

Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range

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

Hearing Scheduled Thursday, February 14, 2008, 10:55 AM, Conference Room 309

Dear Chairs Evans and Ito, Vice-Chairs Har and Karamatsu, and Members of the Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee and the Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

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 the Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range Working Group

Testimony in Support of HB 2543, Related to a Public Shooting Range on the Island of Hawaii
Hearing Scheduled Thursday, February 14, 2008, 10:55 AM, Conference Room 309

Dear Chairs Evans and Ito, Vice-Chairs Har and Karamatsu, and Members of the Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee and the Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

My name is Richard Hoeflinger. I have been involved in a 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 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 7, 2008

har1-En

From: Hugh Petersen [hgpsurf@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 12:58 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: House Bill 2543

I would like to show my support of House Bill 2543. West Hawaii really needs a shooting range both for hunters to practice and for those like me who just enjoy target shooting. I hope this bill passes and the range is built as soon as possible.

I do go to Hilo to shoot skeet but there is no legal place for the public to shoot either a rifle or a handgun in West Hawaii. I think a shooting range in West Hawaii will be used by enough people to justify the cost of building it.

Thank you,

Hugh Petersen

Hugh Petersen
66-1460 E. Ko Uka Pl.
Kamuela, Hi. 96743

Phone: (808) 887-2098
Fax: (808) 887-0171
hgpsurf@hawaii.rr.com

har1-En

From: EGreenia@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 5:30 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Shooting range in West Hawaii

I support House Bill 2543, introduced by Representative Cindy Evans (D-7), a measure that would appropriate funds for shooting range development in West Hawaii County.

Earl Greenia
Kailua-Kona, HI

Who's never won? [Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music.](#)

har1-En

From: Jim Lutter [jimbo@ilhawaii.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:59 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Fw: HD 2543--Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs/WEST HAWAII SHOOTING RANGE

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

From: Jim Lutter
To: repevans@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 9:18 PM
Subject: HD 2543--Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

Chairwoman Evans,

Mahalo for introducing a bill for a firing range in West Hawaii.

It would be wonderful if residents and tourists could have a place in West Hawaii to enjoy shooting sports and competition and to teach gun safety. I have enjoyed many days of shooting at the County's fine shotgun range in Hilo, but it's an awful long drive to and from Waimea in order make use of that facility. And I'm not aware of any general "public" firing range on the entire island.

As the Big Island also has a long tradition of hunting, the creation of a firing range would allow many sportsmen and women the opportunity to hone their skills as well as pass on the tradition to our keiki'i.

I appreciate your efforts in this matter and hope this project can come to fruition!

Mahalo!

Jim Lutter
POB 6176
Kamuela, HI 96743

har1-En

From: Brian Nakashima [bnakashima@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 8:51 AM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: In Support of HB2543

Dear Chairs Evans and Ito,

My name is Brian Nakashima. I live in Kealahou. My address is 81-6347 Keopuka Mauka Place, Kealahou, HI, 96750. My phone number is 808-323-2757.

I wish to urge the passing of HB 2543 as related to a public shooting range on the island of Hawaii.

Currently, there is no such public facility and many have taken to using their firearms in make shift and unauthorized places.

har1-En

From: Ronald Finelli [westhawaii@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 3:34 PM

To: PSMtestimony

Subject: testimony in support of HB2543

Dear Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee, I have been a resident of the Big Island since 1989. I am also an avid rifle, pistol and shotgun shooter. Over the years I have seen the total loss of legal public areas where citizens practice their skills with firearms. There is currently no legal public pistol and rifle shooting range on the Island of Hawaii, and only three private clubs, all on the East side of the island. I shot with the North Kohala Gun Club until its forced closure two years ago. The club's 80 members have been looking for a replacement area ever since with no success. A public shooting range on the Big Island is needed for the hundreds of hunters to sight in their firearms, for shooters to safety practice and hold competitions, and for the general public's safety. I encourage you to vote in favor of HB 2543 which will give funds for the design and construction of a public shooting range for the Big Island.

Thank you very much,
Ronald Finelli

har1-En

From: jhh [jhh@ilhawaii.net]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 5:55 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: HB2542?

Please support HB2542. Thank You, John Honl Gun owner

har1-En

From: Douglas Morrison [dougmo@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 6:03 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB2542³

Dear Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee:

I am totally in favor of bill HB 2542 and urge you and your peers to support this bill so that it will come out of committee during the meeting on February 14, 2008.

I own several registered firearms, as does my adult son. When a public range was available, we would have the opportunity to spend precious time together target shooting, which is an activity we both have great interest in.

When the North Kohala range was open, we would glad drive a combined 160 miles during that day to spend time with each other and to meet other like-minded, skilled, marksmen.

My adult daughter would also accompany us and hone her skills and gain familiarity with these tools. And again, this gave us a good chance to get together from our areas of the island, enjoy the outdoors, meet good people with disciplined skills and share a picnic lunch in good spirits and good company.

I first learned to respect and handle firearms as a Boy Scout in the late '50s. While serving out country during the Vietnam War, my respect, knowledge and familiarity with other firearms was broadened. I have instilled these traits in my children.

While living in Connecticut, the family would often visit the local ranges (indoors in winter - brrrrr). In Connecticut, I study and practiced and qualified for a permit to carry, which made it very convenient to bring my firearms to my local repair facility, to the police station to register, to the local public ranges and to friends houses in the country where discharging a firearm was permitted.

People will, and do, own firearms. If they are not given a place to practice safely, how can they learn? If they are not given a good environment to meet others with greater skill, how can they learn to respect their firearms.

Please supprt this bill and promote it's passing. By doing so you will promote a sport that many enjoy. You will be encouraging development of disciplined clubs that will promulgate proper technique and safety. And you will be giving our neighbors and friends an activity that they can share with their families.

With my thanks,

Douglas A. Morrison
73-1274 Kukuna Street
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

808 938-1985

2/13/2008

Dear Representative,

I commend you on introducing H.B. No 2543 and fully support all efforts to implement a dedicated area for those of us who enjoy recreational and competitive shooting. Currently, there is not a dedicated public shooting range. Not having a public shooting range has prompted individuals to partake in discharging their weapons in areas that are meant for hunting. This not only increases the possibility of injury but also destroys both the integrity of hunting and the surrounding flora and fauna.

The construction of a shooting range in West Hawai'i can be very beneficial in a number of ways.

For example:

- 1) A safer environment will be available for shooters of all ages.
- 2) Shooting competitions will attract not only area residents but out of state competitors and will bring more revenue into Hawai'i. This can be evaluated by researching the competition held on Oahu every September.
- 3) Weather conditions are favorable in West Hawai'i compared to East Hawai'i, although having a range on the east side of Hawai'i would be nice.
- 4) Less destruction to the endemic flora and fauna of Hawai'i by illegal firearms discharge.
- 5) Integrating instructional sessions or lessons on how to handle firearms safely and correctly by trained professionals may lessen accidents.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Craig P Blaisdell

rainwatercathment@msn.com

har1-En

From: benjamin housh [benbenlala@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 10:18 AM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB2543

Dear Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee,

My name is Benjamin Housh. I am emailing you because i strongly support a public "outdoor" firearms range in west hawaii. The closer to Kona, that is suitable, the better. I have many reasons for supporting a firearms range in west hawaii but am only going to point out 2.

Number one is safety of community, wildlife, and land. For good hunters and sportsman alike, to successfully hunt, need there equipment to be in good working order. For starters your firearm (assuming your using one) must be "sighted in" so that, what you point at, is what you shoot. If not, you can seriously mane a animal and not be able to find it, leading to unnecessary harm of wildlife. Without a place to "sight in" your rifle safely, leads to people doing so in places that can harm land, wildlife, and people. Good ethical hunters need a place to practice there skills to safely hunt and insure good hunting equipment.

Secondly, is a good view of hunting and firearms in the community. A safe place to learn and practice handling of firearms is a delight to everyone. Many sports activity's and learning programs could then be used in the facility to be a place of fun and education in the community. Increasing safety and jobs. Shooting matches and competitions such as bullseye and USPSA could be fun activity's for community.

Overall there is no bad side of a Safe and well maintained firearms range. Once there is a place for education of the proper way to handle and use firearms, everyone benefits. I hope this email can do some good. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Housh

2/13/2008

har1-En

From: Tommie Sukanuma
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 11:23 AM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW: Bill 2543 Shooting Range

From: Burt Swink [mailto:bswink@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 11:05 AM
To: Rep. Cindy Evans
Subject: Bill 2543 Shooting Range

Rep. Cindy Evans,

Thank you for work on shooting Range.
Ranges are in great demand for all.
Police, National Guard, Airport Surety, Coast Guard,
And Sports men.
Are club on Maui manages the Ukumehame Range.
Witch is used fully all year.
Thanks for your Work.
Burt Swink
Pres. of Valley Isle Sport Shooters,
NRA Instructor.
808-875-9085
bswink@hawaii.rr.com

har1-En

From: Tommie Suganuma
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 1:36 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW: House Bill 2543

From: Brandon Leong [mailto:brandon.leong@maryl.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 1:36 PM
To: Rep. Cindy Evans
Cc: Rep. Ken Ito
Subject: House Bill 2543

Representative Evans and Representative Ito,

I am writing to you today to show my support for House Bill 2543. As an avid target shooter, hunter and NRA member it is great to see that you are supporting a sport or hobby that does not really get a fair shake here in Hawaii when it is put up against other sports. Many of us hunters from Oahu have to make sure that our rifles are sighted in prior to traveling to other islands to hunt. But as in anything in life, sometimes accidents do happen and we may need to bore sight our rifles where we are hunting. With House Bill 2543, this will give hunters and shooters alike a safe and regulated place to practice or sight in firearms. Thank you for your support.

Aloha,

Brandon A. Leong
Estimator
Maryl Group
Harbor Court
55 Merchant Street, Suite 2900
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-545-2920
Fax: 808-545-3584

2/13/2008

har1-En

From: Tim Doyle [Tim@fishtank.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 9:45 AM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Favor of HB 2543

Dear Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee,

I would like to voice my support for House Bill 2543, which would create a public firearms shooting range in West Hawaii. It is my understanding that the Committee will meet to discuss this Bill this Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008 at 10:55AM.

I am an owner of several firearms which I enjoy shooting for recreation. Currently there is no legal place in West Hawaii where gun owners/hobbyists can go to shoot. For me this means that I have not been shooting for a very long time and, as an old retired guy, I miss not being able to enjoy this hobby. But, more importantly, I believe that not having a legal and safe place to shoot is undesirable for several reasons:

First, Many people own firearms in Hawaii. I believe that many of them currently go shooting both for recreation and to practice for hunting and I am concerned that safety may be being compromised as various individuals select unapproved places that they feel are "safe" to discharge their firearms. Hawaii Island is large but the population continues to grow. As time goes on it will become increasingly unsafe for individuals to discharge firearms at times and places of their choosing. An approved site for public shooting selected and designed by experts will insure safety for all residents of the Big Island.

Even though the State requires and provides the excellent Hunter Safety Training Program for gun owners, It does not teach "hands on" training for shooters nor provide a place to do this. I believe as a result, we have lots of people (and in many cases their children) out hunting and shooting who are unfamiliar with their guns and safe firearm handling procedures. An approved shooting site will allow the opportunity for organized gun safety training and familiarization.

Hawaii has strict laws regarding the ownership and use of firearms of which I am very supportive. We now need to take the necessary step of providing citizens with a safe place to use their guns to insure we achieve the safety benefits that current laws and required training are designed to promote. Thanks for your time.

Best Regards,

Tim Doyle
73-4887 Manu Mele St.
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

har1-En

From: Neil Paulsen [npaulsen@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 5:43 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Cindy Evans, Vice Chair, Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee

Dear Ms. Evans,
RE: HB 2543

A shooting facility on the West side of the Big Island is a much needed public facility. I would appreciate support for the proposed shooting facility behind the Puuanahulu land fill near Wailoloa.

Neil Paulsen
74-1500 Hao Kuni St.
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

har1-En

From: LeRoy and Linda Prange [thepranges@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 6:45 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Support HB 2543

Please note, as an avid shooter I am requesting that you support bill HB 2543!

Respectfully,
LeRoy Prange
Retired Firefighter
Kailua- Kona

har1-En

From: Tommie Sukanuma on behalf of Rep. Cindy Evans
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 7:07 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW: HB2543

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

From: kohatsuk001@hawaii.rr.com [mailto:kohatsuk001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 5:00 PM
To: Rep. Cindy Evans
Subject: HB2543

Chair Evans,
On behalf of my family and myself, I'm testifying in support of HB2543 for the Big Island.
Thank you,
Kelvin Kohatsu
Hilo, Hawaii

808-959-9875

har1-En

From: Tommie Suganuma on behalf of Rep. Cindy Evans
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 7:09 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW: HOUSE BILL 2543

From: Joe Quick [mailto:jbq41@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 6:20 AM
To: Rep. Cindy Evans
Subject: HOUSE BILL 2543

WE NEED THIS NOT ONLY ON HAWAII BUT ON OAHU ALSO.

MAHALO,

Joe Quick, Sergeant, Honolulu Police Department, retired.

har1-En

From: jon peterson [gwhunter_up@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 7:05 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB 2543

Dear Chair Evans: I believe so strongly in having a shooting range in west Hawaii that when the first shovel of dirt is turned I will become a democrat in this state. I have been a life long republican because I believe only they cared about the shooting sports in Hawaii. Thank you for sponsoring this bill (HR2543) (Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008 at 10:55am.) Thank you again.

Jon C. Peterson, 68-1799 Laie St., Waikoloa, HI 96738

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House of Representatives
Twenty-fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS
and
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing
Thursday, February 14, 2008
10:55 a.m.

Testimony in favor of HB2543 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A SHOOTING RANGE IN WEST HAWAII ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

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

Chairperson Evans
Chairperson Ito
and Honored Representatives,

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 shooting range in West Hawaii.

There aren't any shooting ranges in West Hawaii. Police, conservation officers, sheriffs, security guards, hunters and others licensed to carry guns have no official place to practice with 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 Hawaii community have formed the Hawaii 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 and the Hawaii County Mayor's office, and other community representatives. The Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range Working Group has come up with a site location, by the West Hawaii 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 and EIS and other tasks associated with creating a master plan for this project.

The Hawaii County Council is aware that Mayor Kim has requested your support of this project. The Hawaii County Council supports that request.

We humbly ask you to pass HB 2797.

har1-En

From: thom randle [thomrandle44@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 5:45 AM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Support for HD2543

I am in favor of having a shooting range developed in West Hawaii County and support passage of HD2543. r,
Thomas C. Randle, Hilo, HI.

har1-En

From: Tommie Suganuma
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:17 AM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW: HD 2543--Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

From: Jim Lutter [mailto:jimbo@ilhawaii.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 7:18 PM
To: Rep. Cindy Evans
Subject: HD 2543--Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

Chairwoman Evans,

Mahalo for introducing a bill for a firing range in West Hawaii.

It would be wonderful if residents and tourists could have a place in West Hawaii to enjoy shooting sports and competition and to teach gun safety. I have enjoyed many days of shooting at the County's fine shotgun range in Hilo, but it's an awful long drive to and from Waimea in order make use of that facility. And I'm not aware of any general "public" firing range on the entire island.

As the Big Island also has a long tradition of hunting, the creation of a firing range would allow many sportsmen and women the opportunity to hone their skills as well as pass on the tradition to our keiki'i.

I appreciate your efforts in this matter and hope this project can come to fruition!

Mahalo!

Jim Lutter
POB 6176
Kamuela, HI 96743

har1-En

From: Tommie Suganuma
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:21 AM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW:

From: skipnalu@aol.com [mailto:skipnalu@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 9:25 PM
To: Tommie Suganuma
Subject: Re:

From The Desk Of: Stephen R. Skipper

P.O. Box # 625
Hilo, Hawaii 96721
Phone (808) 963-6996

Dear Hawaii State Representative,

I implore you to support House Bill number 2543 introduced by Cindy Evans (D-7) for a public shooting area in West Hawaii. This bill will help to protect the community from errant rounds fired in backyard or makeshift target areas that can go anywhere after leaving a gun barrel. This effort will allow law abiding citizens who hunt or shoot recreationally to accurize their weapons and lessen the wounding of game animals or missing of critical shots in competition.

In spite of some opinions to the contrary it would also provide a place for law enforcement officers to keep shooting skills at the highest levels to protect the community and reduce injuries to innocent bystanders in those lethal force, hostage and kidnap situations often faced by our law enforcement community. Some folks think policeman and women shouldn't practice those skills but that is a ludicrous idea.

Having a safe place to shoot protects the community and allows the safest pursuit of shooting sports that have an economic benefit to the community. Hunting and hunting related visitor experiences provide much needed additional economic benefits to many large agricultural landowners who are often marginalized by shifting agricultural commodity and cattle prices.

Visiting and resident hunters need to safely target rifles and shotguns in order to insure clean and safe kills before going a field and a sanctioned properly designed range is critical to those efforts .

Hunting also is a bona fide and proven method for reducing numbers or feral ungulates that can decimate native habitat areas when left uncontrolled. Privately guided and public hunting provide an economic driver for habitat management that has been used nationwide to control animal numbers, protect habitat and bring needed dollars to rural communities.

Please vote favorably for this safe place for the shooting sports in West Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Stephen R. Skipper
E-Mail: Skipnalu@aol.com

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

From: Tommie Suganuma <suganuma@capitol.hawaii.gov>
To: skipnalu@aol.com

2/13/2008

FAX TO REP CINDY EVANS 808+586-8514

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Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2008 23:37:02 -0800 (PST)

From: "HENRY SILVA" <silvahjrm@prodigy.net> Add to Address Book Add Mobile Alert

Subject: Support of HB2543, Public Shooting on the Island of Hawaii

To: repevans@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har and Members, Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee:

My name is Henry (Hank) J. Silva. I am a retired Police Major of the Hawaii Police Dept. I am a shooter for many years and my former shooting range, where myself and club members shot, was shut down over a year ago because of a complaint of noise.

I know our community well and can state that, many of our citizens want and need a shooting range, one of the fastest growing national sports. More firearms were sold in our State last year than in any previous year. I am often asked where can I shoot legally.

I share with others the opportunity to engage in competitive rifle and pistol shooting as I have been doing for most of my life. Hunters frequently ask me for a location to site in their rifles. I am also surprised by the amount of ladies who inquire about, and who want to shoot in these modern times.

There is a growing problem of people shooting at unauthorized places. This sometimes presents safety problems. We need a shooting facility which will allow for safe and controlled shooting at a specific area.

I am 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 Development and Management Course in Reno Nevada. This gives us insight into the proper development of a new and efficient Shooting Range.

I and my fellow citizens, respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 2543 for the proposed shooting range.

Respectfully,
H. J. SILVA
Major Ret. HPD
Former VP of the N. Kohala Gun Club

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LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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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 COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
and
WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

February 14, 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 unable to support this measure at this time due to the decrease in the revenue projections (by the Council of Revenues) which will likely have a fiscal impact 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.

har1-En

From: Diane Dunphy on behalf of HSHtestimony
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 12:51 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW: HB2543

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

From: J. C. Tyler III [mailto:jct3kona@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:08 AM
To: HSHtestimony
Subject: HB2543

TO: Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee (PSM) and
Water, Land, Ocean Resources Committee (WLH)

RE: Joint Hearing on HB 2543

ON: Thursday, February 14, 2008 @ 10:55 AM

IN: House Conference Room 309

Testimony: IN SUPPORT of Making an Appropriation for a Public Shooting Range in West Hawaii

Aloha Chairs Evans and Ito, Vice-Chairs Har and Karamatsu, and Members of the Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee and the Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

Thank you very much for hearing HB2543. I have read the bill and speak 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, Hawaii Island residents, including myself, have been personally involved in ongoing public-private community efforts to bring this project to fruition for over 10 years. For the last 4 years, a diverse number of us have served, and continue to serve, as volunteer community members on the Hawaii Island Public Shooting Range Working Group, which is currently spearheading and coordinating the current efforts. Today, however, my testimony is being submitted on my own behalf.

By way of background and in support of passing this bill, it is important to note 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. Plans to coordinate existing roadway access points and utilities within the adjacent County Puuanahulu landfill site with those needed for the proposed shooting range are underway.
4. Thanks to the Federal Pittman-Roberts program and considerable volunteer community efforts, matching and in-kind funding opportunities are expected to augment the requested funding.
5. Favorable responses and support for the project have come from diverse community and business groups, and relevant public agencies, as well as Mayor Harry Kim himself.
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.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Dixie Kaetsu
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i

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February 13, 2008

The Honorable Cindy Evans
Chair, Committee on Public Safety
and Military Affairs
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Ken Ito
Chair, Committee on Water, Land
Ocean Resources and Hawaiian Affairs
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Evans, Chair Ito 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 with 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 2008-09 to get this project started, and I hope that this year's Legislature can see its way clear to providing these funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,


Harry Kim
MAYOR

County of Hawai'i is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

har1-En

From: Patricia Oliveira [peo96720@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 2:40 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB2542

Dear Chair Evans,

As a law enforcement officer as well as a member of the community of the Big Island, I strongly encourage the development of a public firearms range on the Big Island. As for myself, I would frequent the range just to keep my skills sharp since my particular department only allows for 1 day of shooting per quarter. My husband, a hunter and gun enthusiast would use the range to sight in his rifles for hunting and would also enjoy practicing his pistol shooting. It is important that we have an organized range that would promote safe gun ownership and gun safety. Too often I have encountered guns in the possession of people who have no idea of how to use them or care for them. I have also encountered individuals in hiking areas that were sighting in their guns or just shooting targets. This is unacceptable except that they have no where else to go. When I am enjoying my day off hiking in the mountains (in non hunting areas), the last thing I want to encounter is the sound of gunshots but unfortunately, I often run into or hear people shooting. They know it's illegal but again, where else are they suppose to go? An opportunity has presented itself, please don't let it pass by. Please appropriate the necessary funds for the planning and development of a shooting range. Thank you. Patricia Breault Oliveira

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har1-En

From: Tommie Sukanuma
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 3:35 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW: I strongly support House Bill 2543,

From: Imustbebornagain-Jn3:7 [mailto:gomesh@juno.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 9:57 PM
To: Rep. Cindy Evans
Subject: I strongly support House Bill 2543,

Dear Chairman Evans,

Although I am not a gun owner, I **strongly** support House Bill 2543. (House Bill 2543 is the measure that would appropriate funds for the shooting range development in West Hawaii County.)

Thank that you for introducing the bill, and keep up the good work..

Sincerely,

Craig Gomes
94-1450 Lanikuhana Ave. Apt. # 391
Mililani, HI 96789-2435
gomesh@juno.com Home (808) 625-0606

"You must be born again":Spoken by Jesus the Christ the Son of the living God. (John 3:7)

har1-En

From: Tommie Sukanuma
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 3:37 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW: Shooting range in West Hawaii

From: Tom Burnett [mailto:tcburnett@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 11:44 AM
To: Rep. Cindy Evans
Subject: Shooting range in West Hawaii

Aloha Cindy,

I am in East Hawaii and we have a dedicated range in Glenwood for the members of the Big Island Gun club, of which I am a life member and past president, as well as an NRA instructor and NRA certified Master Range Safety officer. I strongly support the creation of a range in West Hawaii, as well as any other measures which support legal and safe gun ownership and use, including a "SHALL ISSUE" law by the legislature, a fifteen round pistol magazine capacity for pistols designed by the manufacturer to hold fifteen rounds and the end of silly legislation like serializing ammunition, which will have no effect whatsoever except to make ammunition so expensive that law-abiding citizens will be forced to turn to the black market for ammunition and will do nothing to solve crimes, which are commonly carried out with stolen firearms and ammunition.

I further support legalizing Tasers for public ownership in Hawaii. At the moment, defending your home means lethal violence in many cases. There is no middle ground. And even in cases where the victim successfully saves the life of him or herself, they face mandatory arrest. I am HR-218 certified, so I can legally carry concealed firearm. Within the past five or so years, I have been doing so much more frequently because crime is on the rise. There are thousands of retired Hawaii police officers who are not allowed to carry firearms after their retirement. Who better to act as the buffer between civilian victims in public and police officers but highly trained retired officers who prove their ability with firearms on an annual basis?

I have carried a concealed firearm for forty-eight years. I have never been in ANY incident, nor committed a crime. But if I saw a police officer down, I would go to his aid instantly. And I would be arrested for doing so. That makes no sense, Ma'am.

Please support the West Hawaii range and the freedom of all Americans to protect themselves.

a hui hou
best regards

Tom Burnett
808-982-7001

2/13/2008

har1-En

From: Tommie Suganuma
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 3:53 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: FW: SUPPORT HD 2543

From: TowerEngr@aol.com [mailto:TowerEngr@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 10:43 AM
To: Rep. Cindy Evans
Subject: SUPPORT HD 2543

Dear Legislature Member:

I urge your SUPPORT for HD 2543. We need more "good" recreational activities that teach and support our way of democratic life. As a like long shooter and supporter of the reasonable police and other life safety programs I think this bill will make a positive impact.

Thank you for your SUPPORT of HD 2543.

Aloha

Jerry Whitehead
Citizen
Voter
Multiple Business Owner
Disabled American Veteran
Multiple Residence Owner
Past President - Economic Development Napa County
Past Member Durham Planning Commission

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har1-En

From: Dean Sumida [roadie96720@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 4:03 PM
To: PSMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB2542

Dear Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee,

I am writing to support HB2542. As a member of law enforcement on the Big Island, I am concerned that there is no public facility that law enforcement can utilize to practice and qualify with their firearms. As you well know, the proficiency of an officer is dependent on practice and training. Not having a public place to do that hampers the departments.
Please pass this measure for the benefit of the people of the Big Island.

Thank you,
Dean Sumida

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