



Jeanne Kapela

Hawaii

Representative, HD-005 (D)

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HI Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. SB1434 Universal Vaccine Program (passed 40 to 9 on 5/2/2025). Establishes a universal vaccine program under the Hawaii Department of Health to provide vaccines, such as those for influenza and COVID-19, to all residents. The Hawaii State Department of Health is authorized to set rules for implementation, and the program includes purchasing, distributing, and maintaining a vaccine stockpile.			YES ✗
2. SB1300 Free School Meals (passed 49 to 1 on 4/30/2025). Establishes a program administered by the Hawaii Department of Education to provide free breakfast and lunch to low income students in public schools. The program is funded through state appropriations starting on July 1, 2025.			YES ✗
3. SB30 Mandatory Helmet Requirement (passed 47 to 3 on 4/30/2025). Amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes to require all operators and passengers of motorcycles, motor scooters, and mopeds to wear safety helmets. This bill eliminates exemptions for individuals over 18 and imposes fines for noncompliance.			YES ✗
4. SCR132 UN Global Plastics Treaty (passed 48 to 3 on 4/14/2025). Encourages the State of Hawaii to adopt recommendations from the UN Global Plastics Treaty and the Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to address plastic pollution, climate justice, and sustainable development.			YES ✗
5. HB893 "Assault Weapon" Ban (passed 39 to 9 on 3/4/2025). Amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes to prohibit the manufacture, sale, transfer, possession, or importation of "assault weapons."			NONE ?
6. HB408 Vote-by-mail Extension (passed 47 to 0 on 2/28/2025). Extends the deadline for mail-in voter registration from 30 days to 10 days prior to a primary or general election.			YES ✗

Scorecard Votes: 0%



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\$290,986

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of June 2, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Universal Vaccine Program

SB1434 establishes a universal vaccine program under the Hawaii Department of Health to provide vaccines, such as those for influenza and COVID-19, to all residents. The Hawaii State Department of Health is authorized to set rules for implementation, and the program includes purchasing, distributing, and maintaining a vaccine stockpile.

We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation expands government involvement in healthcare — infringing on individual liberty and the free market. State governments must respect individual autonomy and avoid coercive health policies. By creating a state-funded vaccine program, SB1434 increases government spending and vaccine regulatory authority, pressuring residents into medical decisions.

2. Free School Meals

SB1300 establishes a program administered by the Hawaii Department of Education to provide free breakfast and lunch to low income students in public schools. The program is funded through state appropriations starting on July 1, 2025.

We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation expands government intervention and increases state budget expenditures — placing a burden on taxpayers. SB1300 mandates state responsibility for a function better handled by families or private initiatives.

3. Mandatory Helmet Requirement

SB30 amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes to require all operators and passengers of motorcycles, motor increase public safety by reducing head injur scooters, and mopeds to wear safety helmets. This bill eliminates exemptions for individuals over 18 and imposes fines for noncompliance.

We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation infringes on individual liberty and expands government overreach. By mandating helmet use and imposing penalties, SB30 undermines the right of individuals to make voluntary decisions about their own safety. State governments must respect individual autonomy and avoid coercive mandates that restrict personal choice.

4. UN Global Plastics Treaty

SCR132 encourages the State of Hawaii to adopt recommendations from the UN Global Plastics Treaty and the Rapa Nui Summit Declaration to address plastic pollution, climate justice, and sustainable development. The resolution supports reducing plastic consumption, phasing out single-use plastics, and implementing regulations for plastic production and disposal.

We have assigned pluses to the nays because this resolution undermines state and national sovereignty by endorsing an international treaty that infringes on constitutional authority. By promoting the UN Global Plastics Treaty, SCR132 risks subjecting Hawaii to international regulations that would override state autonomy. Furthermore, the resolution's alignment with UN human rights and climate processes threatens self-governance by prioritizing globalist agendas over state and national sovereignty.

5. "Assault Weapon" Ban

HB893 amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes to prohibit the manufacture, sale, transfer, possession, or importation of "assault weapons." This legislation allows existing owners to register their "assault weapons" with county police by January 1, 2026, and imposes criminal penalties for unregistered firearms, while exempting law-enforcement and military use.

We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation violates the Second Amendment and undermines individual liberty. The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution explicitly protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms. State governments must reject laws that violate constitutional protections. Furthermore, the bill's registration requirement creates a framework that would facilitate future firearm confiscation.

6. Vote-by-mail Extension

HB408 extends the deadline for mail-in voter registration from 30 days to 10 days prior to a primary or general election.

We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation expands voter registration in a manner that undermines election integrity. Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution grants states the authority to regulate the "Times, Places and Manner" of elections, but this power must be exercised with caution to ensure secure electoral processes. Shortening the voter-registration deadline to 10 days before an election reduces the time available for election officials to verify applicant eligibility, increasing the risk of election fraud. While providing voter access is important, registration must be balanced with safeguards to protect the integrity of the electoral process.