Sensitive Places Law
Frequently Asked Questions
City and County of Honolulu

What is the "Sensitive Places" law, and when does it go into effect?

- Ordinance 23-6 – also known as Bill 57, or the "sensitive places" law – bans people from carrying firearms into sensitive public places on Oʻahu, including many types of businesses.
- It goes into effect on May 1, 2023.
- The bill was passed by the Honolulu City Council and signed into law by Mayor Rick Blangiardi on March 31, 2023.

What is a sensitive public place?

- Sensitive public places that do not allow firearms include:
  - Businesses that serve alcohol for consumption on premises
  - Hospitals and doctor's offices
  - Cannabis dispensaries
  - Shelters, including homeless and domestic violence shelters
  - Concert venues, theaters, museums, and amusement parks
  - City-owned buildings
  - State and federally owned buildings
  - Schools and childcare facilities
  - Public parks, the Honolulu Zoo, and the Waikiki Aquarium
  - Public transit
  - Polling places
  - Within 100 feet of large public gatherings, like protests and marches, that have a government permit

I own a business that's *not* on the sensitive places list. Do I have to do anything?

- You are *not* required to take any action unless you want to allow firearms on your property.
- If you wish to allow firearms on your property, you must post signs, which are available from the City at no charge.
- If you want to prohibit firearms on your property, you do not need to do anything. But you may post signs that firearms are prohibited if you want to.
- Again, business owners are *not* required to take action unless they want to allow firearms.

I would like to post a "Guns Allowed" or "Guns Not Allowed" sign in my business. Where do I get a sign?

- You have two options:

  a. You can download the sign online, print it, and post it in your business.
  b. Or, you can pick up a sign at Honolulu Hale, Kapolei Hale, or one of the Satellite City Hall locations across Oʻahu.

What size does the sign have to be?

- For businesses with a physical door through which customers enter, the sign must be 8.5 inches by 11 inches (the size of standard office paper).
- For businesses that do not have a physical door through which customers enter, the sign must be 18 inches by 24 inches.
- "Guns Allowed" signs in both sizes are available, free of charge, at Honolulu Hale, Kapolei Hale, or at a Satellite City Hall.

Does it matter where I post a "Guns Allowed" or "Guns Not Allowed" sign in my business?

- Yes. According to the law, the sign must be placed not less than 40 inches and not more than 60 inches from the bottom of the premises entrance door.

I own a business that is on the sensitive places list. Am I allowed to have armed security guards on the property?

- Yes. The law allows for licensed armed guards and law enforcement to carry firearms in sensitive places.

Where can I get more information?

- You can visit the Honolulu Police Department's firearms information page, located here: https://www.honolulupd.org/police-services/firearms/