

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

on House Bill 2543 – Relating To Making An Appropriation For A Shooting Range In West
Hawaii On The Island Of Hawaii

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

February 27, 2008

House Bill 2543 appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to plan, design and construct a shooting range on the Island of Hawaii. The Department acknowledges its supports for the establishment of this public shooting range, as the Department has been working closely with community members on Hawaii to accomplish this goal. The Department however is concerned with the fiscal impact this measure will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

The Department supports providing additional staff and funding resources for the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement branches across the State and the Department has been working closely with the Legislature to obtain the necessary funds for this broader initiative. And while the Department applauds the intent of this bill, the Department must be mindful that all our islands are crying out for additional enforcement. Rather than passing out this measure, the Department respectfully asks for the Legislature's support of the addition of eleven conservation and resources enforcement positions and four clerk typist positions for deployment statewide to each of the four counties as identified in the Department's supplemental budget request. These additional positions would increase needed staffing statewide and would help improve conservation enforcement capabilities in each of the four counties.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Dixie Kaetsu
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i

891 Ululani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3982 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Suite 103 • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 329-5226 • Fax (808) 326-5663

February 25, 2008

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro
Chair, Committee on Finance
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2543

The county of Hawai'i is in full support of HB 2543, which would appropriate funds for a shooting range in West Hawai'i. We have worked the proponents of the shooting range for many months. The selected site is adjacent to the Puuanahulu landfill, and we have been assured by the landfill operator that a shooting range would be compatible with their operation. Based on that assurance, we have endorsed the shooting range, and believe it would be a valuable addition to the recreation opportunities available to our community as well as a tourist attraction for many of our visitors.

I understand that \$250,000 would be the amount needed for fiscal year 2008-2009 to get this project started, and I hope that this year's Legislature can see its way to clear to providing these funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing
Wednesday, February 27, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Oshiro
Vice Chairperson Lee and Honored Representatives,

Testimony by: Ralph C. Boyea, Legislative Advocate, Hawai'i County Council

Testimony in favor of HB 2543 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A SHOOTING RANGE IN WEST HAWAII ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

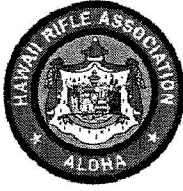
On behalf of the Hawai'i County Council, I ask you to pass House Bill 2543. House Bill 2543 appropriates funds to plan, design, and construct a public shooting range in West Hawai'i.

There aren't any shooting ranges in West Hawai'i. Police, conservation officers, sheriffs, security guards, hunters and others licensed to carry guns have no official place to practice and sight-in their firearms. Shooters currently have to find unofficial, unsupervised sites to shoot. Safety of the shooters and individuals in proximity to these sites is of great concern. As the population continues to grow, so does the problem of uncontrolled discharge of firearms.

Members of the West Hawai'i community have formed the Hawai'i Island Public Shooting Range Working Group. This group is composed of police officers, DLNR conservation officers, other DLNR representatives, hunters, representatives of the Governor's office, representatives of the Hawai'i County Mayor's office, and other community members. The Hawai'i Island Public Shooting Range Working Group has come up with a site location, by the West Hawai'i solid waste facility, and preliminary plans for a public shooting range. Representatives of the Department of Land and Natural Resources have indicated that \$250,000 would be needed to prepare an EIS and other tasks associated with creating a master plan for this project.

The Hawai'i County Council is aware that Mayor Kim has requested your support for this project. They support the Mayor's request.

We humbly ask you to pass HB 2543.



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

February 26, 2008

Testimony on **HB2543 IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Before The House Committee on Finance,
Wednesday, Feb 27, 2008, 10:00am, Rm. 308

Hon. Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members,

HRA strongly supports this bill to fund a shooting range on West Hawaii.

There have been no new public shooting ranges built in Hawaii since 1991 (Ukumehame Range on Maui near Lahaina). Only Oahu, Maui, East Hawaii, and Lanai have rifle ranges open to the public, and only one range apiece (total of 4). None were developed or are operated by DLNR or state funds. Molokai, Kauai, and West Hawaii are without public ranges. By contrast, Hawaii has 99 golf courses.

DLNR, under the Hunter Safety program, is empowered by statute to build ranges. This bill does not ask DLNR to fund it from their 2008 budget. Pittman-Roberson funding, however, managed by DLNR, federal excise tax dollars paid on firearms, ammunition, archery, and hunting equipment, should be available as matching funds.

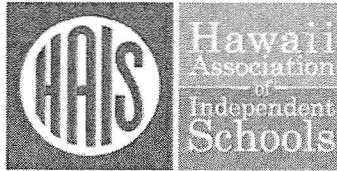
A safe place to enjoy our heritage and sport is increasingly rare, because of natural encroachment from other forms of land use, the NIMBY syndrome, and necessary restriction on formerly acceptable "informal" ranges.

This planned range, in an area long without an appropriate facility, has the potential to provide such a place for Hawaii's people as well as attract shooting tourism. My wife, children, grandchildren, and I look forward to journeying from Oahu to West Hawaii, renting a car, booking hotel rooms, shooting there, and dining afterwards in a good restaurant. Mainland shooters, with the proper marketing, will do likewise when snow and ice cover their home ranges.

HRA pledges to participate in the correct development and safe stewardship of this gift.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify for HRA.

Dr. Max Cooper,
Legislative Co-Chair
225-6944



February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB2973 HD1 – Relating to Early Learning

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt and, as executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), I am here today to testify on behalf of the Association's board of directors and its 96 member schools.

We are in support of the proposals outlined in House Bill 2973, House Draft 1, and plan to be involved in the hearings concerning the good ideas in this bill. As an active participant in both the work of the Act 259 Task Force and the efforts which led up to its establishment, the HAIS Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the Task Force's recommendations regarding the establishment of an early learning system in Hawaii and to utilize the public dialogue initiated by both the Task Force's January 2008 legislative briefing and this bill as an opportunity to engage all sectors of the private school community in discussion about our state's urgent need for high-quality early learning opportunities.

Our association is proud to be a regular contributor in the educational dialogue of our community. We believe that the betterment of humankind is inherently possible, and that education is prominent among the forces which can stimulate positive change. Furthermore, we have always been passionate advocates for early childhood education, have supported measures before this committee in the past that have advanced efforts to address the needs of young children, and have partnerships with such early childhood organizations as Good Beginnings Alliance, the Keiki Childcare Coalition, and others.

"First steps" is an apt metaphor. Yes, it calls to mind the first steps of children, but let us take our own first steps and resolve to make a commitment to all of Hawaii's keiki by approving a measure by the end of this session that will allow us to create a universally accessible, comprehensive and instructionally rigorous early childhood system.

This session we will strongly advocate for the allocation of \$10 million to mobilize the development of a comprehensive early learning system for children from birth to five years of age, beginning with the establishment of the Keiki First program, which, in its initial stages, will give priority to those children who are at-risk and underserved.

We also recognize that there is essential work that needs to get underway immediately to build capacity for an expanded early education teaching profession for Hawaii. Let's act now to support the growth and development of those already in the profession, and to recruit, train, and retain newcomers to the profession.

As an organization comprised of private educational institutions, HAIS strongly recommends that the structure created to support Hawaii's early education system reflect a council model, perhaps with membership along lines of the existing Task Force. In future discussions concerning the governance of such a system, we will also recommend that it be designed as a public/private partnership with authority and autonomy, while attached appropriately to an existing department of state government for administrative purposes. Such a public/private model would support and enhance the contributions of private providers, an essential component of existing early education programs in Hawaii.

In summary, our association believes the time is NOW to commit to a statewide comprehensive early learning system. We will encourage policy makers during this session to agree on a long-term vision for early education, to identify or create a dedicated funding source, and define a structure for stewardship.

We believe that such a vision and investment in early learning by the state will very positively impact the success of children in our elementary and secondary schools, and thereby support the goals of the state's P-20 collaborative to significantly increase the percentage of adults in Hawaii with four-year college degrees.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this urgent matter.

FINtestimony

From: Maxwell Cooper [maxwell_cooper@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 4:27 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB2543 Agenda #1
Attachments: TestHB2343range.doc

**Hawaii Rifle Association**

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
 Founded in 1857

February 26, 2008

Testimony on **HB2543 IN STRONG SUPPORT**
 Before The House Committee on Finance,
 Wednesday, Feb 27, 2008, 10:00am, Rm. 308

Hon. Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members,

HRA strongly supports this bill to fund a shooting range on West Hawaii.

There have been no new public shooting ranges built in Hawaii since 1991 (Ukumehame Range on Maui near Lahaina). Only Oahu, Maui, East Hawaii, and Lanai have rifle ranges open to the public, and only one range apiece (total of 4). None were developed or are operated by DLNR or state funds. Molokai, Kauai, and West Hawaii are without public ranges. By contrast, Hawaii has 99 golf courses.

DLNR, under the Hunter Safety program, is empowered by statute to build ranges. This bill does not ask DLNR to fund it from their 2008 budget. Pittman-Roberson funding, however, managed by DLNR, federal excise tax dollars paid on firearms, ammunition, archery, and hunting equipment, should be available as matching funds.

A safe place to enjoy our heritage and sport is increasingly rare, because of natural encroachment from other forms of land use, the NIMBY syndrome, and necessary restriction on formerly acceptable "informal" ranges.

This planned range, in an area long without an appropriate facility, has the potential to provide such a place for Hawaii's people as well as attract shooting tourism. My wife, children, grandchildren, and I look forward to journeying from Oahu to West Hawaii, renting a car, booking hotel rooms, shooting there, and dining afterwards in a good restaurant. Mainland shooters, with the proper marketing, will do likewise when snow and ice cover their home ranges.

HRA pledges to participate in the correct development and safe stewardship of this gift.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify for HRA.

Dr. Max Cooper,
Legislative Co-Chair
225-6944

FINtestimony

From: . ecocomm [ecocomm@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 6:30 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB2543 Agenda #1

Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range

Testimony in Support of HB 2543, Related to a Public Shooting Range on the Island of Hawaii

Hearing Scheduled Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

I am a volunteer member and have been requested to speak on behalf of the Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range Working Group, a private citizen/ public agency partnership engaged in a cooperative effort to develop a public shooting range on the Big Island.

Our four-year long, grass roots-led effort to address the absence of an island shooting range has made significant progress. We have completed the conceptual design of a facility that would accommodate all user needs, and selected a location that is ideally situated for such a purpose. We have actively sought the participation of all who may have an interest or concern in the project, and community support thus far has been overwhelmingly positive.

In 2007 we received Land Board approval to proceed with the planning activities necessary to develop a shooting complex in the Pu`u Anahulu Game Management Area, adjacent to the county landfill in west Hawaii. To keep the project moving forward, we need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, develop a Facility Master Plan, and complete infrastructure modifications that will allow us to share landfill access. It is for this purpose that we are seeking financial assistance.

The Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range Working Group has made a significant effort to advance this project to its current status, and we gratefully acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of state and county agencies, local businesses, state-wide hunting and shooting clubs, and the people of Hawaii. With your help we can, and will complete the task of providing a safe place to shoot for the residents and visitors of our island.

We respectfully request that you pass HB 2543.

Sincerely,

Ed Johnson, for
Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range Working Group

Helping your favorite cause is as easy as instant messaging. You IM, we give. [Learn more.](#)

Jerry F. Halverson
78-7206 Puuloa Road
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
808.324.1541/Fax: 808.322.4907
j.fh@hawaiiantel.net

February 25, 2008

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chairman By Fax To: 1-808-586-6201
House Finance Committee
House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB2543—Shooting Range

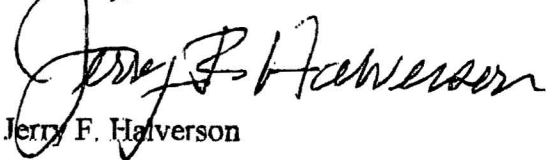
Aloha, Chairman Oshiro:

We understand that your committee will undertake to consider HB 2543 on Wednesday morning, February 27, 2008, and we request your support this important bill.

There is no shooting range in West Hawai'i. The only place for the residents to use is some private property near the 81 mile marker off of the Mamalahoa Highway. This area is not an established range, is dangerous at times and is wholly inadequate. However, even the West Hawai'i police use it for proficiency practice instead of traveling to Hilo. I have no doubt but that range fees, and sales of related supplies, over time would pay for a significant portion, if not all, of the capital outlay and will certainly immediately pay for the ongoing expenses.

We request that you support this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Jerry F. Halverson

Cc: Representative Cindy Evans By Fax To: 1-808-586-8514

FINtestimony

From: kohatsuk001@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 6:40 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 2543 Agenda#1 in Support

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

On behalf of my family and myself, we support HB 2543 and urge funding of this very important Bill.

Thank you,
Kelvin & Ellen Kohatsu
Ryan Kohatsu
Shannon Kohatsu-Jelsma
Ericksen Kohatsu

FINtestimony

From: Brian Nakashima [bnakashima@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 6:03 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 2543 Agenda #1

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and members of the Committee on Finance:

My name is Brian Nakashima. I support and urge your assistance in passing HB 2543.

I live in Hawaii County and have been a life-long firearms enthusiast. I presently run a retail firearms repair and sales shop in Kealahou. In the past I have served as a volunteer Hunter-Safety Education instructor for DOCARE.

Without a public shooting range as available on Oahu and Maui, hunters and shooters here have had to resort to sighting and testing their firearms in hunting areas. This has posed a safety and liability issue for many.

The funding for starting the planning of a public range on state land that has already been approved will go a long way towards supporting the many hunters and target shooters on this island as well as the rest of the state.

A joint state/community group (Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range) has been visualizing a range that would be world class in concept and would draw competitive matches from this state, the nation and even world wide.

I respectfully request that you pass HB 2543.

Thank you.

Brian Nakashima

FINtestimony

From: Hilodik@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 10:31 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB2543 Agenda #1

Testimony in Support of HB 2543, Related to a Public Shooting Range on the Island of Hawaii
Finance Committee Hearing Scheduled Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 10:00 AM, Conf. Rm. 309

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

My name is Richard Hoeflinger. I have personally been involved in the 20-year long effort to establish a public shooting range on the Big Island for the past 8 years. I am a founding member of the Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range Working Group which was formed in 2004.

A lifelong hunter, I can speak to the handicap island hunters face with lack of a designated venue to sight in firearms and develop the marksmanship skills essential to the humane taking of game. The proliferation of informal shooting sites around the island has raised growing concern among many of us over related safety issues and the increasing accumulation of debris on public lands.

In the years I formerly resided on the mainland, I was a competitive shooter in all disciplines: rifle, pistol, and shotgun. Lack of a multi-purpose shooting facility on the island now limits my participation solely to the latter. Competitive shooting is noted for its enviable safety record and ability to engender discipline, purpose, and commitment in participants, young and old alike. I share with others the sorely missed opportunity to engage in competitive rifle and pistol shooting that I so enjoyed in the past.

As a veteran Hunter Education Program instructor, I am concerned with the dichotomy of a state-mandated program for instruction in safe firearms handling and marksmanship training for new hunters, and the corresponding absence of a facility in which to conduct such a program. A former police officer, I also recognize the disadvantages our law enforcement personnel face with lack of a suitable facility in which to conduct training programs and routine firearms qualification exercises. The shooting facility we have proposed addresses all of the aforementioned concerns.

The Shooting Range Working Group, whose volunteer membership includes citizen and law enforcement user groups, state and county government agencies, related businesses and adjacent neighbors, has completed the conceptual design and site selection for a multi-purpose shooting complex on state land in west Hawaii. A preliminary sound survey has been conducted that suggests no adverse impact on surrounding property owners, and successful negotiations have been held to share site access through the adjacent county landfill. Land Board approval was received last year to proceed with planning activities associated with the designated site use. We now need some financial assistance to carry this effort forward.

I respectfully urge the Finance Committee to pass HB 2543, which will support preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and other planning activities required for this much needed public shooting facility.

Sincerely,

Richard Hoeflinger
Keaau, Hawaii
February 25, 2008

Delicious ideas to please the pickiest eaters. [Watch the video on AOL Living.](#)

FINtestimony

From: Jerry F. Halverson [j.jfh@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 5:06 PM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Tommie Sukanuma
Subject: HB2543--Shooting Range

Aloha, Honorable Finance Committee Members:

We are requesting your support for HB2543 that purports to provide authority and funding for a shooting range in West Hawai'i. There is no place on the West side of this island to safely target shoot or to sight-in a firearm.

Shooters, including the West Hawai'i police, test and sight-in their firearms at a location on private property near the 81 mile marker off the Mamalahoa Highway. This location is not a firing range, but is simply an open space where people go to use their pistols, rifles or shotguns. The West Hawai'i police use this location for proficiency practice instead of traveling all the way to Hilo to do so. This location is neither adequate nor safe, but people will go there because there is no where else to go.

We request your support for HB2543.

Thank you very much,
Jerry F. Halverson
78-7206 Puuloa Road
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
(808) 324-1541
j.jfh@hawaiiantel.net

FINtestimony

From: HENRY SILVA [silvahjrm@prodigy.net]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 6:36 PM
To: FINtestimony@Capitor.hawaii.gov
Subject: HB 2453

Dear Chair Oshiro, and vice-chair Lee and members of the Committee on Finance:

I support HB 2543 Agenda # 1. As a retired Police Major of the Hawaii Police Deptment I would like to inform you that there are tens of thousands of gun owners on our islands. There are many active and regular shooters and hunters on our island, that include woman. Our Law Enforcement Agencies, Police, Sheriffs, Prosecutors Investigators, Prison Guards, and most of the Federal agencies need a place to practice and to qualify. There are also civilians that should practice and that need to qualify such as those that work at the airports and those that deliver the big bucks to the banks like Loomis and body guards.

We currently have no "official range". My son, who represented Hawaii in the Junior Olyimpics for riflery while a senior at Kamehameha Schools, cannot teach and pass on his talents to the upcoming youth shooters of today, because of a lack of a range. When I went to Roosevelt High School on Oahu, we had a shooting range on campus and the ROTC teachers taught many of my classmates, how to shoot safely and properly.

Because of the lack of the controlled conditions of a formal shooting range, many people shoot their guns at unauthorized places. This allows for safety problems and sometimes damage to others property. This is an important reason for obtaining a shooting range.

We have been trying to get a shooting range for over 12 years. I am currently a member of a Shooting Range Working Group which was formed in 2004, and the proposed range that we are attempting to develop will address all of the concerns mentioned.

I just attended, at my own cost, the NRA Shooting Range Developement and Management Course in Reno Nevada. It gives insite into the proper development of a new and efficient Shooting Range. I would share this knowledge with the planners so that we will have a cost effective, efficient and safe outdoor range that will meet our citizens needs.

Respectfully,

H. J. SILVA
Major Ret. HPD
Former VP of the North Kohala Gun Club

FINtestimony

From: Randle Crowe [randlecrowe@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 5:33 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: In Support of HB 2543

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and members of the Committee on Finance.

I support HB 2543 on it's merits. The Island of Hawaii needs this facility not only for the community but to support all branches of law enforcement on this island. The concept and location are excellent.

Mahalo for your consideration, Randle W. Crowe

FINtestimony

From: David Sommers [daveinkona@yahoo.com]
Jent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 5:33 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Support of HB 2543

Dear Chair Oshiro, and Vice-Chair Le3e and members of the Committee on Finance:

I support HB 2543. Our Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies as well as us shooters and hunters need a range.

Further I am a DOCARE officer and feel that persons with weapons (any type including firearms, for safeties sake should be as profocient as possible to reduce accidents. Practice and familiarity also tales the mystery and romance out of the mixture

Respectfully,

Dave Sommers

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_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HDtDypao8Wcj9tAcJ

FINtestimony

From: Roger N. Smith [smithr001@wave.bicv.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 7:34 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 2543

Dear Chair Oshiro, and Vice-Chair Lee and members of the Committee on Finance:

I support HB 2543. Our Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies as well as shooters and hunters need a range.

*Respectfully,
Roger N Smith
Hawi, Hawaii*

FINtestimony

From: jess shaw [jessshaw@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 12:48 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Shooting Range:

I wish to apply my support for shooting ranges. They are essential to our police departments our hunters and our citizens who are made safe by the skills obtained at shooting ranges. Failure to train and educate is not acceptable when it can be done so easily.
jess.

FINtestimony

From: HyChar@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 11:12 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: (no subject)

Dear Chair Oshiro, and Vice-Chair Le3e and members of the Committee on Finance:

I support HB 2543. Our Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies as well as us shooters and hunters need a range.

Respectfully,

Hyland H. Char
PO Box 742
Kamuela, HI 96743
PH (808) 885-8800

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FINtestimony

From: Paul Eggel [EggelPF@ah.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:35 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of a Shooting Range in West Hawaii (HB2543)

I support HB 2543.

I believe this facility is necessary for law enforcement and recreational users safe training.

It is a good location, and it is needed.

Aloha

Paul Eggel
Facility manager at North Hawaii Community Hospital

FINtestimony

From: jfhaney [jfhaney@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:25 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 2543

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee of Finance:

I support HB 2543. Our Police Officers and other Law Enforcement Agencies as well as shooters and hunters need a range. It is of the utmost importance that there is a "legal range" where all of the above mentioned can go to, so that they may not only practice, but learn and understand the importance of how to use a weapon safely. Hunting is a way of life especially here on the Big Island and where are the future hunters being taught? At home in the back yard? Or up in the mountains on someone's private property? I hope not.

But most importantly, we need it for our Law Enforcers. They are the ones who are laying their lives on the line everyday and are the ones protecting all of the people in our community. It is a major part of their profession and they need a place to go to and practice as much as they want or feel the need to.

We need a range, like every state in the **United States of America** have, which is specifically designated and designed for this particular purpose.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter.

Respectfully,

Frances Joy Foster-Haney
A Concerned Woman Shooter
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

FINtestimony

From: Hickcox, Robert (ORC) [Robert.Hickcox@Fairmont.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 10:38 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Public Gun Range



Hickcox,
rt (ORC).vcf |

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and members of the Committee on Finance,

In that there is no public gun range facility on the Big Island, I support HB 2543. The Island of Hawaii needs this facility not only for the community recreation and education, but also to support our law enforcement agencies on the island. The concept and location are ideal for this much needed facility.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Robert Hickcox

FINtestimony

From: Security Personnel [Security@maunalani.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 10:49 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: FW: Testimony in Support of a Shooting Range in West Hawaii (HB2543)

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Eggel [mailto:EggelPF@ah.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:35 AM
To: FINtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony in Support of a Shooting Range in West Hawaii
(HB2543)

I support HB 2543.
I believe this facility is necessary for law enforcement and recreational users safe training.
It is a good location, and it is needed.
Aloha

Paul Eggel
Facility manager at North Hawaii Community Hospital

FINtestimony

From: MLR Security [mlrsecurity@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:53 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: RE: Subject: Email Testimony in Support of a Shooting Range in West Hawaii (HB 2543)

Dear Chair Oshiro, and Vice-Chair Lee and members of the Committee on Finance:

I support HB 2543. Our Law Enforcement Agencies as well as shooters and hunters need a range. This will be a lot safer and keep the honest citizen from needing to use their back yard.

The area and weather conditions is good.

Respectfully,
Manuel L. Cordeiro

FINtestimony

From: J. C. Tyler III [jct3kona@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 9:35 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 2543 (In Support)

Committee on Finance Hearing on HB 2543
Wednesday, February 27, 2008 @ 10:00 AM, House Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you very much for hearing HB2543, making an appropriation for a public shooting range in West Hawaii. I have read the bill and speak for myself and my family IN STRONG SUPPORT of it.

As a lifelong resident of and former four-term county council member from the North Kona district, I know firsthand of the need for and strong interest in a public shooting range in West Hawaii, where no such facility currently exists.

For this reason, many Hawaii Island residents, like myself, have been personally involved in public-private community efforts to bring this project to fruition for over 10 years. A volunteer community group, known as the Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range Working Group, comprised of both public and private sector members, is spearheading and coordinating these ongoing efforts. Although I am a member of that group, my testimony today is being submitted on my own behalf and that of my family.

By way of background and in support of passing this bill, please consider that:

1. A suitable site for the range already has been selected and set aside by the DLNR Land Board.
2. A draft conceptual layout for a facility to accommodate anticipated and desired resident, visitor and public safety agency uses has been completed.
3. Range plans are being coordinated with existing roadway access points and utilities within the adjacent County Puuanahulu landfill site and will include state-of-the-art best practices.
4. In concert with the Federal Pittman-Roberts program and considerable volunteer community efforts, matching and in-kind funding opportunities are expected to augment the requested funding.
5. The range is supported by diverse community members, business groups, relevant public agencies, as well as the Hawaii County Council and Mayor Harry Kim.
6. The development of a public shooting range in West Hawaii is vital for firearm training and safety needs of present and future generations of residents, visitors, and public safety personnel.
7. Passage of this bill will provide necessary funding to move this project to the next stage.

I respectfully request and thank you for your favorable consideration and passage of HB2543.

J. Curtis Tyler III
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
Tel: (808) 325-6600

FINtestimony

From: Joann Williams [dagoose@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 12:21 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB2543

Dear Chairman , Vice Chairman, & other members of the Committee on Finance,

Please support HB2543. We are in need of a shooting range . Our Police, and other Law Enforcement Agencies need one to further their abilities to protect . Shooters & Hunters, should also have a safe place to practice and learn the right way to handle guns.

Thank you for you support.

Joann Williams
Kailua Kona , Hawaii

FINtestimony

From: Steve Parker [steveparker@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 2:03 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Range

Dear Chair Oshiro, and Vice-Chair Le3e and members of the Committee on Finance:

I support HB 2543. Our Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies as well as us shooters and hunters need a range. We have been without one for quite some time...please help us out,

Respectfully,
Stephen J. Parker
73-1197 Hiolani St.
Kailua-Kona, HI. 96740

FINtestimony

From: Steven Foth [steven@foth.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 2:57 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 2543

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and members of the Committee on Finance, I support HB 2543 on it's merits. The Island of Hawaii needs this facility not only for the community but to support all branches of law enforcement on this island. The concept and location are excellent.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Steven Foth
808-960-4828