



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 950, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SAFETY ACT.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 **TIME:** 2:05 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Amy Murakami, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to amend chapter 28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding to part I a new section to establish in the Department a program responsible for issuing credentials to qualified retired law enforcement officers pursuant to the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, as amended (LEOSA or "Act").

The Department's intent is to create a uniform statewide program that would be well regulated and operated with public safety as a priority, while also streamlining multi-island travel by retired law enforcement officers. Under the LEOSA certification program, retired officers may be certified only if they pass standardized firearms qualification testing, a medical exam every two years, and a mental health clearance every year.

This bill will give the Department statutory authority and ability to promulgate rules to ensure qualified retired law enforcement officers are properly certified to carry concealed firearms safely, and clarifies that the Department is the agency responsible for issuing credentials pursuant to LEOSA requirements.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.



Chris Lee, Chair
Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HEARING: Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 2:05pm

RE: HB950 HD1 Relating to the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act

Aloha Members of the House Committee,

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition OPPOSES HB950 HD1.

We support the intent of HB950 HD1 to place more law-abiding gun owners in public to keep the peace and defend themselves, and others, against criminals. However the Hawaii Firearms Coalition opposes this bill because we feel every law-abiding person must have the option of carrying a handgun for self-defense, not just former law enforcement. In fact former law enforcement personnel would benefit should the legislature pass a "shall issue" or "constitutional carry" for the public in Hawaii with reciprocity agreements to carry in other states. This would relieve former law enforcement of LEOSA's overly burdensome training and administrative requirements.

49 other states observe the right of the public to carry concealed handguns for self-defense. 14 of those states observe constitutional carry where the law abiding can carry handguns in public without any permits. Hawaii is the lone exception whereas permitting is allowed by law (HRS 134-9), but police departments do not issue any permits and therefore no law-abiding member of the public is allowed to carry a handgun to protect themselves. Please pass "shall issue" or "constitutional carry" for concealed carry weapons.

For these reasons the Hawaii Firearms Coalition Opposes HB950 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake
Director, Hawaii Firearms Coalition
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Email: todd@hifico.org

HB-950-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:16:19 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/27/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Isaacson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is an excellent idea to have more qualified armed individuals in the state to assist the police and inhibit criminals.

HB-950-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:19:02 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/27/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Is credentials for active law enforcement or retired leo? Please clarify in text. Thank you.

HB-950-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 12:03:33 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/27/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a retired Dept of Public Safety employee who has been out of the department since 2013, and though I left the department well for the most part, there are still offenders who were in my care who had issues with me as their counselor. Even while I was there, some of those offenders who had issues with me had made verbal threats towards me and my family, and although, I reported these kinds of things to supervisors, they can only provide so much protection. As such, I went through training and got the certification to own and possess a handgun with my spouse and sons. Protection of my family and myself at home is one thing, but out on the street, I have always felt vulnerable and open to attack. Also I have had some limited training on how to morandize and arrest offenders. That was part of our basic training to becoming a public safety officer/staff member at the time I was employed. I also felt vulnerable when conducting house call and work visits to insure offenders were compliant with Public Safety regulations and State of Hawaii Revised Statues. We were always sent out unarmed and not protected. Never could understand that thinking. I had a few close calls, even coming upon an offender who had ammunition in his possession. Fortunately, my partner at that time and I were able to take him into custody and charge him both administratively and legally.