



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

February 25, 2008

Testimony on **SB2183**, IN OPPOSITION
Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, on
Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 9:30 AM, Conference Room 016

Hon. Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; Hon. Sen. Clayton Hee, Vice Chair,
Chair, Vice-Chair, Members,

HRA opposes this bill setting different standards for government for firearms safety and liability.

If anything, the bar should be higher for professionals who are authorized to carry firearms every day and whose duties may include use of lethal force with those firearms to protect themselves and the public.

Safe storage is part of the current statute. Surely government arsenals and employees should be *more* secure, not excused from failure to report theft or loss.

If the Federal Government, State, and Counties do not wish to indemnify their armed employees, perhaps they should seek insurance coverage.

Tort actions as we understand them are brought to seek compensation for unintentional acts or omissions leading to injury, including death, and property damage. Doesn't government wish to indemnify its citizens against such accidental occurrences? If the costs are too high, then broad-based tort reform is needed.

We have great empathy for law enforcement officers on the street. They must occasionally make life and death decisions in seconds, and then they are second-guessed for years after. We think maintaining their indemnification by their government may help them better deal with this grave responsibility.

We respectfully suggest this bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HRA

Dr. Maxwell Cooper
Legislative Co-Chair
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February 24, 2008

Testimony on SB2183, in **OPPOSITION**
Before the Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 9:30 AM
Senate Conference Room 016
testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members;

Lessons in Firearms Education (LIFE) feels that as firearms owners, all governmental agencies should be held to the same standards of accountability and liability for the use of their firearms as anyone else.

There should be tort reform regarding the protection of firearms owners from frivolous lawsuits arising from the legal use of firearms, but to single out the government for protection without likewise protecting the ordinary firearms owner from the same types of predatory lawsuits is unfair.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **IN OPPOSITION** of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Plischke
Lessons in Firearms Education (L.I.F.E.)
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