion. In doing so, it removes the commission's statutory membership structure and replaces guaranteed seats with discretionary stakeholder engagement, eliminating a legislatively guaranteed channel for private firearm-owner representation.

Hawaii already maintains a comprehensive regulatory framework for firearms. Concentrating policymaking authority in an appointed office while removing statutory stakeholder representation reduces transparency and routine, predictable input from lawful stakeholders. Novel administrative mechanisms that create discretionary barriers to possession, acquisition, or public carry risk constitutional scrutiny under *New York State Rifle & Pistol Assn. v. Bruen*, which requires that modern restrictions be consistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation. The legislature should avoid adopting broad administrative changes that meaningfully burden protected rights without narrowly tailored, evidence-based justification.

Requested Amendments

1. **Restore a statutory advisory seat** guaranteeing at least one representative of private firearm owners or a statewide firearm-owner organization on any advisory council to the office.
 2. **Grandfathering and mitigation:** Exempt currently valid permits and registrations from new re-certification or training mandates for a transition period of at least two years and require the office to provide or fund low-cost training options.
 3. **Data-driven rulemaking:** Require the office to publish, before adopting any rule that affects possession, acquisition, or public carry, a cost-benefit analysis and an identification of historical analogues consistent with the *Bruen* framework.
-

Conclusion

SB 3040 raises serious procedural and constitutional concerns and would further burden law-abiding residents unless amended to restore statutory stakeholder representation, mitigate transitional burdens, and require rigorous, historically grounded rulemaking.

Closing statement for testimony

Let us not trade the hard-won liberties enshrined in our Constitution for the illusion of safety through ever-expanding bureaucracy; protect the rights of law-abiding citizens, preserve meaningful stakeholder voice, and pursue only narrowly tailored, evidence-based measures that keep our communities safe without sacrificing our freedom.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:58:43 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Weidemann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There has been too much death in our country by the misuse of guns in the wrong hands. The creation of an office of gun violence prevention would go a long way to prevent more unnecessary killings.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 4:52:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is pushing more gun control and infringing on our 2nd Amendment. Stop this egregious bill.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:37:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Miyao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee,

Please oppose SB3040: Replaces the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

This bill would terminate the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission, composed of several members. It removes participation from the public and invests all powers into a single entity.

I urge you to oppose SB3040.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:51:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Yuen	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose SB3040 because it seeks to dismantle the Second Amendment. It takes away the voice of responsible and knowledgeable gun owners, hunters, and sportsmen. It also uses language that asserts guns are the cause of violent crime rather than the socio-economic factors and the weak judicial system. Many of those that use guns for crime are repeat offenders. The "catch and release approach" to criminal behavior is not effective and should be changed.

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:27:15 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm writing today in support of SB3040 to establish and appropriate funds for an Office of Gun Violence Prevention. A statewide office will support Hawaii's gun violence prevention goals at multiple stages — from gun violence data collection that can inform policy making to implementation assessments of existing laws. Let's be strategic now, to prevent and minimize gun violence, and keep Hawaii known for its aloha, not its gun deaths like the mainland.

Sincerely,

Allegra Giacchino

Honolulu 96816

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:46:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Muneoka-Nagy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Removing law abiding citizens from the policy making process just creates a one sided government. The government is supposed to work for the people, not strip them of their constitutional rights.

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:25:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The rights of law-abiding gun owners like me, believe our constitutional protections demand real checks and balances, and support strict limits on centralized government power.

I'm submitting written testimony opposing SB 3040.

This bill would eliminate the current multi-member Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission—which includes diverse viewpoints, including representation from law-abiding firearm owners—and replace it with a single Office of Gun Violence Prevention run by a director appointed by the Governor and housed in the Department of the Attorney General.

I see this as a move to remove balanced representation, reduce accountability, and centralize authority in ways that could sideline Second Amendment perspectives in policymaking.

I oppose this bill.

Keep Hawaii free from tyranny.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:10:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
davin asato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Davin Asato and I am a resident of Kahului, Maui. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to **SB3040**, which seeks to establish a permanent Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of the Attorney General.

While the stated goal of reducing violence is important, I oppose this specific measure for the following reasons:

- **Concerns Over Centralization:** Moving from a broad, multi-member commission to an office headed by a single Director appointed by the Governor concentrates too much power within the Executive Branch. A commission allows for a wider variety of perspectives and checks and balances that a single office lacks.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** This bill requests an unspecified appropriation of general funds to staff and operate a new administrative office. At a time when Hawaii faces significant cost-of-living and infrastructure challenges, I believe these funds would be better utilized for direct community services or existing law enforcement resources rather than creating new bureaucracy.
- **Data Privacy:** I have concerns regarding how this office will collect, store, and analyze data regarding law-abiding citizens. There is insufficient language in this bill to guarantee that this office will not infringe upon the privacy rights of Hawaii's residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **hold this bill** and refrain from passing it out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

Davin Asato

136 West Hawaii Street

Kahului HI, 96732

808-205-4616

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:47:31 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Those are unelected beurocrats who will work to terminate people's rights.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:15:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of Hawai‘i Kai, I strongly support SB3040, I think we greatly need an office of gun violence prevention given the rise of gun violence in different areas on the island. I believe the state should appropriate funds to run it.

Mahalo,

Rachel Logan

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:57:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Even	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3040

Tina Marie Even

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:47:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I HEARTILY support this biill as a long time resident of Hawaii.

Not because I want guns taken away. I respect the intent of the Second Ammendment. It was put in place to protect militias and resist tyranny. The founders feared standing armies and wanted citizens armed as a last check on government power.

Ironically, The U.S. now has a large, permanent, professional military – exactly what the founders feared – justified by modern threats, global defense, and logistics they couldn't imagine.

Furthermore, guns then were slow, single-shot muskets and pistols—muzzle-loaded, inaccurate, took ~20–30 seconds to reload, no rapid fire. Mostly for militia duty, hunting, and basic self-defense.

Today in Hawaii, a legal, modern, semi-automatic rifle can fire **dozens of rounds without reloading**.

Clearly, the world is different now than it was then, and the original militia-based logic of the Second Ammendment no longer maps cleanly onto reality.

While we still need to limit legal rifle rounds in my opinion, I am proud of how strict Hawaii's gun laws are and it makes me feel safer.

Having a clear picture of gun violence in the islands, which this bill aims to do, will help us stay on track and improve our gun laws to keep everyone safe. There is no reason the intent of the Second Ammendment would conflict with this aim and I urge you to vote YES.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Davidson
Moloa'a, Kauai

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members:

I am testifying in support of SB3040.

I'm originally from Hilo and I am a physician with a background in public health and healthcare quality improvement. Prior to returning to Hawai'i, I spent many years in Missouri, a state with high rates of gun violence, working to improve community health in collaboration with academic faculty, a regional hospital system, and community organizations.

From that experience, I can attest that when gun deaths occur, these deaths affect the whole community. Not just the immediate family and friends, but workplaces, schools, and anywhere people live, learn, worship, work, and play. In addition to the toll of grief and fear, there are economic costs as well, incurred as organizations try to prevent violence in their workplaces and as healthcare and mental health treatment needs grow.

I can also tell you that intervention efforts that are based in solid community-level data and that have a coordinating "backbone" agency are more effective and less wasteful than disparate, unfocused efforts.

Without data to determine what type of gun deaths—homicides, suicides, or unintentional shootings— are occurring in our communities, it is difficult to determine which interventions would be most effective and where they should be deployed.

Having an Office of Gun Violence Prevention would allow the collection of sufficient data to determine which types of gun violence are affecting Hawai'i's communities, allowing resources to be spent in the areas where they are most needed, and could support coordination of efforts to avoid duplication of services.

I urge you to support SB3040.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elna Nagasako, MD, PhD, MPH
Makiki

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:00:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew J. Vioria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Andrew. I am a born and raised resident of Maui County. I am a firearms owner out of genuine interest and in memory of my older stepbrother, who passed away from colon cancer back in 2023. He's the one who really pushed me into learning more about firearms and who got me interested in the hobby of collecting firearms and improving my marksmanship. And most recently I've been interested in getting into the local IPSC scene and taking action-oriented shooting training courses. When my brother passed away in 2023, I was devastated not just by his death but also by the fact that I couldn't inherit any of his firearms to remember him by with these important parts of him and pieces of his life. In part due to the strict firearms rules and stigma against firearm ownership here that discouraged any normal citizen from going through the firearm acquisition process to practice a right that should be guaranteed to them as United States citizens, me included, before I informed myself of the reality of firearm ownership here and went through the difficult process of getting my permits to acquire. Permits to practice a right.

I don't know the fate of his guns and things after he passed, as his family have since distanced themselves. His things were likely sold off to pay for his expenses left behind posthumously, or at worst, turned in to be destroyed for gift cards that were hardly worth what they were in appraised value and value to myself. I would pay almost anything to own a firearm that was once his. And the fact that they were firearms I feel no one has ever really stopped to think about how hard this death and having a lack of anything to remember him by really hit me, guns or not they were still important artifacts of his life that I wanted to carry forward with me. Even if he was only a stepbrother of mine, related only in blood, and his relationships were estranged, he would take time out of his life to spend his days with me over a shared interest, and that alone is why he was as important in my life as his own family was to him. It's why it crushes me that without anything tangible to hold and remember him by, I feel I no longer have a connection to that life anymore. I'll never have the opportunity ever again to go to the range and spend the afternoon with him talking about the things he loved, to spend time shooting the same guns that got me into this hobby in the first place. All because of these suffocating rules that are piled onto gun ownership and the overall stereotyping of gun owners as unhinged movie killers and politically motivated militants. It's a perverted and warped stereotype perpetuated by media turning a hobby and an important part of our constitutional rights as United States citizens into something that's theater and completely untrue. Firearm ownership and passing on the knowledge of them with firearm safety should be an important part of daily life, as it can be a hobby for many of the local firearms owners. From hunting to sports shooting to even for the express purpose of defending one's own family and self. We are owed those unobstructed and inalienable rights as United

States citizens, and it's a shame we are discouraged from furthering such a culture in Hawai'i, one where we are informed and knowledgeable in the importance of firearm ownership and safety. All of this out of a misplaced sense of good intentions at best against an umbrella term of "gun violence" and "common sense" gun laws that leave the majority living uninformed, indifferent, and even in fear of firearms that permits and eventual disarmament sounds pretty on the surface. I firmly believe that there should be a greater effort and funding for free public initiatives and programs that educate the public on firearms safety and self-defense, especially for our legislators who've needlessly put our money into unconstitutional anti-gun policy. It would lead to significantly fewer firearm-related injuries and deaths, let alone firearm-related crimes, when people have knowledge and the ability to fight back when they need it. Then there would be no pistol magazine restrictions, no "assault pistol" designation, no mandatory safety courses, and certainly no vampire laws that ban concealed carry everywhere public despite issuing concealed carry permits after being pushed to by the Bruen supreme court ruling, shifting away from the lengthy essays citizens were made to write detailing why they should be giving permission to practice conceal carry in exchange for mandatory "safety" courses and invalidating all past certifications overnight. We don't need restrictions that punish the law-abiding citizens while criminals ignore them. We need to crack down on crime and punish violent criminals and repeat offenders with a no-nonsense, clear-cut policy.

And for those reasons, I oppose SB3040 flat out. This bill seeks to replace the *Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission* with the *Office of Gun Violence Prevention*, appropriating funds to such. The bill replaces a multi-chamber commission with a single political appointee. It also removes the only guaranteed seat for firearm owners and civil-rights perspectives in favor of an echo chamber that's for gun control and bans. It also expands data collection with no real standards and/or safeguards, and it adds new bureaucracy and more pointless spending, likely all under the disingenuous promise of safety and good intentions. There is little proof that this will improve public safety, and I have great skepticism for this proposed new office. This restructuring reduces oversight, removes informed input from multiple perspectives, and creates an environment that'll foster more firearm restrictions without accountability and perspective.

I do not want people who don't own firearms nor take the time to go out to shoot them at our few outdoor ranges and go out to learn more about firearms and firearm safety to speak and act on behalf of myself as well as other Hawai'i gun owners. Not especially if they haven't taken the time to immerse themselves with the small but vocal 2A community; otherwise we would not have these oppressive and unconstitutional gun laws here in Hawai'i. I don't want someone with no community insight from gun owners to decide on and further restrict my Second Amendment rights even further as a law-abiding United States citizen and Hawai'i resident living in one of the states with the strictest firearm legislation in the nation. To me, having a blatantly unconstitutional policy involving a stateside gun registry and needing permission for a natural-born right to own and acquire firearms as a United States citizen while the ATF themselves are under investigation and scrutiny for having an under-the-table national gun registry is not a bragging right; it is something we should be ashamed of. Rights should never be turned into a privilege. Nor a privilege that's gated behind a steep monetary and time commitment cost for most. Ever since 2024, in response to Bruen, this state requires mandatory safety courses costing on average \$200 for a completion affidavit that only lasts 4 years. And even then, you can still get blocked off a right you legally should be able to practice because our local PD can just decide

to not issue permits at all and close up for what could be an indeterminate amount of time over something like the weather on little to no notice which is insane to me. Just this Monday I spent my lunch break helping a friend who just got their hunter's education certificate go to get their permit to acquire firearms permit, but the building was closed! Public government services were out due to the weather. So what happens when one shut down day becomes many and the others that day who were denied their natural born rights because they can't get permission from PD for something they are already federally legally allowed to own. There is already a federal NICS background check when you buy firearms in the first place isn't there? Does it set the precedent that your other constitutional rights are to be ignored due to the weather if the State of Hawai'i deems it restrictable due to the Spirit of Aloha? Our Keiki? The permit system and the two week waiting period we have is ridiculous to me, because none of it will stop criminals. It only disarms and inconveniences us, the law abiding citizens, for no other reason than to inconvenience us with layers of bureaucracy. If it was really all about safety then why make acquiring a firearm to protect ourselves so difficult and out of reach for the average citizen of Hawai'i? Why require courses people can't afford them both money and time wise, with said people generally being the ones who'd want a firearm to defend themselves against violent criminals? And why is the decision of whether or not we can practice our second amendment rights up to a police department that can, on little to no notice, close up when the weather is bad and flat out stop issuing permits to acquire to people. Permits to our rights as if they were a privilege. Will we eventually need permits to practice our first amendment rights in the state of Hawai'i too? Like in the UK and France where you can get arrested for criticizing the government.

Consider the fact that we celebrate Hawaiian, as well as all Polynesian, culture here on the islands; we look to our small yet vocal and passionate native Hawaiian population who live here for their opinions on where we put our buildings and roads. Does that courtesy not extend to all who live here with ways of life and hobbies they are passionate about? All this effort that's being put into scapegoating guns as the big bad should instead be put towards harsher punishments against criminals; dissuading and making criminals think twice is where our focus should be. All the testimony I've heard so far in favor of upholding these unconstitutional and overstepping gun policies has shown me that the only appeal for these gun control bills is out of good but misplaced intentions, emotion, and political alignment. I empathize with those who are victims of gun violence; many do. People don't deserve to die at the hands of another for insignificant things such as opinions and petty disputes, let alone ego. Nor should they be left alone unseen with their inner demons. But the way our legislators are going about it is all wrong. Because it's not the guns themselves that kill people; it's people who kill people. Bad people will still find ways to do bad things regardless of access to firearms; in fact, they'll still find a way to access them illicitly with or without the state's "permission" to a right. Restricting, even banning, guns is a slippery slope. Today it may be guns, but tomorrow it'll be knives, and soon even our First Amendment right to free speech will no longer be protected. All the while criminals still have their illicit guns.

Hawai'i in recent years has gone out of its way to attack our local law-abiding gun owners with harsher and harsher anti-gun legislation that has done nothing to stop gun violence because these performative and pointless money-sinking options do nothing to stop gun violence. If our local government wants ways to actually stop gun violence and people from killing themselves and each other? We need to put that money and action into actually stopping and preventing crime at

the root. Use that money on pushing for mental health awareness, put it into programs that make people aware of firearms and firearm safety, and most importantly, go after criminals with harsher penalties and deterrents against firearm use, or any deadly weapon use for that matter. Make criminals afraid of people; do not embolden them by disarming your populace.

The second amendment shall not be infringed. Full stop. Hawai'i deserves transparency and accountability. SB3040 is bad policy.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:20:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Windward Oahu, and I support this bill. Other states with a dedicated Office of Gun Violence Prevention office have successfully used data they collect to reduce gun violence. Anything we can do in Hawai'i to help prevent gun violence is a good use of precious taxpayer dollars. Thank you for your consideration.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 3:00 pm

Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - SB 3040, RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, Sen. Hashimoto representing my district, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years. I am writing today in **strong support of SB 3040**, Relating to Gun Violence Prevention, which Replaces the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

In the mid-1990's, I was involved with the Hawai'i Firearms Control Coalition and the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition which were lead organizations in working to address gun violence as a public health crisis. I am proud that the efforts of the coalitions succeeded in passing substantive gun violence prevention measures at the time that have continued to place Hawai'i amongst the leaders nationwide in the effort to minimize the morbidity and mortality associated with guns.

Senate Bill 3040 will create a new, statewide Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which will develop comprehensive strategies to prevent and minimize the risk of gun violence and serve as a hub of data gathering and analysis to inform gun violence programs and policy recommendations to the governor and the legislature. Thirteen gun safety states, including California, Washington, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois have already created statewide Offices of Gun Violence Prevention. It is time for Hawai'i to join our peer states in creating a statewide Office that will help ensure reduction of gun violence.

Living in Wailuku, I have seen the increased presence of guns and how they impact our community. When I owned and operated a small family business in the Happy Valley neighborhood in the early 2000's, we never had concerns about violent crime. Gun-related violence or even the presence of guns was unheard of, and Happy Valley has a reputation as a rough neighborhood. Things have changed over the past twenty years. Now we witness people carrying guns and we see gun violence. At my family business, there was even an armed robbery where staff were robbed at gunpoint. This would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. My daughter lives and works at the family business in Happy Valley now. I am concerned for her safety if the presence of guns and gun violence continues to escalate.

We must take action now to stem the rising tide of gun violence on Maui, where we are seeing a criminal element that has access to guns and is willing to use them. The successes of the firearms control coalition more than thirty years ago laid a foundation that SB 3040 is designed to build upon. I want to see the Office provide policy leadership, ensuring our gun laws are enhanced to reduce gun violence as effectively as possible. I am encouraged that the proposed statewide Office can advance Hawai'i as a gun violence prevention leader for the next thirty years and help reduce gun related crime, morbidity and mortality. I respectfully request that you vote in **support of SB 3040** and help Hawai'i re-emerge as a leader in gun safety and violence prevention.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:49:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J. Cole	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

3040 is bad policy and would only inhibit the free exercise of citizens' Constitutional Rights while doing nother to avert crime.

V/R

Kevin J. Cole, Col USAF Ret.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:49:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support creation of an Office focused on the prevention of gun violence in Hawaii.

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:51:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please create an office of gun violence prevention

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:57:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Justice, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of Hawaii and member of Indivisible and as a retired physician who has seen the effects of gun violence first-hand, I strongly support SB3040. The State needs an office of gun violence to improve the State's efforts to reduce gun violence.

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:04:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Keilman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, mahalo

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:23:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB3040. While framed as a reorganization and funding measure, the bill restructures gun policy oversight in a way that raises serious constitutional, administrative, and public safety concerns. SB3040 replaces the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with a new Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Attorney General's office and appropriates public funds to support it.

SB3040 creates a centralized Office of Gun Violence Prevention with appointed leadership and broad authority to collect data, develop programs, and make recommendations to the legislature and governor. It removes the multi-member structure of the existing commission and substitutes a single director appointed by the governor.

This structural change raises due process concerns because it concentrates decision-making authority and policy influence over firearms and violence prevention into a single politically appointed position. Multi-member commissions provide balanced input from diverse perspectives; replacing that with one political appointee undermines pluralistic governance and invites policy capture. Courts have recognized that the legitimacy of regulatory institutions stems in part from inclusive representation and procedural fairness.

SB3040 also appropriates general revenues for staffing and operations. Public funds should be spent on **evidence-based interventions that demonstrably reduce violence**, not on organizational restructuring with uncertain outcomes. The U.S. Supreme Court in *Heller* affirmed that states may regulate firearms consistent with the Second Amendment, but such regulation must respect constitutional rights and be grounded in legal tradition and evidence. Policies that shift administrative power without clear legal safeguards risk exceeding appropriate governmental authority.

Further, the bill's data collection and program development language lacks clear limits or judicial oversight. Data regarding gun ownership, use, and enforcement can implicate privacy and due process unless tightly constrained. The courts have cautioned against broad data-gathering schemes without adequate protections for individual rights.

There is also no persuasive evidence that centralizing authority over gun violence prevention within the Attorney General's office will measurably improve public safety outcomes compared to current structures. In the absence of demonstrated effectiveness, major structural changes and ongoing appropriations are not justified.

Public safety policy must be constitutionally sound, transparent, and based on evidence of real benefit. **SB3040 fails to meet these standards** by concentrating authority, weakening balanced oversight, and appropriating funds without clear evidence of improved safety.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose SB3040.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:54:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strongly In Opposition

Klayton Kubo

Waimea, Kaua'i

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:02:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strong;y OPPOSE this legislation. Thios bill only makes it harder for law-abiding citizens to excercise their rights. It does nothing to deter criminal behavior.

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:27:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB 3040.

I am 71 years old and have spent most of my working life in lower- and mid-level management positions in food service, retail, and safety — 35 of those years here in Hawaii, on Maui, the Big Island, and the last 23 years on Oahu. I am not an attorney or policy expert. My perspective comes from decades of operational leadership, supervision, and safety compliance. In every leadership role I held, transparency, accountability, and stakeholder input were essential to maintaining trust and preventing costly mistakes. Those same principles apply here.

The question before us is not whether violence should be addressed — it should. The question is whether SB 3040 improves governance or weakens it.

SB 3040 abolishes the existing Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission and replaces it with a single executive director appointed by the Governor and housed within the Department of the Attorney General. In its current form, the commission includes law enforcement, the judiciary, public health officials, academic experts, and representation from both gun violence prevention advocates and firearm advocacy organizations. While not perfect, that structure guaranteed balanced participation.

This bill removes that representation.

When public policy affects constitutionally protected rights, structured citizen participation is not optional. Eliminating stakeholder seats while expanding executive authority reduces transparency and public trust.

SB 3040 centralizes authority without requiring independent oversight, measurable public safety outcomes, constitutional review, or defined legislative reporting standards. It expands data collection authority without clearly defining retention limits, privacy safeguards, or audit requirements.

Hawaii has seen firearm statutes subjected to costly judicial correction. That history should encourage stronger front-end safeguards — not fewer.

Public safety and constitutional accountability must operate together. SB 3040 concentrates authority, reduces citizen participation, and expands discretion without sufficient structural guardrails.

Given these reasons, I oppose SB 3040 and kindly request the Committee to defer or reject it unless there is genuine transparency, independent oversight, and a balanced representation of measures.

Respectfully submitted,

John Terry

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:41:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB3040. Thank you!

LATE

SB-3040

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:34:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Godfrey Akaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it will be a total waste of tax payers money. The support for strengthening families within our communities is the answer. Reducing poverty by irradicating fraud and abuse of our tax dollars. And community support for broken families through sports and religious programs. You should even consider allowing prayer back in schools. Legislators need to reduce over spending support families instead of complaining and worrying about the federal government politics and drama in other states. Fix our economy by supporting local businesses instead of promoting foreign owned. And last but not least, support law abiding citizens by allowing them to become responsible certified concealed carriers. All what i have stated will reduce gun violence. Mahalo

Dennis M. Dunn

Kailua, HI 96734

dennismdunn47@gmail.com

LATE

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

**RE: SB 3040, RELATING TO Gun Violence Prevention VICTIM INFORMATION
AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND**

HEARING: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 16

Good afternoon, Chair Fukunaga and Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs. I am providing testimony in **Strong Support of S.B. 3040**. This Bill is intended to replace the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) as well as establishing an appropriation for that purpose. The OGVP would be placed in the Department of the Attorney General for administrative purposes.

Recent incidents of gun violence in Hawai'i have shaken our complacency as a location that sees little of the extremes of gun violence that have consistently plagued the Continental U.S. As we in Hawai'i struggle to develop effective strategies to stem the growing tide of gun violence we need cross disciplinary data and policy development to serve as the basis for pro-active gun violence prevention measures. The OGVP is envisioned as a primary source of data gathering and analysis that can provide the Governor, State Departments, and the Legislature with the guidance necessary to develop the leadership needed to effectuate legislation and policies aimed at reducing and eliminating gun violence in our state. A plague of gun violence is as devastating to Hawai'i as any disease pandemic and measures designed to prevent gun violence from infecting our population are as important as vaccines are to combatting contagious diseases. The development of an effective pro-active strategy of gun violence prevention relies on a focused effort that brings together comprehensive data collection and analysis which the OGVP can hopefully provide. Contrary to the concerns of some who oppose this measure the purpose of this proposed Office is the elimination of gun violence, not guns. Throughout my fifty-year career in victim assistance I have seen the trauma and suffering of far too many families who are torn apart when gun violence strikes in communities across the state.

Please give us an important new tool to assist in our struggle to eliminate gun violence in Hawai'i by voting to **support S.B. 3040**. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

LATE

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my comments on SB3040, including a recommendation that committee members vote “No” to any proposal to amend HRS 134 to exclude AG work on reducing violent crime.

The rationale for my recommendation is simple: erasing the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission and replacing it with an Office of Gun Violence Prevention will do little to decrease the amount of gun violence our communities have experienced or lessen the amount of interpersonal violence that leads to violence perpetrated with a gun.

What this change will do is create more of a chasm between those working to reduce gun violence and those seeking to invoke their Second Amendment rights.

The change will mean that Hawai'i's elected and community leaders will focus solely on gun violence, while ignoring the many forms of interpersonal violence - from school bullying to experiencing domestic violence - that are highly correlated with gun violence.

I don't take this issue lightly.

As many of you may know, I lost my only daughter to domestic related gun violence. My daughter was found dead in her bathroom with a single bullet to the back of her head.

Yes, it was her husband's firearm that made it easier for the perpetrator to kill her. Yet, the perpetrator - likely her husband - was never apprehended for the crime and instead was allowed to blame my daughter for her own death.

Instead of undermining the GVVCC and removing any focus related to violent crime, the GVVCC should be more concerned with facilitating community input as it pertains to interpersonal violence.

The GVVCC can do this by fulfilling the two community appointments it has failed to do since the passage of Act 74 in 2020.

The GVVCC could also do this by sponsoring a law to hold owners of firearms liable if their firearm is used in the commission of any crime or firearm related injury, including an alleged suicide. I perceive that holding gun owners liable will reduce the instances of people gaining access to lethal means or being blamed for their own deaths.

The AG and the GVVCC can also improve community input by not allowing themselves to be distracted with politics, and resisting the well intentioned urge to appease persons who already work in the Governor's office; persons who have been disrespectful to survivors of gun violence, like me, just because I came to have disagreement with the political and social tactics of Moms Demand Action.

I am including an excerpt from a December 2024 letter to Hawai'i legislative leadership, which refers to the lack of an appointment of community members to the GVVCC, yet

doesn't indicate why this is the case or why the AG's office thinks that removing any work related to violent crime would make the work of reducing gun violence easier.

I don't believe the change will reduce gun violence.

In fact, this survivor of gun violence perceives the move to focus only on gun violence prevention to be a myopic political move that will not accomplish the promised goal of reducing gun violence and will instead antagonize Second Amendment adherents.

Despite their hard work and their historical responsiveness to my input, somehow it seems that the AGs office doesn't know how to fully engage survivors of gun violence, like me - who typically support the AG's efforts - or firearm enthusiasts.

Instead of working directly with survivors like me or Second Amendment advocates, to find ways to bring our community together to reduce overall interpersonal violence, it appears the AG's office would prefer to work with high paid social media consultants who never attended school in Hawai'i, data analysts and political agents from New York.

Every time I get a fundraising email from Moms Demand Action or Everytown I am reminded that MDA does nothing to financially support - and very little to emotionally support - survivors of gun violence, instead using donations to fund political campaigns.

After I called MDA out for their failure to acknowledge that local culture is NOT the same as culture on the continent and after MDA failed to take action when I was sexually harassed by one of their gay female volunteers, I lost my position as the MDA Hawai'i volunteer legislative lead and lost the Everytown survivor speaker fellowship I had worked for a year to earn.

Volunteering on my deceased daughter's behalf was supposed to be about working to prevent other families from losing their loved ones and I ended up feeling abused by MDA and ET. How poho.

The Hawai'i AG has the opportunity to do the right and apolitical thing: end any apparent quest to focus solely on gun violence and work with the local community to identify grass roots led strategies to reduce the interpersonal violence that can lead to violence perpetrated with a firearm.

For example, Senator Awa has an entire wall with lists of after school activities that everyone on this committee should consider as affordable, common sense violence prevention strategies.

On the west end, the community has come together and is working with their elected officials and law enforcement to address youth involved gun violence. More needs to be done to support these communities and provide them with the resources - not give more money to politicians, spin masters or statisticians.

Hawai'i definitely needs to address the uptick in gun violence, especially youth involved gun violence, and I ask that this committee vote to hold the AG's office responsible for carrying out Act 74 by voting "No" to any proposal to remove the community from the effort to find solutions to prevent various forms of interpersonal violence, including violence perpetrated with a firearm.

Mahalo for your service and your consideration,

Ilima DeCosta

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Excerpt from the AGs letter to legislature

"December 5, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura

President and Members of the Senate Speaker and Members of the

Thirty-Third State Legislature House of Representatives

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

...

No appointments/selections were made for the following members required pursuant to section 134C-2 (b)(10) and (11), HRS:

One representative from a group that advocates for stricter gun safety laws; and

One representative from a firearm advocacy group."

### III. Activities of the GVVCC

(2) Discussed the repeal of chapter 134C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). It was noted that there were committees and groups with goals and membership that overlap those of the GVVCC. The commission recommended merging the Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission with the Data Sharing Working Group established by Act 157, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023. Senate Bill No. 3042/House Bill No. 2353 (2024), introduced as part of the Administration package, would have accomplished that merge, and it was agreed to allow the Chair of the Commission to propose modifications to the bill as it progressed through the legislative process. No commission members opposed the decision."