

In Hawaii, you can use reasonable force, including deadly force, for self-defense if you reasonably believe it's immediately necessary to protect yourself from unlawful force. However, you have a duty to retreat from a threatening situation if you can do so safely, though not if you are in your home. While self-defense laws are in place, situations are still subject to investigation to determine if the force used was justified, say [PBS](#) and [this YouTube video](#). [1, 2, 3, 4]

Key aspects of Hawaii's self-defense law

- **Use of force:** You can use force if you believe it is immediately necessary to protect yourself from unlawful force.
- **Deadly force:** Deadly force is justified only if you reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury.
- **Duty to retreat:** You are not required to retreat if you are in your home, but you must retreat if you can safely do so in other situations.
- **"Castle Doctrine":** This doctrine allows for the use of deadly force against intruders in your home, but the force must still be proportional and immediate, with the same duty to retreat if safe to do so outside the home. [1, 2, 3, 5]

Important considerations

- **Investigation:** After an incident, authorities will investigate to determine if self-defense was justified. An arrest may occur as part of the investigation, even if no charges are ultimately filed.
- **Use of weapons:** While certain weapons like tasers and pepper spray are legal for self-defense (with regulations), others like switchblades are prohibited.
- **Ongoing debate:** There are ongoing discussions about strengthening Hawaii's self-defense laws. [2, 3, 4, 6, 7]

This information is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You should consult with a legal professional for advice specific to your situation.

AI responses may include mistakes.

- [1] <https://gun-safety.com/hawaii/hawaii-castle-doctrine/>
- [2] <https://law.justia.com/codes/hawaii/title-37/chapter-703/section-703-304/>
- [3] <https://www.honoluluupd.org/policy/policy-use-of-force/>
- [4] <https://law.justia.com/codes/hawaii/title-37/chapter-703/section-703-306/>
- [5] <https://www.pbs.org/video/111424-hawaiis-self-defense-law-5qhtxd/>
- [6] [https://trackbill.com/bill/hawaii-house-bill-851-self-defense-deadly-force-duty-to-retreat-safe-a-t-home-law/2622543/](https://trackbill.com/bill/hawaii-house-bill-851-self-defense-deadly-force-duty-to-retreat-safe-at-home-law/2622543/)
- [7] https://www.usconcealedcarry.com/resources/ccw_reciprocity_map/hi-gun-laws/