

LATE TESTIMONY



Committee: Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Opposition to H.B. 2681, Relating to Electric Guns

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs:

The ACLU of Hawaii opposes any attempts to reduce the amount of training that law enforcement officers must receive before using potentially lethal weapons such as TASERS or other electric guns. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently concluded that Maui Police Department officers used excessive force in using a TASER on a domestic violence victim, *see Mattos v. Agarano*, ___ F.3d ___ (9th Cir. Oct. 17, 2011) (available at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2011/10/17/08-15567.pdf>); by lessening training and accreditation standards, the State is exposing itself to liability for excessive force (not to mention putting the safety of the community at risk).

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 45 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Gluck
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