

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

March 30, 2021

H.B. No. 31: RELATING TO FIREARMS

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender respectfully submits commentary on H.B. No. 31.

The Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 134-5 (a) provides that a minor under the age of 16, may possess and use a rifle or shotgun while engaged in hunting or target shooting, as long as he/she is accompanied by an adult. If hunting, this minor must have a hunting license. Further, HRS § 134-5 (b) allows anyone, including a minor under the age of 16, to possess a lent firearm while at a target range without having first procured a firearm permit. The Rules and Procedures of the Koko Head Shooting Complex require that children 17 years of age or under using the range must be accompanied by an adult and children aged 9-12 may fire .22 long rifle caliber only under the close supervision of an adult. The Koko Head Shooting Complex prohibits children 8 years and younger from using firearms.

Without a doubt, the law appears to recognize that not only young adults, but children even, have the ability to responsibly possess and handle firearms. Perhaps the answer is not in an across-the-board prohibition, but the law should address the real issue of firearm safety and education. Certainly, there are 16 or 17 year old young adults who have the maturity and intelligence to properly and responsibly possess and handle firearms and as such; the law should offer an exemption to families with children under the age of 18 that have undergone proper firearms training and education in firearm possession, storage, and use.

Additionally, although not part of the proposed amendment to HRS § 134-10.5, subsection (1) presents an issue as to vagueness. While the owner of the firearm is required to keep the firearm “in a securely locked box or other container or in a location that a reasonable person would believe to be secure”, if the firearm is secured by a lock or combination, can a 16 or 17 year old young adult have access to the key or combination in order to access the firearm? Or must the firearm be accessible *only to the owner of the firearm*? This raises the concern of the 16 or 17

year old young adult who has received training on gun safety and use and, yet, is unable to access the firearm to defend his/her family during a home invasion or other type of violent crime.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on H.B. No. 31.

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:41:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Yukutake	Testifying for Hawaii Firearms Coalition	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii Firearms Coalition opposes HB31.

HIFICO recognizes and appreciates the intent of this bill for safety however bill is not needed as increased education to firearm owners would be more effective than passing further legislation on the matter. It will be better to encourage voluntary compliance and build good habits than using the threat of punishment. As the NRA State Training Counselor for Hawaii, I will work with firearms instructors and gun stores to emphasize safe firearms storage and youth issues with improved instruction and public awareness to address the concerns mentioned in the bill. There are many firearms safety programs that can be voluntarily implemented in Hawaii.

I recommend reducing the penalty of the current law which is currently a class C felony. This is a important matter but does not rise to a felony level. The goal should be to create a safer environment without making felons out of good people.

Todd Yukutake
Director, Hawaii Firearms Coalition
(808) 255-3066
todd@hifico.org

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 6:07:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Reid	Testifying for NRA	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf our members in Hawaii, I would like to communicate our opposition to House Bill 31 (HB 31).

Present law requires parents and guardians to store a firearm in a manner that prevents children under the age of 16 from gaining access. HB 31 would amend current law to require parents and guardians to store a firearm in a manner that would restrict access to even responsible adolescents 16-17 years old.

This change would strip responsible parents of the right to decide when and how their adolescent children are introduced to firearms. Moreover, this one-size-fits-all change would restrict a competent adolescent's ability to access a firearm for hunting and target shooting opportunities.

We respectfully urge your opposition to HB 31.



Tuesday, March 31, 2021; 9:45 am
Via Video Conference

To: Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

From: Lisa Dau, RN
Injury Prevention Coordinator, KIPC

Re: Testimony in Support to HB 31
RELATING TO FIREARMS.

Raises the maximum age of minors for which safe storage of firearms is required from sixteen to eighteen years.

My name is Lisa Dau, I am the Injury Prevention Coordinator for Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC). KIPC is a Statewide community-based organization, established in 1991 by Hawaii Department of Health (incorporated as non-profit in 1995), comprised of broad-based representation from more than one hundred-fifty organizations, agencies, and individuals committed to preventing injuries to children and youth in Hawaii.

KIPC writes in Support to HB 31 RELATING TO FIREARMS which raises the maximum age of minors for which safe storage of firearms is required from sixteen to eighteen years.

There are an estimated 300 million guns in the United States. A gun in the home can be very dangerous, especially for children. Every year, nearly 1,300 children die from guns and many more are seriously injured. The American Academy of Pediatrics believes the best way to prevent gun-related injuries to children is to remove guns from the home. However, if a person chooses to keep a gun in the house, it is important that it is unloaded and locked, and the ammunition is stored and locked in a separate location; this is especially important for homes where children may have access to a gun.

Gun-Related Injury Facts

- Nearly 1,300 children younger than 18 years of age die from shootings every year.
- 1 in 3 families with children have at least one gun in the house. It is estimated that there are more than 22 million children living in homes with guns.

- Most of the victims of unintentional shootings are boys. They are usually shot by a friend or relative, especially a brother.
- Nearly 40% of all unintentional shooting deaths among children 11-14 years of age occur in the home of a friend.
- Adolescents are at a higher risk for suicide when there is a gun in the home.

Myths About Guns

- Some parents believe that hiding their guns will prevent children from accessing them. However, 75% of children who live in homes with guns know where they are stored.
- Many parents think their children are not capable of firing a gun. However, children as young as 3 years old may be strong enough to pull the trigger of a handgun.
- Parents believe their children know the difference between real guns and toy guns, but in 16% of unintentional firearm deaths among children younger than 13 years of age, the gun was mistaken for a toy.
- Parents often believe their child would not touch a gun because “he knows better.” However, studies have found that most children will handle a gun if they find one, even if they have been taught not to.
- Some parents consider non-powder guns, like BB, pellet, and paintball guns, to be toys. These guns, which can fire at the speed of traditional guns, lead to nearly 22,000 injuries each year, especially eye injuries.

(source: Nationwide Children’s Hospital <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/research/areas-of-research/center-for-injury-research-and-policy/injury-topics/general/gun-safety>)

Based on the above reasons, KIPC respectfully supports this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,

Lisa Dau, RN
Injury Prevention Coordinator

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 8:29:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill that has the intent if protecting our children...your child. The past hearing had many in opposition. That is no surprise, most of them have a connection to guns.

This is a public safety issue. I remember the police officers we lost in a stand off. This man had access to the guns that were not secure. Homes were lost, property was lost, and the neighbors were so scared. The fire trucks could not get close enough. We all watched it as the situation escalated then finally resolved. We buried officers, families cried.

Now this person was an adult, older than 18, but still had access because the gun wasn't stored safely.

There are purposes for guns, but why would ANYONE be OPPOSED to safely storing their guns. Just because a bill has the word gun in it, shouldn't be a reason for opposition.

Many in opposition believe that "they have the right to bear arms." And they do. But let's step back and look at accidental shootings by someone that gets access to a family firearm.

Extend the age to 18, you can own your guns but must store them safely!

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 3:56:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As someone who has taught 17 year-olds for decades, I would feel safer knowing they don't have easy access to guns.

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 4:33:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 12:33:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill to increase the age for firearm storage requirements from 16 to 18. Teenagers often fail to have well developed impulse control, anger management, and other maturity levels to make it safe for them to be at home with access to firearms. In addition, the stresses of teenage life can bring depression and anxiety that cause high risk of use of firearms for suicide. This bill can help save lives by keeping firearms out of the hands of minors.

Thank you for consideration of this testimony.

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 1:31:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The government does not have the right to Infrege on our rights about Guns or anything to do with the second Amendment.

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 12:23:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 3:09:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Revells	Testifying for Valley Isle Sport Shooters	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill because all of the shooters I know have gun safes to protect themselves as well as their firearms. One rule should not cover everyone. It is so broad that it cannot work.

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:08:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard W. Adams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Safe storage is a matter of personal responsibility and everyone's situation is different. It's unreasonable for the law to impose one-size-fits-all solutions.

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:05:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Masuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We already have laws regulating gun safety, training and storage. This bill is redundant and only punishes gun owners who are already law abiding

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:57:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen T Hazam	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose HB31. This change in age will do nothing to increase safety; and therefore, represents an infringement on a RIGHT recognized and guaranteed by the Constitution.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Stephen T Hazam

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:27:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ezra Mell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose increasing the age of "minor" from "under 16" to "under 18". If a responsible 16 or 17 year-old son or daughter, trained in the use of a family firearm, needs to exercise a use of deadly force against a perpetrator to save someone from death, serious bodily injury, kidnapping, or rape, he or she must have access to the family firearm. If anything, I recommend decreasing this age; parents are in the best position to determine when their children are mature and capable enough to access the family firearm.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 1:56:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB31.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 2:22:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Chirico	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill creates unfair and burdensome rules that criminals will not follow and will put law abiding citizens lives in danger unnecessarily. By increasing Hawaii's mandatory firearm storage requirements it will severely limit the effective use of a firearm to protect oneself and family. Safe storage is a matter of personal responsibility and everyone's situation is different. It's unreasonable for the law to impose one-size-fits-all solutions. I urge you to not pass this bill as it will just be a matter of time before the people who vote for it have the blood of good law abiding men, women and children on your hands. As you should know by the time police arrive it is very often too late and innocent lives are unnecessarily lost. You are effectively aiding and abetting criminals if you vote for this bill. I URGE YOU TO OPPOSE THIS BILL.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 2:39:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Chase	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Denies access to young adults to firearms in order to hunt or defend themselves. Does not take into account the maturity of the individual and instead makes the parents or guardian into a criminal if the minor gains access to the firearm. How would this be enforced with out going into individuals homes. You also make what is a right for Americans (2A) into a privilege, not all gun owner can afford safes. That is not something on top off all the fees, registration, finger printing, driving, classes, that the state already requires; many individual can't afford the extra expense in order to exercise there (2A) right. If HB449 and SB824 pass legislation, get signed into law; you would be saying kids can vote at the age of 16, but are not responsible enough to handle firearms until they are 18 with the passing of (HB31) How could kid be responsible enough to vote at 16, but not handle a firearm? Both HB449 and SB824 have passed first reading.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 2:47:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alvin Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This law has already been struck down by the United States Supreme Court ***District of Columbia v. Heller***, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), was a [landmark decision](#) of the [US Supreme Court](#) ruling that the [Second Amendment](#) to the [United States Constitution](#) protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms, unconnected with service in a militia, for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home, and that the District of Columbia's [handgun](#) ban and requirement that lawfully owned [rifles](#) and [shotguns](#) be kept "unloaded and disassembled or bound by a [trigger lock](#)" violated this guarantee. If you continue to vote for this unconstitutional law it will be clear that the Hawaii state house of representatives doesn't care about its citizens constitutional rights. For the representatives who introduced for and support this legislation shame on you, you are traitors to America and it's constitution and should be removed from office.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 2:55:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Crowell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB31. Safe storage is a matter of personal responsibility and everyone's situation is different. It's unreasonable for the law to impose one-size-fits-all solutions. Allow the citizens to live free, responsibly. Don't rob them of that freedom.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 3:05:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Pace	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Vote NO.

This bill does not comport with current scientific information. As our fearless leaders always lie say: "Follow the science!!!"

There is significant evidence that the human brain is not "mature" at 18. In fact, I'm virtually certain that the brains of 40 and 50+ year old members of the state legislature have significantly immature brains.

Thus one must conclude that the minimum age of possible firearm access that should require secure storage is, say, 55. Anyone in the household of 55 years of age or younger requires that any and all firearms must be secured in a locked container or carried on the body of the mature-brained member of the household.

Follow the Science!

Vote NO! on this drastically inadequate bill.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 3:11:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Galli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No one denies that adults have a responsibility to safeguard minors. It's part of the human condition, instinctual behavior. Firearms owners are no different, and keenly feel the burden of making sure their firearms are kept secured, away from young hands. We don't need a law to ensure this, anymore than we need a law to tell us to keep household poisons such as bleach and drain cleaner secured.

What can this law accomplish? Do you honestly think that a person so defective as to lack this instinctive responsibility will be legislated into changing their ways? That is absurd. Will the police now be tasked with visiting the households of all gun owners to inspect their storage arrangements? Not only would that be an unconscionable violation of civil rights, it would also be logistically and financially impossible. The only effect this law can possibly have is to open an additional (and unneeded) avenue of retribution against a broken person in the aftermath of tragedy.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 3:16:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Fuchikami	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm opposed to this bill as age really has nothing to do with an individual's responsibility. I know children as young as 12 who are very responsible and have been trained in the safe handling of firearms via NRA training materials. Also, these laws you're trying to pass have no basis here in Hawaii. Frankly, the majority of the firearms restriction laws you've made have no standing in Hawaii as the statistics do NOT support these measures. Firearms-related crimes or consequences are extremely low, and NOT because of "Hawaii's strict gun laws" but rather because of Hawaii's UNIQUE culture and society. Even without all these restrictive gun laws there would be no measureable increase in firearms-related deaths or crimes. You guys are reacting to things that happen in many high-crime jurisdictions in the mainland (primarily liberal run jurisdictions) which is nonsense. With all of these "strict gun laws" in place, WHY do you NEVER issue concealed carry permits to Hawaii residents? None of the tens of thousands of lawful gun owners in Hawaii have ever broken these laws so why would you think we'd break them if we were allowed to carry them on our person outside of our homes? No, the vast majority of our gun laws in Hawaii would make absolutely NO DIFFERENCE in firearm-related crimes here in our State. Please vote against this bill and any others that arbitrarily set boundaries.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 3:44:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Hampton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Not seeing a need for this.

If you own a firearm, you more than likely own a safe or some other means to restrict access to your firearms. Not because of our children, we've already taught them respect for firearms, and proper handling rules.

Because the state can't keep our homes safe from burglary and home invasion due to the fact that they're letting felons with multiple convictions loose like they were jaywalkers.

Until the state fixes this, and many other deficiencies, I don't see where they have the right to tell me how to store my personal property.

Tend to your own problems first.

Edward Hampton

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 3:51:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Langacker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to HB31, relating to firearms storage requirements. I believe it is up to individual citizens to make their own decisions on such matters. Government needs to stay out of our homes, and allow law abiding gun owners to do what is best for our own families. One size fits all solutions do not work.

please oppose this bill and allow us as citizens to exercise our rights as we see fit.
Thank you.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 4:02:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather M Strait	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB31 violates our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms which states that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Period. In a home invasion situation, law-abiding gun owners do not have time to open a safe in order to retrieve a firearm.

The Hawaii State Legislature must stop all attempts to illegally infringe on our right to keep and bear arms.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 4:11:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Herbert Nishii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Good Afternoon!

I OPPOSE HB31! - as it is written.

Item #2 - (2) Carries the firearm on the person or within such close proximity thereto that the person [readily] can readily retrieve and use it as if it were carried on the person.

This statement is vague and unclear as to which "person" is the owner and which "person" is trying to "steal" the gun. (Stealing/Theft is a crime - correct?)(because it is without permission) AS the owner I would of course want my "protection" readily available, wether on person or in close proximity. AS a criminal - of course I would like "easy pickings".

I may be totally wrong in my understanding of this #2 point of HB31...

This sentence (in my opinion) is similar to the sentance " I saw the man with binoculars." - Did I see the man while I used binoculars? or Did I see a man in possession of binoculars?

Please Clarify - Until then I OPPOSE HB31 - as it is written.

Thank you for your time...

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 4:14:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

House Bill 31 increases mandatory firearm storage requirements. Safe storage is a matter of personal responsibility and everyone's situation is different. It's unreasonable for the law to impose one-size-fits-all solutions.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 4:20:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Ilima DeCosta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for allowing me the opportunity to submit this testimony regarding HB-31, which would require owners of firearms to safely store their firearms when anyone in the home is age 18 or younger.

On November 5, 2015, my adult daughter, Elizabeth, was found dead in her bathroom - she had been shot in the back of the head with her military spouse's loaded and unlocked gun.

Raising the age of safe storage from 16 to 18 years of age would not have saved Elizabeth's life.

Instead of laws targeting persons of a certain age, as a survivor of gun violence, I propose that a mandatory safe storage law for gun owners - regardless of age - as well as mandatory gun owner education and a gun owner liability law would do more to prevent access to lethal means and accidental deaths.

An owner of a firearm who knows that they can be held criminally and civilly liable for their failure to properly store their firearms would be more likely to take steps to secure their firearm(s) and mitigate their own liability.

It's time to respect responsible gun owners and hold those who are negligent or irresponsible with their firearm(s) liable for their actions. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 4:27:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry Moore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It does nothing to provide additional safety to minors. A better use of resources would be to provide firearm safety/training classes in public schools. Teach responsibility and stop trying to criminalize individual rights guaranteed by the constitution.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 6:05:30 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymond Pezzoli	Testifying for NRA	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear officials

I am writing to state my opposition to HB 31 which relates to the government forced safe storage of firearms.

My arguments are first it is not up to the government to dictate how a private citizen should store their firearms. This is a private decision on how best to do this. Second, I oppose rendering the firearm inoperable unfair as it cannot be readily used in the event the citizen needs it.

While I do encourage gun owners to safely secure their firearms, I feel that each person must decide for themselves on how best to do this. We do not require government intervention. As a matter of fact, you would be surprised to learn how well 99% of gun owners secure their firearms.

Thank you

Mr Raymond Pezzoli

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 4:41:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James J Pickens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America states that my right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. How can I bear arms in an emergency situation if it is mandated to be under lock and key? Please stop stomping on the Constitution in the name of "safety". Hawaii is already one of the safest states when it comes to gun violence. The laws you make are only serving to make criminals out of normally law abiding citizens. The evil doers in our society do not follow laws. After all, murder is already against the law.

Stop the ridiculous bastardization of our Constitution and start upholding your oath of office, you know the part that says you will support and defend the Constitution...

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 4:53:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanine Char	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Gun storage, this is what it comes down to - upping the age will not change a thing. Those LEGAL gun owners who choose to keep their firearms outside of a safe for self defense purposes, will do so with enough care for other occupants of the household. LEGAL gun owners also take the time to educate household occupants about the safety and dangers that are involved with firearms, including, but not limited to, actual firearm training on use, as well as the need to keep that particular information within the household. The statistics should be updated to reflect ALL information - what percentage of those firearms are legally registered and owned, versus illegally owned?

Unsecured guns are typically those that in the possession criminals, who do not obey, or care about what the gun laws are. The statistics cited at the beginning of bill do not state what percentage of those firearms that are used for those purposes are actually acquired by minors from LEGAL gun owners.

I cannot express to you the difference of the mindsets of how legal firearm owners are versus criminals who do not care. Criminals will not take the time to educate other household members how to properly handle and store a firearm. A criminal or an illegal firearm owner will not take the time to buy and/or use firearm safes, gun locks, or cabinets to secure their firearms. They don't and won't lock them up because they want them to be fully loaded and readily accessible immediately. They will not care how old or young the other occupants in the household are, and they would feel that this law, like all other laws that they break, do not pertain to them, because if it did, then wouldn't be criminals in the first place.

This bill is a waste of tax payer's money. Just like a lot of other gun control laws that are coming up. The restraints that Hawaii has regarding firearms avquisitions is already the strictest in the nation, and the more you strap the law-abiding firearm owners will not improve any statistic, or make our state any safer.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 5:07:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven T Takekoshi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It does nothing to solve the issue identified, only punishment after the fact. It does not account for training and responsibility that should be developed in our youth. You can do better than knee jerk reactions that do not address root causes, and will require yet another band aid (read another law) for the symptom because unimaginative legislators are either too lazy or not intelligent enough to identify and address the actual issue causing the problem and develop strategies to fix the root causes. There are so many other far more pressing issues we need to address here in Hawaii, please use the time to address those issues. Thank you.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 5:10:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kory Ohly	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill, which makes a bad bill worse.

A bunch of us "city folk" may not care much about hunting, and we may not have properties large enough for target practice, but it is shameful if we don't have the common sense to understand that some people want to keep their families safe.

Families can decide which of their members are ready to use a firearm in their arsenal of self-defense.

If this bill passes, those who would steal a firearm to commit violence will continue to find ways to do so. But when there is a crime committed because a law-abiding 16 or 17 year old couldn't access a firearm necessary for self-defense, we will bear part of the responsibility.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 5:32:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry Bruckner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

How and where to store a firearm is the responsibility of the individual and will vary according to each individual's circumstances. It should not be mandated by government as a one-size-fits-all measure.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 5:55:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Kelson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposed law is another unthought out knee jerk reaction to issues unrelated to responsible firearm ownership. The radical left and anti-gun groups want to make it so difficult and onerous that reasonable persons will not be able to comply with all of the rules and therefore forego their right to own firearms. **DO NOT ENACT THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION.**

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 6:38:28 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sur Carbonell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Safe storage is a matter of personal responsibility and everyone's situation is different. It's unreasonable for the law to impose one-size-fits-all solutions

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 7:18:56 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn Tamayori	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs,

I'm opposed to HB31 because it's a do nothing bill that does not address the true causes of possible violence and or suicides by 16 -18 year olds. The state of Hawaii is not known for school shootings/suicides and enacting this kind of a bill for a problem that can be handled through counseling and treatment is a misguided use of time and resources. Any troubled teens should be provided treatment/counseling instead of harassing law abiding citizens with more vague and onerous laws that do nothing to address the issue. Our legislators shouldn't micromanage the freedom of law abiding citizens to decide how to store their private property. Please stop this harassment of Hawaii's law abiding citizens with do nothing bills and focus on helping our teens in more meaningful ways. Thank you for your attention.

Glenn Tamayori

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 7:34:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Dias	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB31

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 7:50:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred Delosantos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose this bill. It is overly burdensome to law-abiding gun owners, and does not affect nor deter criminals. Do you really expect criminals to abide by these laws? I seriously doubt it. Please focus your efforts on keeping repeat offenders behind bars, put a stop to Hawaii's notorious ridiculous "catch-and-release" program. You're protecting the criminals rights more than the victims rights, or the law-abiding citizens rights for that matter.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 7:50:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt S	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Every situation is unique and this one-size fits all approach makes no sense.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 8:04:17 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Egusa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

ONE SIZE FITS ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREARMS STORAGE ARE UNREASONABLE. THERE ARE TOO MANY FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED. BESIDES, HOW DO YOU IMPOSE REQUIRMENTS ON AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT? IS IT CONSTITUTIONAL?

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:24:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Fukuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose HB31

This bill is not needed and is more government regulation that is not needed or welcomed and will not make us safer.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:48:52 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrik Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Please do not allow it to pass. Thank you.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:06:13 PM
Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tadashi Mitsuoka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The very idea of raising the age of minors from sixteen years to eighteen years is a Democratic hypocrisy disgracing the virtues of HB449 and SB824, that if enacted would lower the voting age in Hawaii to sixteen years of age.

This revives Barry McGuire's "Eve of Destruction" lyrics "...your old enough to kill, but not for voting, you don't believe in war, but what's that gun your toting..." and the passage of the 26th Amendment. Support for this rested on the lack of representation (by way of voting) for soldiers fighting in the nation's wars. Support for HB449 and SB824 rests on taxation representation for earned wages by sixteen and seventeen year old individuals.

If, an individual's awareness may supposedly be conflicted with killing in defense of country, or how taxes from their earned wages may be appropriated; then that supposition also extends to the use of firearms, however acquired.

Any amendment enacted, should be to lower the age of minors, to fifteen years of age, and support legislation to provide firearm training and safety in public education beginning at the elementary school levels.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:50:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Carreira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing to OPPOSE HB31. This bill is an answer looking for a problem. Properly storing a firearm is a personal responsibility that the firearm owner takes on to the best of their ability. Some people can afford \$1000 safes, some people can afford a padlock on the case. Owning a firearm is about personal responsibility and that is something you can't force by passing a law.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 2:17:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald G Livingston	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly oppose. If a 16 year old is properly trained and of sound mind should have access to a family firearm in cases of extreme emergency.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 3:45:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Meacham	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a citizen and resident of Hawaii I strongly oppose House Bill 31 intent to increase the definition of a minor from 16 to 18. Youth of this great nation are dealing with more than many of us did during our youth and striving. Imposing yet another firearm restriction and making good citizens criminals overnight only shows our youth that their government can't trust them to make the correct decisions and be trusted in this manner. Next they won't be able to obtain a driving license as to many are being injured or killed on the roads and it's obviously their fault. We need to be educating our youth in the proper handling and use of firearms at an early age to prevent all the stated risk mentioned. That's what becoming an adult means in this great nation. Stepping up and being a responsible productive citizen and letting your politicians know that the youth are the future and need to understand responsibility at a young age not push it down the road.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:06:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Chang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. There are MORE THAN ENOUGH laws governing how firearms are to be used in the state. We don't need more laws on how firearms should be stored. This is an attempt to provide a solution for a problem that does not exist in Hawaii. It is a waste of time and effort.

Lawmakers should use their time more efficiently by tackling some of the more difficult issues that are actually hurting our state (e.g. the homeless issue, mental health issues, affordable housing, improving the infrastructure in schools, etc.). Yes I know these are difficult issues, but those are issues that need to be resolved and will provide a greater benefit to our state.

By law makers's own account, Hawaii has the strictest gun laws in the nation. What does it say about the law makers who continue to write bills to further restrict the use of firearms in Hawaii vice tackling more pressing issues in this state? Law makers who aren't working on these tough issues need to be courageous and start pitching in to help resolve THOSE issues and those who are unwilling to put their efforts into the more pressing issues of our state, should consider not running for re-election. The people of Hawaii are watching.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:33:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D'Adamo III	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Oppose HB31

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 8:44:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Mayo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There are enough laws on the books for things like this.....you are only making life more troublesome for the average working man. Please reconsider this bill!!

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 9:32:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Shaheen Mulkern	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose this bill.

Thank you.

Susan Mulkern

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:37:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Hopkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear representatives,

I oppose this bill as there is enough restrictions of our rights. Even if this is a small measure , every time you pass something like this cuts away till we have none.

I urge you to vote NO and anymore bills that will deny restrict or take away our rights.

Thank you.

William Hopkins.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:14:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Djou	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This is a personal responsibility. Not the states.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:37:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Carvalho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a law abiding USA Citizen and a gun collector who believe in our second amendment. My son is a marine that served 4 tours protecting our county, he also received the purple heart. My father who served in World War 2 and received the purple heart also believed in our great county and the its amendments. Hawaii already has a great gun safety system to purchase any firearm. Do not take away our rights to own, our second amendment and our freedom of choice. If we disarm the good then only the bad will prevail.

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:08:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Cavalier	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am opposed to HB31.

Sincerely,

Donna Cavalier

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 2:11:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Reaume	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I lock up my firearms in a safe at all times but I keep my self defense fire arm by my bed. I am a responsible person and so is my wife and we do this for protection in case a life threatening situation acures in our home this is our right and my responsibility to protect my family therefore I oppose hb31 and I ask that you oppose this bill

thank you

LATE

HB-31

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 8:07:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth M Matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senators and Congressmen and Congresswomen,

Yes, I can see that safe storage is needed in the home with minors roaming around, but more emphasis should be given to the storage of the ammunition and not so much to the firearm themselves. Fact of the matter is, it is the bullet that kills and not the firearms by itself. Everyone has a different budget and means of income therefore it would be totally unfair to set guidelines as to what they have to have, but rather should suggest what they should have. In my view it is much easier to store the ammunition than it is to store a firearm because of its physical size of each individual item. When I was growing up, my father who was a hunter and a firearms enthusiast, would naturally keep his firearms exposed and readily accessible to us. Why? Because we were trained properly and not ignorant as to the fact of gun safety. I will not go into the guidelines of gun safety are but it is all good old common sense and one should rely on those factors above all else. Times have changed so the education of youngsters has to change within the family. If the child has a normal disposition and personality, then he or she will be easily trained. If the child is violent and abusive personality, then one should be looking at the head of the families instead and if they are good parents? What they are doing to help prevent a possible tragic outcome is based on intellect and income. While it is a complicated matter, putting undue restrictions on the storage of firearms does not make for use of good sense, but the storage of the ammo makes better sense in my view. God help us all if there is ammunition all over the house but the gun is locked, but not securely enough to keep the child from accessing it. Better to store the ammo much more securely and eliminate any dire outcome in that case. If you would like to talk more about it, please feel free to email me. Thank you for hearing me out.