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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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Joy A. San Buenaventura

Hawaii

Senator, SD-002 (D)

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Score

HI Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. SB1434 Universal Vaccine Program (passed 23 to 2 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.			YES ✗
2. SB30 Mandatory Helmet Requirement (passed 22 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 non-compliance to increase public safety by reducing head injuries.			YES ✗
3. SB1300 Free School Meals (passed 25 to 0 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.			YES ✗
4. SCR157 UN Law of the Sea Treaty (passed 23 to 2 on 4/3/2025). Urges Hawaii to adopt the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), a treaty establishing international rules for ocean governance.			YES ✗
5. HB392 "Ghost Gun" Ban (passed 22 to 3 on 3/31/2025). Prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, transfer, or acquisition of unserialized "ghost gun" firearms. This legislation imposes felony penalties for violations, and requires existing owners to serialize or dispose of such firearms by January 1, 2026.			YES ✗
6. SB350 Contraception State Constitutional Amendment (passed 21 to 4 on 3/4/2025). Proposes an amendment to Article I of the Hawaii State Constitution to establish a right to contraception that protects a person's ability to obtain contraceptives and access contraception-related services.			YES ✗

Scorecard Votes: 0%

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. Mandatory Helmet Requirement

SB30 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.

We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation infringes on individual liberty and expands government overreach. By mandating helmet use and enforcing 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.

3. 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.

4. UN Law of the Sea Treaty

SCR157 urges Hawaii to adopt the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), a treaty establishing international rules for ocean governance.

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. Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution does not grant the federal government authority to delegate ocean governance to international bodies such as the UN. By promoting UNCLOS, SCR157 would subject Hawaii and the United States to international regulations that override state and national autonomy.

5. “Ghost Gun” Ban

HB392 prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, transfer, or acquisition of unserialized “ghost gun” firearms. This legislation imposes felony penalties for violations, and requires existing owners to serialize or dispose of such firearms by January 1, 2026.

We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation violates the Second Amendment and the God-given right to self-defense. Banning individuals from engaging in private, non-commercial firearm production restricts citizens from lawfully exercising this right. The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms. State governments must reject laws that infringe on God-given, constitutionally protected rights.

6. Contraception State Constitutional Amendment

SB350 proposes an amendment to Article I of the Hawaii State Constitution to establish a right to contraception that protects a person's ability to obtain contraceptives and access contraception-related services. The amendment prohibits the state from denying or interfering with this “right.” It submits the amendment to voters for ratification in the 2026 general election.

We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation expands the scope of state constitutional protections in a manner that violates the unalienable, God-given right to life. The U.S. Constitution does not enumerate a right to “reproductive freedom,” and while the 10th Amendment reserves all non-federally delegated powers to the states or the people, allowing states to define their own constitutional protections, state governments must exercise this authority in a way that protects the God-given, unalienable right to life asserted in the Declaration of Independence.