



ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE

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# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
(808) 244-6400  
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GARY A. YABUTA  
CHIEF OF POLICE

CLAYTON N.Y.W. TOM  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 20, 2013

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Senate Bill No. 69, SD1, RELATING TO FIREARMS

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department would like provide comments on SB No. 69, SD1. This bill requires county police departments to fingerprint, photograph, and perform background checks on individuals who wish to register a firearm that was procured out-of-state. This bill authorizes the police departments to assess a fee for conducting a fingerprint check and specifies the amount of the fee. This bill appropriates funds to the county police departments to develop and offer gun safety programs, education, and training; perform extensive background checks for mental health concerns for certain individuals wishing to register guns; and, initiate a gun buy-back program.

The Maui Police Department supports the intent of the bill to strengthen our state's firearms registration laws. Though this bill will increase the difficulty for citizens to obtain firearms with the additional background checks on individuals who wish to register a firearm that was procured out-of-state, we would like to voice our concern over having to establish a gun safety program for "gun safety education and training for the community." As there are already private entities in our community that provide this training, our department is reluctant to take on any liability for injuries and deaths that could be a result of entering into this type of gun safety and educational training. This could also deplete manpower and resources in our department at a time when having dedicated firearms instructors train our own officers at our own facilities are limited.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

GARY A. YABUTA  
Chief of Police



# Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association

Founded in 1857

January 28, 2013

Testimony on SB69 SD-1

Before Senate WAM, Rm. 211, 9:45 am, Feb 20, 2013

IN STRONG OPPOSITION

Hon. Chair and Members,

- **HRA supports the NICS checks for out-of-state guns and fingerprinting on registrants (but not those who already have prints on file).** Their prints don't change. This however will further lengthen the intolerable lines currently jamming the county firearms sections. Appropriations are needed for additional personnel, increased hours of operation, and additional police station locations on all Islands, where background checks, registration, and permits can be handled expeditiously.
- The county police departments have no background in training the public in firearms safety. Teaching beginning shooters is far different from teaching police recruits. They failed on their promise to develop such programs when mandatory training for handgun permits was enacted in 1994. Police Public Information officers have repeatedly advised public forums that passive surrender or fleeing is better than responding with a gun to a lethal attack, contrary to statistical evidence showing that response increases the likelihood of serious injury or death for the victim.
- Hawaii's NRA Basic Firearm Safety Instructors have trained thousands of people in safe gun handling practices and state laws governing firearms at no expense to the government and with a perfect safety record. If the Legislature wants to spend money where it counts, NRA instruction programs on all Islands need more public ranges and proper classrooms.
- Buy-backs waste taxpayer money. They are a public relations campaign for the Legislature and the police departments, with a *negative* public safety effect.
- The Hawaii Senate Committees on Health and Public Safety have assigned the complicated issue of improving mental health background checks to a working group of professionals (SB932, SD1). Our existing mental health background checks are sufficiently strong to await the outcome. County police departments should operate within the current statutes, not "perform extensive checks for certain individuals."

HRA recommends amending this bill by: 1. removing all appropriations to the county police and instead appropriating \$200,000 for extending firearms sections to appropriate county police stations other than the main stations, adding employees, and extending hours of operation to include Saturdays, and 2. changing "may" to "shall" in the language amending HRS 134-3, (a).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Maxwell Cooper, HRA Legislative Liaison

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 3:09:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [SB69-SD1-TEST2.docx](#)

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Livingston	LIFE Lessons in Firearms Education	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Fingerprints should only be taken on out of state gun registration if they are not already on file. Hawaii's NRA Certified Firearm Safety Instructors have trained thousands of people in state mandated safe gun handling and state laws governing firearms, all at no expense to the government and with a perfect safety record. If the Legislature wants to spend money where it counts, not-for-profit NRA Certified Instructor programs on all Islands need more public ranges and proper classrooms. I'm sure the city or state has a room sumplace that could be used as a classroom one or two weekends a month. There are a couple of politically neutral programs that do not promote the use firearms. The NRA also has an Eddie Eagle GunSafe®Program that teaches children in pre-K through third grade four important steps to take if they find a gun. These steps are presented by the program's mascot, Eddie Eagle®, in an easy-to-remember format consisting of the following simple rules: If you see a gun: STOP! Don't Touch. Leave the Area. Tell an Adult. There used to be some teachers that would teach this in their classrooms. Another NRA program is Refuse to Be a Victim it is a personal safety program that teaches strategies you can use to avoid situations where self-defense is required. This course focuses on proactive courses of action, rather than reactive. Criminals prefer easy targets. By making yourself more difficult to prey upon, you lessen your risk of criminal attack.

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Fingerprints should only be taken on out of state gun registration if they are not already on file.

Hawaii's NRA Certified Firearm Safety Instructors have trained thousands of people in state mandated safe gun handling and state laws governing firearms, all at no expense to the government and with a perfect safety record. If the Legislature wants to spend money where it counts, not-for-profit NRA Certified Instructor programs on all Islands need more public ranges and proper classrooms. I'm sure the city or state has a room sumplace that could be used as a classroom one or two weekends a month.

There are a couple of politically neutral programs that do not promote the use firearms.

The NRA also has an Eddie Eagle GunSafe<sup>®</sup> Program that teaches children in pre-K through third grade four important steps to take if they find a gun. These steps are presented by the program's mascot, Eddie Eagle<sup>®</sup>, in an easy-to-remember format consisting of the following simple rules: **If you see a gun: STOP! Don't Touch. Leave the Area. Tell an Adult.** There used to be some teachers that would teach this in their classrooms.

Another NRA program is *Refuse to Be a Victim* it is a personal safety program that teaches strategies you can use to avoid situations where self-defense is required. This course focuses on proactive courses of action, rather than reactive. Criminals prefer easy targets. By making yourself more difficult to prey upon, you lessen your risk of criminal attack.

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**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 6:45:10 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian R Hill	Brian the Electrician LLC	Oppose	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. The police departments don't have the expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Nor should it be within their purview to do so. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector, a fact easily uncovered by the bill's author if they actually desired to engage in valid research methods. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. So what is the point of this bill, other than someone being a sore loser because of their idea not having any merit? And finally, I shake my head at any legislator that wants to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. Happy trails to them! The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. If there is \$200,000 to be tossed away for such non-sensical at this time in our history, as a taxpayer I implore you to use that money on roads, education, parks, etc. Please kill this bill off in your Committee. Thank you!

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Date: Sunday, February 17, 2013 12:33:14 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymond Michaels	Maui Plumbing Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments: I am baffled buy the fact that this legislative body is looking to fix something that is not broken. Those that wish to purchase firearms out of state (legally) and register them in the state must pass a background check and be fingerprinted (at least I was). The fact is, this legislation does NOTHING to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. It only makes it harder for law abiding citizens to purchase a firearm for self defense. I do agree that those mentally unfit shouldn't own firearms. Unfortunately doctors misdiagnose patients constantly. Who gets the final say on who is fit and who is not? Will there be an appeals process? What if someone had a mental break down 10 years ago but is now diagnosed as mentally healthy? What condition(s) are the basis for the decision whether an individual can possess a fire arm? How much does this cost? Gun buy back programs have consistently been a complete failure and a waste of money. Why would anyone trade in a firearm whose average MSRP is over \$800.00 for a \$100.00? Once again it seems this legislature can not do simple math. I know several public schools who can better benefit from these funds rather than a program that does nothing to make people safer. I do not need a legislature telling me what will keep me safe. What I do need is for this legislature to get off my back and let me create jobs. This legislature needs to spend less time being a parent, more time balancing its budget and reducing the burden on small businesses so that we can create jobs.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/15/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Lim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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A. Bradley, Oppose

To the Legislature:

SB69 spends money the state doesn't have, to do things the residents of Hawaii do not want. Specifically, it will fund the police departments to provide gun safety education that is already provided by private citizens - in effect this bill would be an attack on those citizens' incomes and livelihoods. I have taken such a course taught by an NRA certified instructor and the government has no business spending such money to put more people out of work when they have such huge unfunded liabilities.

Registration of guns from out of state is already required in Hawaii. More evidence this bill is a farce.

The gun buyback program is even more ridiculous. Again, this state is broke and has no business allocating funds to purchase guns. By way of comparison, drunk driving fatalities in this state are approximately 40 times that of gun related fatalities. Moreover, cancer fatalities related to alcohol (liver, breast) are well over 100 times that of gun related fatalities in the state! These facts cannot be disputed. If the legislature wants to reduce the number of deaths I insist they instead allocate money for an alcohol buy back program, as that is far more injurious to the state of Hawaii than guns. To not do so would be blatant hypocrisy.

Sincerely,  
A. Bradley



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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam LIPKA	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: In this current version of SB 69 it states "Under Hawaii's existing laws, a person arriving in the State with a firearm is required to register the firearm, but no permit process or background check is required.". This is a false statement. Currently under Hawaii Revised statutes 134-3 registration is required of all firearms within 3 days of entering the state. In order to register a firearm in Hawaii you must have a background check and a permit to acquire approved before registration will be allowed. This process also currently includes being photographed, fingerprinted for checks with the FBI, and a mental health background check. So this part is unnecessary and duplicates existing law and procedures. Next the bill states it wants to create funds to institute safety training as well as help with the background checks and create a buy back program. I have a few concerns over this as it is written now. There are no provisions stipulating any requirements or standards for a safety program or how it should be offered to the public. Also, how much money does a police department need to type a name into a computer for the mental health check and wait for the results? Unless this money specifically gave the department more personnel to perform this task, which it can't, I can't see how the money would be useful to the police departments for this purpose. I also feel that a buy back program would be a severe waste of our limited taxpayer's money. As a voter and taxpayer I strongly oppose a buyback program as historically they have only proved to buyback a majority of firearms that are broken or otherwise nonfunctional, which are not a threat to anyone. Buy back programs also prey upon lower income families that look at the meager money they might get from the buyback instead of the potential protection from crime that a firearm can offer. Statistics show that generally low income neighborhoods tend to have higher rates of violent crime which makes it that much more necessary for families in these areas to have an ability to defend themselves from such an event. Besides all of this we already have in place systems with our police departments where the public can turn in their firearms for destruction if they so desire. Across our State government agencies and programs have been facing financial cuts as we have been spending more than our taxes currently can pay for. I have heard in my own job that I must learn to do more with less because the economy is poor and funding simply isn't there. While I would love to see the police departments receive better financial funding for safety programs and financial help for

background checks I worry that the wording of this law is far too vague and unspecific as to how they would manage this money and I fear that the money would only end up misused or wasted instead of providing the services that they intended. Throwing money at a problem that frankly I don't believe Hawaii has will only serve to waste our taxpayer's money and in the end hurt the community instead of helping. I strongly commend the intent of those who wrote this bill, especially the idea of getting police departments to sponsor firearms safety training. But I must oppose this bill entirely as I feel it only will serve to harass law-abiding citizens who have done nothing wrong and potentially waste taxpayer money.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/16/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alfred O'Connor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: While I do think background checks are a necessary step in the process for legal gun ownership, the fact that this state wants to spend MORE money on initiatives is absurd. The police are overwhelmed with what they currently have to do on the island of Oahu and adding to the number of laws they are already having a hard time enforcing is insane. Instead of spending more money for laws on guns in the safest state in the union, why don't you use that money for road safety and training programs? If you are wondering what I refer to, just drive down the H1 not in an official vehicle and watch what has been unleashed on the roads of this state. THAT, to me, is a far more dangerous situation than anything to do with guns.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/15/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
andrew berky	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not intrude on my second ammendment rights

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Peters	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I OPPOSE SB69 as a taxpayer because we have much more important issues to spend \$200k on in this state. Why waste money on this bill when we could apply it to the homeless, education, or infrastructure repairs. Please kill this bill!

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1212 Nuuanu Avenue, #810  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
February 18, 2013

The Honorable David Ige, Chair  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: S.B. No. 69, SD-1, Opposition

Dear Senator Ige and Committee Members:

I strongly oppose S.B. No. 69, SD-1 because I believe it will not alleviate crime by reducing the amount of guns in the community through a so-called "buy back" program. Indeed, if more honest law abiding residents of Hawaii own guns, public safety can improve and crime can be decreased, as shown by statistics from other states on the mainland.

The "buy back" would be terribly unfair to people who would sell their inherited guns to the County Police Department at a fraction of their value rather than sell them through a federally licensed firearms dealer for fair market value.

Lastly, training programs are best done by NRA certified instructors or other firearms trainers who have a positive attitude toward responsible and safe gun ownership than by the County Police Departments, which have experience in catching criminals, but lack experience in providing firearms safety training to law abiding citizens.

Please reconsider this bill and do not waste taxpayer funds on it.

Sincerely,

Antonie Wurster

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ardie Cooper	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Hon. Chair and Members. I oppose this waste of taxpayer dollars on publicity for the PD's and Sen. Espero's Committee. The PD's have no expertise to investigate protected health information, or teach NRA courses, and they have a lot more important stuff to do than buy used guns. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Ardie Cooper, 225-6945

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B. Willauer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**TO** : **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**FROM** : **BARRY AOKI, 761 PAUNAU STREET, LAHAINA, HI**  
**DATE** : **FEBRUARY 19, 2013**  
**SUBJECT** : **OPPOSE SB69 SD-1**

My name is Barry Aoki and I am a resident of Lahaina, Maui, HI and also a law enforcement officer. I am in opposition to SB69 SD-1.

The allocation of funding to the Police departments to develop training and safety programs should not happen. The Police departments did not undertake this task back in 1994 and will not do it in 2013 if passed. Reason is they do not want the liability of training civilians. The Police departments did not even want to certify their retired officers under the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act due to perceived liability. If they don't want to do it for their own retired officers, why would they do it for civilians?

The law abiding citizens that bring firearms into the state are already taking the steps to register their firearms at the Police departments and they are not the problem and should not be charged for registering their firearms. If the NICS is good for them, it should be good for the residents of Hawaii too so there would not be a waiting period.

I believe the gun buy-back program will be a waste of tax payer money. As it stands now, anyone can voluntarily turn in any firearm to any Police station or officer for disposal. Put this funding towards educating school age children with the NRA's Eddie Eagle program instead.

I also oppose the extensive background checks for certain individuals as it is not spelled out who is or who will determine who these individuals may be. This is too broad of a requirement. The current process of obtaining a permit to acquire is sufficient.

Again, I oppose SB SD-1 entirely.

Thank you.  
Barry Aoki  
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SB69

Submitted on: 2/16/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Kang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Gun buy backs are a waste of taxpayer money. They do nothing to reduce crime as shown in studies such as one published in Public Health Reports, and available on the National Institutes of Health PubMed website: PMID: PMC1403522 The study found no significant effect on crime due to gun buy-back programs; although among that insignificant effect, they found crimes and deaths increased, while injuries decreased.

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## SB69

Submitted on: 2/15/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Gun control laws do not correlate with decreased violence and gun ownership does not correlate with increased violence. If gun control were a panacea, then Washington, D.C., Oakland, and Chicago, which have very strict gun control laws, would be among the safest places to live rather than among the most dangerous. Gun ownership is roughly three times as high in Switzerland as it is in Germany, yet the Swiss have had lower murder rates. Other countries with high rates of gun ownership and low murder rates include Israel, New Zealand, and Finland. During the decade that the assault weapons ban was in place, our nation's public schools were subjected to over two dozen incidents of violence through the criminal use of guns—including the Columbine massacre. Gun bans create vulnerabilities by disarming law-abiding citizens. Defensive gun uses may be as high as 2.1 million to 2.5 million times per year. Additionally, there have been numerous occasions where mass shooters have been stopped before they could continue their mayhem by ordinary citizens with lawfully possessed firearms. Examples include, among others, an assistant principal who stopped Luke Woodham who, after killing his mother at home, killed two students and wounded seven others at a high school in Pearl, Mississippi, in 1997; the dance hall owner who stopped Andrew Wurst after he killed a teacher and wounded three others at an eighth-grade graduation dance in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, in 1998; and, the students who stopped Peter Odighizuwa after he killed a dean, a professor, and a student and wounded three others at Appalachian Law School in Grundy, Virginia, in 2002. The Second Amendment's guarantee of the right to keep and bear arms is fundamental to a free society, which depends, ultimately, on personal responsibility. The debate over gun laws must be situated in a larger discussion about the character of our civic order.

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February 16, 2013

Testimony on SB69 SD-1  
In WAM, Rm 211, 2/20/13

IN OPPOSITION

Honorable Chair and Members,

I am OPPOSED to SB69 SD-1. The HRA and NRA already have excellent safety programs. A State safety program will only become another inefficient, inept bureaucracy. Why not just promote something that is already in existence and works instead of re-inventing the wheel? Gun buy backs will not take firearms out of the people who shouldn't have them in the first place. If mainland buy backs are any indication, you will only get rusted junk, replicas, and non-firearms like spent ordnance - none of which is worth what is given in these buy backs. Our tax money is better spent elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brian Lau

Honolulu, HI 96825

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Thorstad	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Arnold	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chet Fong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a tax payer of this beautiful state, to saddle our police dept. from doing additional work, when their resources are already stretched. Nor do they have the expertise, and time or the resources to conduct firearms safety. The author of this bill should do their research, because there are numerous other resources to provide such education and firearms safety. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. In this day and age where using \$200,000 for a non-issue, and we are already strapped with shortage of funds for other really critical areas, as road maintenance, education, and parks! Please defeat this bill, as it is a useless piece of legislation. Thank you

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Shaeffer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The majority of gun owners entering the State will have already passed the exact same instant background check in order to purchase those firearms in the first place. This bill doesn't solve any problems that Hawaii has.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CLINT H OSBORN	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. While I appreciate everyone's efforts to make our streets safer the provisions of this bill vary from items that can help to items that can hurt. I agree with the provisions for continuing the background checks and closing loopholes that would-be criminals exploit such as gun trafficking and straw-buyers. However the police departments don't have the training, expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Firearms safety is well covered in the private sector by private sector funding at NO cost to the taxpayer. There are even current programs in place for FREE firearms safety training available to those that cannot afford the fees. I am more than a little disappointed in this bill's author's loose wording and lack of research into the facts. Please rebuke him/her privately to ensure that he/she is reminded of the responsibility they carry to present sound & supportable recommendations. As leaders, the legislature cannot stand for "knee jerk reactions" based on emotion and public outcry. Decisions must be based upon facts and constitutionally based guidance. There is already an open door policy at HPD for people to turn in guns for destruction at no cost to the individual. We can advertise those types of programs with existing PSA's through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. HPD is already understaffed due to budget constraints and should not be asked yet again to "do more with less". One need only look at the unending line of YOUR constituents standing dutifully in line outside the Beretania Street Firearms Unit. These are OUR people that know, respect and obey the law – listen to their voices as they vote quietly with their patience. And lastly, my wife is a public school teacher that continues to work without a contract and I am amazed that any legislator wants to throw away \$200,000 at an ineffective and somewhat misguided approach in this time of strict budgets and failing programs. If there is \$200,000 to be tossed away for a non-issue, as a taxpayer I implore you to use that money on public education or crumbling roads. Please kill this bill off in your Committee. Thank you!

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## Testimony on SB69 SD-1

Date: 02/18/2013

### Testimony on SB69 SD-1

Honorable Chair and Members,

I am opposed to this bill because the State of Hawaii has sufficient laws concerning firearm ownership. The laws that we currently have is beyond what gun laws are on the Mainland. The State of Hawaii should be concerned about the citizens of Hawaii and not what is happening in the Mainland States. Basically I do support NICIS background checks for out of state gun registration and finger printing. I also support the same NICIS background checks for “new” gun owners living in the State of Hawaii concerning state gun registration and finger printing.

However, I do not support redoing NCIS background checks and fingerprinting on current gun owners who are already in the HPD system and who have already completed this requirement. Redundant background checks and fingerprinting is a waste of money.

Without sufficient appropriations and additional personnel at the Main HPD station, the long intolerable lines at the Firearms Section will continue to jam the office and common areas leading into the office. Common wait now is about 1 to 1 ½ hrs to register a firearm or to apply for a permit to purchase a firearm (including filling out forms for background check and mental health evaluation permission forms).

The county police departments have no training programs available to teach the public firearms training and safety. Teaching beginning shooters is far different from teaching police recruits. County police failed on their promise to develop such programs when mandatory training for handgun permits was enacted in 1994.

Hawaii’s NRA Basic Firearm Safety Instructors and the State’s Hunter Safety program have trained thousands of people in safe gun handling practices and about state laws governing firearms at no expense to the State Government and with a perfect safety record. A signed and notarized affidavit of this training is presented to the student at the end of the training.

If the Legislature wants to spend money where it counts, NRA Instructor programs on all Islands need more public ranges and proper classrooms.

Current gun owners who have already completed this training and have a signed and notarized affidavit of said training should not be required to repeat this requirement. To do so is a waste of the tax payers money.

Buy-back are a waste taxpayer money. Buy-backs are a public relations campaign for the Legislature and the police departments, with no public safety value and gives uninformed citizens that know nothing about guns a “feel good moment” of false security. This will affect only law abiding citizens only. It will not take guns out of the hands of criminals who steal guns or buy them off the Black Market. Currently HPD accepts unwanted guns from law-abiding citizens who no longer wish to have them. Why spend more tax payer money when there is a system and it isn’t broken?

As to mental health, the Hawaii Senate Committees on Health and Public Safety have assigned the complicated issue of improving mental health background checks to a working group of professionals (SB932, SD1). As a gun owner, I resent being put into the same category with people with mental issues.

## **Testimony on SB69 SD-1**

Furthermore, the State's existing mental health background checks are sufficiently strong to prevent undesirables from owning firearms. Additionally, the State's Judicial system also singles out individuals who cannot have firearms after a court judgement, i.e., domestic violence, TROs (temporary restraining orders), felons. These cases are filed with HPD who are supposed to seized/confiscate firearms from the residence of these people. County police departments should operate within the current statutes.

This bill is discriminatory and singles out gun owners as a danger to society. Does the State require a mental health background check to operate an automobile? Maybe we should as way more people die in car accidents. And drug abuse – so many lives ruined. What is being done about that? Education? The sinking economy? The homeless? Do not use the gun issue to divert attention from more important problems in the State that should be addressed. Do not jump on the bandwagon with the "National fever against guns". Why?

We have sufficient laws governing gun ownership in Hawaii. Hawaii gun laws supercede anything the Mainland States have in their gun laws or lack thereof. Even our Gun Shows are safer. Nothing is sold at our Honolulu Gunshow without the buyer showing a HPD permit to purchase a long gun. The seller is required to informed HPD in writing of said transfer of firearm to the buyer. The buyer must register the firearm after the sale. Handgun transfers between seller and buyer are required to be done at the HPD Firearms Section.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
Cyrus Chun

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D Morohashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: why not have people turn gun in for free first. And use money for education. Like new books and Equipment.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darryl Choy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: SB-69 as re-written is flawed and should not be enacted. All individuals moving to Hawaii with firearms are already in legal possession by federal law. Requiring them to under go a background check is unnecessary and will require them to be in line twice. This will burden the already busy police registration desk. A majority of the people moving to Hawaii with firearms are our service personnel. Under the present law having them register firearms once is already a burden. But to have them undergo a back ground check and return for registration is a unnecessary burden to them. A buy back program is unfortunately a waste of money. It does virtually nothing to keep firearms out of criminals' possession.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David A Buehler	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There is no need to spend valuable tax payer dollars on a buy-back program as the record shows these programs have been failures in other states that have implemented them. Mahalo.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/15/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/16/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Morris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am writing in opposition to this bill. I strongly believe that this would be a serious waste of taxpayer money. When searching the National Criminal Justice Reference Service database for information on gun buyback programs, the studies show that these programs are ineffective at reducing suicide or homicide rates. (See link for search results) <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Search/SearchResults.aspx?txtKeywordSearch=Gun+buyback&fromSearch=1> The top result is the most recent and most comprehensive study done on this subject. While it was conducted in Australia, it is in line with the results of research conducted in the U.S. and should be viewed as evidence that even on a very large scale these programs are ineffective. The full report can be found at the link below.

[http://www.ssaa.org.au/research/2008/2008-09-04\\_Australian-firearms-buyback-effect.pdf](http://www.ssaa.org.au/research/2008/2008-09-04_Australian-firearms-buyback-effect.pdf) I hope that you will give this scientific evidence some weight as often our assumptions, even when well meaning, can be incorrect. Mahalo! Dave Morris 91-2194 Kanela St. Ewa Beach, HI 96706

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denver Valdez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Domingo V. Layugan, Jr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Honorable Chair and Members. I am opposed to this bill. I stress, again, fiscal responsibility in this time of economic uncertainty. There are already gun safety programs, namely the NRA basic handgun safety course, that is at no cost to the state and without the use of valuable police manpower. The gun buyback is also of little use since other buyback programs in other states show that guns turned in are not the "assault" type that police want off the streets. Lastly, the police department already institute using the NICS process and mental health check that is strongly sufficient and, I admit, may be stronger than other states. I urge members to vote no on this bill as it would not be fiscally responsible and it does not do anything to reduce gun crimes. Thank you for your time. Domingo. V. Layugan, Jr.

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SB69 SD1 Gun Safety and Education; Appropriation

Honorary Board Member,

I oppose SB69 SD1 Gun Safety and Education; Appropriation. For the following reasons:

1. It doesn't make fiscal sense to spent tax payer's dollars to fund a firearm buyback. Law abiding citizens will not support this sort of buyback because they have invested more than the buyback could pay them for their firearm(s). The average legally bought and possessed firearm cost \$600-\$4500 dollars.
2. Amendment to 134-3(a) should not apply to legal residents of the State of Hawaii. The State of Hawaii has the most restrictive gun laws already enforced which citizens who wish to apply for a permit to acquire a firearm must go through a comprehensive background check facilitated by the HPD and citizens have to wait 14 days before permit is issued. An annual renewal of the permit to acquire requires applicable documents be filled out and a 14 day wait period before permit is issued.
3. Amendment to 134-3(e) annual renewal fees should not be charged to legal residents of the State of Hawaii for individual or joint permit to acquire registration. This fee should be a one-time fee upon initial permit to acquire registration to legal residents of the State of Hawaii. Additional fees will put a financial burden on legal residents of the State of Hawaii.
4. HPD should not get involved in training of individual citizens who want to possess firearms in the State of Hawaii and should leave the training to private companies who stimulate the economy and to military services whose job it is to defend the country. HPD has a bigger task to protect and serve the citizens of Hawaii.

//SIGNED//

Dwayne Lim

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwight Kikuta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill is totally unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money. People who are willing to turn in firearms are not interested in getting paid and if they do want payment, would be trying to sell the firearm rather than turning it in. Thank you for the chance to be heard.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ed	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Nugent	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I OPPOSE this bill. There are better uses for \$200,000 of taxpayer money. Things like road repairs, school repairs, teacher supplies, parks & rec improvements, invasive species management, to name a few. PLEASE DO NOT WASTE MY TAXES. I WILL REMEMBER YOUR VOTES ON ELECTION DAY!

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The Hawaii Senate Ways And Means Committee **SB 69 (SD1)**

*As a taxpayer, I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill.*

*The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state—are now and have always been accomplished by the county police departments. This bill, provides no additional means of ownership verification or security than that which being adequately provided currently.*

*The private sector already has firearm safety programs as well as those administered by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Requiring police departments to provide such course would be redundant and as waste of money and valuable police assets.*

*In this time of fiscal uncertainty and restriction, I urge legislators to use restraint when spending taxpayer money, especially in this case where no lessening of crime or increase in public safety will be attained. Approval of this bill is truly a waste of taxpayer money which can either be saved or used for the common good in fixing our roads or other eroding infrastructure.*

*Citizen gun owners already have the ability to turn in their personal property to the police, authorized dealers or museums, if they choose not to maintain ownership of their firearms. They do not have to be paid to make this happen. The police departments can advertise those types of programs with PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce taxpayer funds.*

*Criminals will not voluntarily turn in their weapons no matter what the incentive.*

*This bill will not rid criminals of their guns nor will it increase public safety or lessen crime.*

*Please kill this bill off in your Committee.*

*Thank you!*

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Out of State Procurement: Before I can support this please specify that if the individual already has a valid permit to acquire then the fingerprint, photograph, and background check is not required. I've procured a rifle out of state because it is not available in this State. Fingerprint Fee: Before I can support, specify amount of fee, I'm concerned the fee may be unreasonably and prohibitively high. Gun safety programs, education and training funding: I support safety, education, and training programs. I'm concerned that an individual such as myself who has underdone safety, education and training programs will be required to periodically repeat the same courses over and over again...and that the true intent of the law is to deny ownership through the imposition of onerous and unreasonable compliance requirements. Extensive Background Checks for mental health concerns for "certain" individuals: Before I can support please define and clarify "certain". I'm concerned that "certain" will mean 'individuals registering a firearm'. I do not want mentally ill individuals such as those who perpetrated the Columbine, Virginia Tech, Gabriel Giffords, Aurora and Sandy Hook shootings to have access to firearms either. Please be cognizant too that this provision may have the unintended effect of causing "certain" persons suffering from PTSD to avoid seeking needed treatment. I do not oppose a gun buy back program.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Mulec	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Strongly opposes this bill. The county police departments have no training programs to teach the public firearms training and safety. If the Legislature wants to spend money where it counts, NRA Instructor programs on all Islands need more public ranges and proper classrooms. Buy-backs waste taxpayer money.

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**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 12:57:40 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred Clark	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 4:01:32 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred Doerrige	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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testimony

Dear WAM Committee Members,

I'm opposed to SB69 as it merely adds unnecessary checks (fingerprinting, etc. on existing registrants) and wastes taxpayer money that could be used on more important city programs. Also, the delays and long lines at the firearm registration section will only become more intolerable with the additional registration regulations. If you are going to implement these unnecessary checks, then it is extremely important that you create firearm registration sections at ALL major police stations on the island to alleviate the burden of having only one place downtown. It's also very difficult for those who do not live downtown to obtain permits, etc. in a timely manner and without excessive expenditure in time, gas, etc.

Sincerely,

Gary Fuchikami  
91-1038 Niolo St.  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

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**Date:** Friday, February 15, 2013 5:39:26 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/15/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GEORGE STOIAN III	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: THIS IS ALREADY BEING DONE HERE IN HAWAII AND AS FAR AS THE GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM GOES, IT IS A WASTE OF MY TAXPAYER MONEY. I AM A COLLECTOR OF THESE FIREARMS AND IN A MILLION YEARS THE STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD NOT AFFORD TO PAY MARKET VALUE FOR MY COLLECTION AND I WOULD NOT SELL IT EVEN AT THAT. THIS IS NOT ONLY MY RIGHT, BUT IT IS AN INVESTMENT FOR ME AND MY FAMILY. PLEASE STOP INFRINGING ON PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/15/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GEORGE STOIAN III	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: ALSO WANT MY REPRESENTATIVES TO KNOW THAT IF ANY OF YOU VOTE FOR ANY ANTI GUN BILLS SUCH AS SB 69 AND OTHERS YOU HAVE COMING UP, YOU WILL LOSE NOT ONLY MY VOTE, BUT MY WHOLE FAMILY'S VOTES. THAT IS A PROMISE

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Wessberg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill is a true waste of taxpayer money. Gun buy-backs do not make guns less available to criminals. There is no evidence to suggest this bill will reduce gun violence unless you make firearm safety education mandatory for every citizen, not just gun owners. HPD does not provide driver's education, they just enforce traffic laws. HPD should focus their resources on enforcing existing gun laws and making it easier and faster to register firearms. There is no lack of public access to firearm safety education. The DLNR provides hunter safety education.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hung Hei Cheng	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The following comments are taken straight from my friend's testimony. I completely agree with it and see no need to re-write it. Please kill this bill. Don't waste my tax money. I do not want you to use the money in this manner for this bill. "The police departments don't have the expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Nor should it be within their purview to do so. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector, a fact easily uncovered by the bill's author if they actually desired to engage in valid research methods. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. So what is the point of this bill, other than someone being a sore loser because of their idea not having any merit? And finally, I shake my head at any legislator that wants to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. Happy trails to them! The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. If there is \$200,000 to be tossed away for such non-sensical at this time in our history, as a taxpayer I implore you to use that money on roads, education, parks, etc. Please kill this bill off in your Committee. Thank you!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James C Madraso	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill SB69. James C Madraso

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James M. Miller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not pass SB69.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Schwarzenberg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Hawaii county police depts ALREADY fingerprint and photograph every person registering a firearm, regardless of whether it was procured locally or brought in from out of state, and they ALREADY charge a fee for fingerprinting. In order to register a firearm an individual MUST have already attended a firearm safety course, excellently conducted by the Dept of Land Resources or the NRA (via self-sustaining budgets.) This appropriation is an utter waste of money for programs already in existence. And gun buy-back programs have been repeatedly demonstrated on the mainland to have NO effect on crime. Criminals don't "sell" their guns to the police. Law-abiding gun owners can turn in their firearms anytime, for free, for destruction. DON'T waste my tax dollar on such a misguided stupid idea. Spend the money on incarcerating law-breakers!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/16/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Although Chicago has historically had strict gun laws, laws in the surrounding parts of Illinois were much laxer — enabling middlemen to supply the criminals in Chicago with guns they purchased elsewhere. Forty three percent of the guns seized by law enforcement in Chicago were originally purchased in other parts of Illinois. And even if the state had stricter gun laws, Illinois is not an island. The remaining fifty seven percent of Chicago guns all came from out of state, most significantly from nearby Indiana and distant Mississippi — neither of which are known for their strict gun laws. Hawai'i is an island. We can keep out guns from other lax states and require those that want to register their out of state guns to be fingerprinted, photographed, and pass a background check. Please pass SB69. Mahalo!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Guthrie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Copied from another user but I wholeheartedly agree. ----- As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. The police departments don't have the expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Nor should it be within their purview to do so. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector, a fact easily uncovered by the bill's author if they actually desired to engage in valid research methods. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. So what is the point of this bill, other than someone being a sore loser because of their idea not having any merit? And finally, I shake my head at any legislator that wants to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. Happy trails to them! The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. If there is \$200,000 to be tossed away for such non-sensical at this time in our history, as a taxpayer I implore you to use that money on roads, education, parks, etc. Please kill this bill off in your Committee.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOHN BAKER	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill This bill is just wastefull spending of tax payer monies on more redundant issues put fourth in prior attempt by these senators. Instead of 100,000. they raise it to 200,000.dollars , where is this money comming from when our city and state claim to have fiscal shortages. if this monies are available use it in areas with a more needed help like fixing our roads, or better yet for our kids education especialy when most of you use that excuse on your election platforms.The police don't have time for training of gun safety we have enough qualified citizens who do that already.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josh Shaughnessy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. The police departments don't have the expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Nor should it be within their purview to do so. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector. It would be a mistake to allow this to happen. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. So what is the real point of this bill all this will do is make it more difficult to own a firearm then it is already. I don't understand how any legislator could want to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, and on their Facebook page without the expenditure of scarce funds. If there is \$200,000 to be tossed away for this issue, as a taxpayer I implore you to use that money on roads, education, parks, etc. Please kill this bill off in your Committee. Thank you!

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## Oppose SB69 S.D. 1

I am testifying on behalf of my 5 children, 5 grandchildren and future generations of my descendants.

### **SB69 submits statistics:**

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that from the year 2000 to the year 2011, the number of permit applications for firearms processed annually in Hawaii grew by 136.9 per cent. In this same time period, the number of firearms registered annually grew by 170.3 per cent. In 2011, 15,357 personal or private firearm permit applications were processed in the State of Hawaii, a 20.1 per cent increase from the previous year. Although Hawaii has an estimated population of only 1,360,000, the attorney general estimates that there are at least one million privately owned firearms in Hawaii.

### **The State of Hawaii Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division Reports Statistics for the same period:**

The violent Index Crime rate in Hawaii decreased 4.8% in 2011, and the property Index Crime rate decreased 4.9%, reaching its lowest level on record for the State of Hawaii. Hawaii's total, violent, and property Index Crime rates in 2011 were, respectively, 43.0%, 3.8%, and 44.8% below the rates reported a decade earlier (2002).

(See Attached end of document)

**"When the government fears the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny".**

**Thomas Jefferson**

Perhaps the increase in gun sales directly correlates to the declining trust in government?

### **Recent Reasons for SB69 to be enacted:**

This bill was radically altered because it was so offensive to the Law Abiding Citizen. In fact the first reading of the bill no one in favor of the bill would testify in person. The number was 197 opposing 0 in support.

### **The SB69 proposed that:**

1. To buy back guns from legitimate gun owners would keep guns from falling into the hands of criminals? No statistics exist to support success of a buyback program!
2. Admits that this does not remove the guns already illegally possessed by criminals.

### **Reason for this bill cited three incidences of gun violence in Hawaii:**

The two cited were committed by convicted felons on Parole, a fact conveniently left out.

Why were convicted felons on Parole in possession of guns? Can you tell me?

Did and do our existing gun laws mean anything to the criminals? NO!

Would the proposed changes in this bill do anything to stop this kind of violence? NO!

**The third incident was cited:**

A minor takes a gun to school. The boy had unloaded the magazine, but a bullet remained in the gun's chamber then there was an accidental discharge.

The gun was registered in the name of someone who has a different last name from the 14-year-old. It was unclear how he obtained the gun. The father said his son found the gun on Friday behind the school gym, but didn't pick the weapon up until Monday morning.

Did a criminal leave a loaded gun behind the school gym or did the registered owner leave the gun behind the gym. You can figure that out!

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/05/23/gun-fired-hawaii-school-1-injured/#ixzz2LFpwgpEq>

**“Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom”.**  
**Thomas Jefferson**

**In previous testimony I actually suggested education would be a better way to keep guns from criminals.**

Public Service Announcements:

1. Ways to secure a firearm from your children and theft
  2. Trigger locks
  3. Locked in a secure location
  4. Secured with a locking device to prevent removal
  5. Out of site out of mind
- 
2. The four rules for safe firearms handling.
    1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded
    2. Don't point your gun at anything you don't intend to shoot (safe direction)
    3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
    4. Keep the safety on until ready to shoot
- 
3. Rules for children who inadvertently come in contact with a firearm. “The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program”. <http://eddieeagle.nra.org/>  
**If you see a gun:**
    1. STOP!
    2. Don't Touch
    3. Leave the Area
    4. Tell an Adult

Firearms are a fact in our society, rather working so hard to infringe work with legitimate organizations to make firearm safety and security.

The HRA and NRA have done more to educate the citizens of Hawaii than our state legislature. Having a perfect safety record says something about the quality of the training given. Work with legitimate gun owners and organizations to promote safety.

Give this funding to non- profit training group like LIFE who has been doing a great job at training our citizens in the safe handling and storage of handguns.

Rather than direct your resources to more gun laws, enforce the ones that work, abolish the ones that don't work.

Let's stop the fear mongering and hysteria and work together for a safe Hawaii.

**If "Guns Kill People", then "Cars Make People Drive Drunk" and, "Spoons Make People Fat"!**

Ken Archer  
Retired Airline Captain  
Astronomer  
NRA Certified Instructor  
Veteran



State of Hawaii

# **Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division**

## **Crime in Hawaii 2011 (Annual)**

**November 15, 2012** – Hawaii's Index Crime\* rate decreased in 2011, down 4.9% from the rate reported for 2010, to reach a record low level.

A total of 47,340 Index Crimes were reported statewide in 2011, yielding a rate of 3,443 offenses per 100,000 resident population. The violent Index Crime rate in Hawaii decreased 4.8% in 2011, and the property Index Crime rate decreased 4.9%, reaching its lowest level on record for the State of Hawaii. Hawaii's total, violent, and property Index Crime rates in

2011 were, respectively, 43.0%, 3.8%, and 44.8% below the rates reported a decade earlier (2002).

Other highlights of *Crime in Hawaii 2011* include the following:

The rate of reported offenses for all violent Index Crimes decreased for the State of Hawaii in 2011: murder decreased 16.9%, forcible rape decreased 7.4%, robbery decreased 7.7%, and aggravated assault decreased 2.8%. There were 3,466 violent Index Crimes reported in the State of Hawaii in 2011, representing a rate of 252.1 offenses per 100,000 residents.

Reported rates of offenses also decreased for all of the property Index Crimes in the State of Hawaii during 2011: burglary, 7.2%; larceny-theft, 2.4%; and motor vehicle theft, 16.3%. The burglary and larceny-theft rates in 2011 were at record low levels. The State of Hawaii's property Index Crime rate in 2011 was 3,191 offenses per 100,000 residents.

The number of statewide Index Crime arrests increased 3.4% in 2011. Arrests for violent and property Index Crimes increased 2.5% and 3.6%, respectively.

Based on the proportion of arrests (plus cases closed by "exceptional means") to reported offenses, the total clearance rate for reported Index Crimes increased from 15.4% in 2010 to 16.5% in 2011.

Adult arrests comprised 77.3% of all Index Crime arrests in 2011; juvenile arrests accounted for 22.7%. *Crime in Hawaii 2011* also provides state and county data on the age, gender and race/ethnicity of arrestees.

The City & County of Honolulu's total Index Crime rate decreased 4.9% in 2011, with the violent and property crime rates decreasing 8.3% and 4.7%, respectively. The City & County of Honolulu's total Index and property crime rates in 2011 were the lowest on record since the start of statewide data collection in 1975.

Hawaii County's total Index Crime rate decreased 9.0% in 2011. Hawaii County's violent crime rate decreased 3.6%, and the property crime rate decreased 9.5%. Hawaii County's total Index and property crime rates in 2011 were the lowest in the State of Hawaii, and the lowest on record for Hawaii County since the start of data collection in 1975.

The total Index Crime rate in Maui County decreased 6.1% in 2011, the violent crime rate increased 22.5%, and the property crime rate dropped 7.4%. Maui County's violent crime rate in 2011 was the lowest in the State of Hawaii, and their total Index and property crime rates in 2011 were the lowest on record for Maui County since the start of data collection in 1975.

*\* Including the violent Index Crimes of murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and robbery; the property Index Crimes of burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny-theft; and, tracked separately, arson.*

## **Record Crime Rates\***

### **State of Hawaii and Counties, 2011**

#### **State of Hawaii**

Record low total Index Crime rate

Record low property crime rate

Record low murder rate

Record low robbery rate

Record low burglary rate

Record low larceny-theft rate

Record low arson rate

#### **City & County of Honolulu**

Record low total Index Crime rate

Record low property crime rate

Record low murder rate

Record low forcible rape rate

Record low robbery rate

Record low burglary rate

Record low larceny-theft rate

Record low arson rate

#### **Hawaii County**

Record low total Index Crime rate

Record low property crime rate

Record low burglary rate

Record low larceny-theft rate

#### **Maui County** Record low total Index Crime rate

Record low property crime rate

Record low burglary rate

Record low larceny-theft rate

#### **Kauai County**

None

<http://ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/rs/cih/crime-in-hawaii-2011-annual/>



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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Moore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: No government can legislate crime. This is again, designed to slowly erode our personal freedoms, bit by bit. You are proposing to impose stricter regulations on law abiding citizens without a valid proposal to deter criminals. This bill cannot logically pass. It is your sworn duty to act with objectivism, not subjectivism. You are required to remove your emotions from the equation, and do what is right for all. This bill has no merit.

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Dear Senators,

I oppose bill 269 as it is written. The bill should only apply to non-residents. Otherwise, a resident who already went through the required background checks and obtained permit to acquire a firearm(s) in Hawaii but purchased it from a different state would have to undergo additional background checks and pay additional fees not to mention make two or more trips to the police department and wait in those ridiculously long lines more than once.

The below points for Section 3 (1-2) were made to address residents who already obtained a permit to acquire and purchased a firearm(s) out of state and are now registering the firearm(s) in Hawaii. Section 3 (3) applies to any circumstance.

Section 3 (1) HRS 134-2 (g) mandates completing an approved firearms safety or training course before obtaining a permit to acquire thereby making the police department responsible to establish gun safety education and training for the public redundant and unnecessary.

Section 3 (2) Is too vague and does not specify the criteria for the mental health concerns for certain individuals as mentioned.

Section 3 (3) What good would a buy-back program do to reduce gun violence? I am almost 100% certain that criminal(s) in possession of illegal firearms or who use illegal firearms to commit their crimes will not turn in those firearms. Law abiding citizens who no longer wish to possess their firearms can turn in their unwanted guns to the police for free now anyway.

Lastly, I strongly feel that \$200,000 could be used for so many other pressing needs to better our communities and would be wasted to appease that segment of the population who want to take away our 2nd Amendment Right.

Please don't allow this bill to pass your committee.

Mahalo for you time and consideration.

Ken Tomita

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken	SGRC	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Ways & Means Committee

RE: SB69, SD1 RELATING TO FIREARMS – OPPOSE

DATE: Wednesday, February 20, 2013

TIME: 9:45AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

February 18, 2013

Honorable Chair and Members,

I oppose this bill.

I would like to suggest Hawaii adopt the national instant background check (NICS) program that was signed into law by President Clinton in 1998 with James Brady. It's being used effectively in other states. I recommend you look at the short video available at [www.fbi.nicsprogram.gov](http://www.fbi.nicsprogram.gov) to understand the program. I have not been able to find any data to suggest the additional hurdles Hawaii law requires is more effective than this federal program.

The \$80,000.00 earmarked for the objectives mentioned in the bill is insufficient to meet any of the goals; whether for additional personnel to perform background checks, provide safety training or gun buy backs.

You may not be aware that as firearms sales have increased 150% over the last 10 years, the hours at the only public shooting complex on Oahu have been reduced by 25%.

As chair of the Koko Head Range Improvement Committee, I believe it's paramount we increase the hours, improve the infrastructure and provide classroom facilities for training. Not only the public but also government agencies depend on the facility. I would like to suggest we provide funding for the police department to better utilize its Waipahu indoor range for gun safety programs for the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Mulkern  
808-396-6595

kevinjmulhern@gmail.com

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laughlin Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am against this bill and you spend more efforts to have more training facilities than making bills that are hidden taxes.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marlene Orr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill. Gun buybacks don't work! Waste of taxpayer money!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marshall Ness	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: there is a better use of public funds.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maury Pendleton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: A enormous waste of tax payer money! Be smarter than this with our money!!!!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Hanson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: While this bill is well intentioned, it throws money at an issue and incurs a long-term obligation to fund for years to come if the legislature is truly serious about it. Gun registration is already underway for out of state guns. The real issue is the lack of staff to get the job done. The papers are reporting people standing in lines for hours to do the right thing. Put some of that money towards a new hire or two to staff the registration office or to open other offices at other substations. Education projects are great, too, but who is going to run those programs once in place? HPD is under staffed already, so you'll have a program in name only. Better to engage with existing groups like the Hawaii NRA and the Hawaii Rifle Association and provide traing standards and free training materials. \$200,000 dollars will fund two or three new clerks and a whole lot of training materials and do more to help the situation than just throwing money at HPD for a mission they'll be hard pressed to accomplish as the legislature expects.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Orr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please kill this bill. Gun buyback programs only collect guns from honest citizens not criminals!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Page	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Riley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: In WAM, Rm 211, 2/20/13 IN OPPOSITION Honorable Chair and Members, I am opposed to this bill for a number of reasons. First of all, is the waste of taxpayers money for the buy back program. These programs have proven to be dismal failures wherever initiated. They are an expensive 'feel good' program, paid with our tax dollars. These 'buy back' programs have been proven time and time again not to disarm criminals. Second, What is the criteria for and who determines "performing extensive checks for certain individuals"; in reference to mental health? Third, All those that limit our rights, do so with nothing more than their own personal bias as justification. I would love to see my tax dollars go toward gun safety training and facilities for NRA Instructor programs on all Islands that need more public ranges and proper classrooms. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Michael B. Riley

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle EL Yee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Oppose, this is a waste of tax payers monies.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Savard	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please kill this bill. The county police departments have no training programs to teach the public firearms training and safety. The NRA already has courses and instructors geared to the public at no cost to the state.

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**SB69**

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noelle Natale Madraso	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill SB69. Noelle N Madraso

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nolan dorado	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Norman Hahn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. The police departments don't have the expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Nor should it be within their purview to do so. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector, a fact easily uncovered by the bill's author if they actually desired to engage in valid research methods. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. So what is the point of this bill. Gun buy backs in other cities like Oakland, Seattle, and Detroit have been nothing but dismal failures because they do not take in the type of guns used in crimes, private gun buyers will attend to offer more for something they would like to buy, but mainly because criminals who illegally possess guns will not willingly turn them in. I find it disturbing that law makers would jump on the bandwagon of restricting the rights of gun owners with unimaginative ideas. Instead of a kneejerk reaction, think things through before proposing ridiculous bills. And finally, I shake my head at any legislator that wants to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. You are cutting the budgets for essential services like law enforcement and EMS, where will you get the money for this fiasco? By increasing taxes? Use that \$200,000 to increase the budget for Emergency Medical Services and don't waste my tax dollars on programs that have a history of not working. Thank you!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Norman Nagamine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Chairs and Senators, I am a resident of Pearl City and I oppose this bill. The additional requirements will not make us safer and will place further requirements to obtain firearms. It is already difficult and time consuming. The buyback will cost the State in a time when the State budget is already tight. These requirements and buyback will not make the State safer since the bad guys will ignore the laws anyway. Only the good law abiding people will be affected. Thank you for letting me express my opinion. Norman Nagamine

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17 Feb 2013

Subject: Testimony on SB69 SD-1

Where: WAM, Rm 211, 2/20/13

Position: IN OPPOSITION

Honorable Chair and Members,

I support the NICS checks for out-of-state registration, and fingerprinting (but not on registrants who already have prints on file). Their prints don't change. This however will further lengthen the intolerable lines currently jamming the firearms sections, so some of the appropriation must be earmarked for additional personnel as well as additional police station locations on all Islands, where background checks, registration, and permits can be handled expeditiously.

The county police departments have no training programs to teach the public firearms training and safety. Teaching beginning shooters is far different from teaching police recruits. They failed on their promise to develop such programs when mandatory training for handgun permits was enacted in 1994. Police Public Information officers have repeatedly advised public forums that passive surrender or fleeing is better than responding with a gun to a lethal attack, contrary to statistical evidence showing that response increases the likelihood of serious injury or death for the victim.

Hawaii's NRA Basic Firearm Safety Instructors have trained thousands of people in safe gun handling practices and state laws governing firearms at no expense to the government and with a perfect safety record. If the Legislature wants to spend money where it counts, NRA Instructor programs on all Islands need more public ranges and proper classrooms.

The current buy-backs schemes waste taxpayer money. They are a public relations campaign for the Legislature and the police departments, with no public safety value.

The Hawaii Senate Committees on Health and Public Safety have assigned the complicated issue of improving mental health background checks to a working group of professionals (SB932, SD1). Our existing mental health background checks are sufficiently strong to await the outcome. County police departments should operate within the current statutes, not "perform extensive checks for certain individuals." .

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Normand A Cote  
Law Abiding Citizen

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Baltazar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. The police departments don't have the expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Nor should it be within their purview to do so. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector, a fact easily uncovered by the bill's author if they actually desired to engage in valid research methods. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. So what is the point of this bill, other than someone being a sore loser because of their idea not having any merit? And finally, I shake my head at any legislator that wants to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. Happy trails to them! The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. If there is \$200,000 to be tossed away for such non-sensical at this time in our history, as a taxpayer I implore you to use that money on roads, education, parks, etc. Please kill this bill off in your Committee. Thank you!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula P Pellecchia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state—are now and have always been accomplished by the county police departments. This bill, provides no additional means of ownership verification or security than that which being adequately provided currently. The private sector already has firearm safety programs as well as those administered by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Requiring police departments to provide such course would be redundant and as waste of money and valuable police assets. In this time of fiscal uncertainty and restriction, I urge legislators to use restraint when spending taxpayer money, especially in this case where no lessening of crime or increase in public safety will be attained. Approval of this bill is truly a waste of taxpayer money which can either be saved or used for the common good in fixing our roads or other eroding infrastructure. Citizen gun owners already have the ability to turn in their personal property to the police, authorized dealers or museums, if they choose not to maintain ownership of their firearms. They do not have to be paid to make this happen. The police departments can advertise those types of programs with PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce taxpayer funds. Criminals will not voluntarily turn in their weapons no matter what the incentive. This bill will not rid criminals of their guns nor will it increase public safety or lessen crime. Please kill this bill off in your Committee. Thank you!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Gamble	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Regarding SB69 SD-1 as pertaining to firearms. I support the Hawaii Rifle Assn position on this bill. As a Navy vet, NRA instructor and frequent visitor to Hawaii, I find it appalling that Hawaii is moving backward when it comes to including herself in the United States. Being part of the United States means honoring the Constitution, including the Second Amendment. In Hawaii there are certainly more important problems to solve before creating new, administrative barriers to freedom. Lifelong gun owners like myself are an asset to the community, not a threat. Why punish honest citizens?

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
phil branch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Kill this bill. It is a prvoven finacial loser.

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**SB 69 WAM Rm 211 20 FEB 2013.**

Kill this bill.

This program already exists in several forms; one is the Firearms Collector that will offer fair market value for a desirable firearm, and the other way to sell them is at a gun store on consignment, which will also be priced at fair market value.

This bill in no way removes firearms from a criminal's possession, nor will it reduce crime. Robberies, burglaries and home invasions will still happen. I can't say for sure, but it might even entice criminals to steal guns and sell them to the police, then, crime would pay.

Responsible firearms owners more than likely have a safe to keep their firearms safe, from criminals.

The owner of any property is absolutely free to offer for disposal any of their property. If anyone wants to have their firearms, like any other property, destroyed, they can have that done anyway.

This bill will waste money, time and use resources that could be used in crime reduction, and still not reduce crime.

There are currently safety programs in place from the NRA. No one had been shot using this program, but we know that police and law enforcement personnel have shot themselves trying to give a safety class.

Do not waste tax money that is better spent on road repair or even better, do not increase my taxes to fund this program that has not ever worked as touted anywhere it has been tried. There are no success stories from a program of this sort.

Kill this bill.



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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip Sedenio	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip Tong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. I oppose this bill which will do little to effect what few gun crimes we have as is but take a huge sum of public monies out of our coffers when they should be used much more wisely elsewhere on maintenance and infrastructure for example. Vote No on SB69.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renny Chee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. This is a waste of taxpayer money in a time when funds are critical. The police departments already have provisions in place to turn in unwanted firearms - for free! The PDs are already burdened with other more important issues. This is another "feel good" bill that does nothing to address crime. Please kill this bill off in your Committee and save our taxpayer money.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymond S. Burke III	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The author(s) of this bill should have checked with the Firearms Office of the county police department prior to writing this bill. This would have prevented them suffering the embarrassment of not knowing that some of the things they suggest be done have been in force by county police departments for decades. And now they want to force an already over-burdened and understaffed police department to provide training for the public, and appropriate \$200,000 to do so. Get real! The private sector is already well equipped to handle this function. Use that \$200,000 to replace some of the money that has been raided from the highway fund and start repairing our hazardous and embarrassing roads. That is an obviously visible and tangible danger to our community! Come on you guys! Write a bill that actually does something positive!

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB69-SD-1

WAM - Room 211

February 20, 2013

Honorable Chair and Members:

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1. \$200,000 should be used to repair Hawaii infrastructure (i.e., fill the potholes!). Legislators are ignoring the will of the people and officiously directing the expenditure of our hard-earned taxpayer dollars to solve a non-existent problem (*rampant criminal gun violence in Hawaii*) with a solution that doesn't work (*gun buy-back programs have no significant effect on gun violence*). This expensive scheme has no public safety value and wastes limited taxpayer dollars.
2. County police departments did not keep their promise to develop training programs to teach firearms training and safety to Hawaii citizens when mandatory training for handgun permits was enacted in 1994. To ensure compliance with the Hawaii law, Hawaii's NRA Basic Firearm Safety Instructors have trained thousands of Hawaii citizens in safe gun handling practices, and state laws governing firearms, at no expense to the government and with a perfect safety record. There is no need now to divert resources for county police training programs. If the Legislature wants to spend money where it counts, NRA Instructor programs on all Islands need more public ranges and proper classrooms.
3. The Hawaii Senate Committees on Health and Public Safety have assigned the complicated issue of improving mental health background checks to a working group of professionals (SB932, SD1). Since our existing mental health background checks are sufficiently strong to await the proposed actions of this working group, county police departments should continue to operate within the current Hawaii statutes, rather than "perform extensive checks for certain individuals" beyond their current statutory direction.
4. Additional mandatory background checks, registration, and permit processing will definitely warrant the allocation of more police station locations and permitting personnel on all islands to handle the increasing workload and shorten the wait times for law-abiding citizens to comply with these burdensome state requirements in order to exercise their Constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,  
Reva Hamilton

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
richard hacker	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. The police departments don't have the expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Nor should it be within their purview to do so. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector, a fact easily uncovered by the bill's author if they actually desired to engage in valid research methods. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. So what is the point of this bill, other than someone being a sore loser because of their idea not having any merit? And finally, I shake my head at any legislator that wants to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. Happy trails to them! The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. If there is \$200,000 to be tossed away for such non-sensical at this time in our history, as a taxpayer I implore you to use that money on roads, education, parks, etc. Please kill this bill off in your Committee.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Cullen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This seems to be a waste of taxpayer money.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Lillie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please don't waste taxpayer money on this scheme. It doesn't remove illegal guns from the hands of criminals. Use that money for something else (schools, roads, etc.). People can turn in their own guns if they don't want them--because it is their property and if they believe it's the right thing to do. Why do the rest of us have to pay for their civic act? What other civic acts will we be paying people for next? Thank you!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert A. Señeres	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. The police departments don't have the time, resources and in some cases the expertise to engage in 'gun safety' education. We have sons and daughters that have been engage in combat for the past decade that have a deeper breadth and depth of firearms safety than most. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector, a fact easily uncovered by the bill's author if they actually desired to engage in valid research methods. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. And finally, I shake my head at any legislator that wants to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. We need to start running the government like a business and mind the bottom line. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. Happy trails to them! The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. If there is \$200,000 use it to lower taxes or improve essential services. Please kill this bill off in your Committee. Thank you!

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodrigo Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: How is the police department going to engage in 'gun safety' education without the resources, manpower & time? Firearms education is already provided by the people who teach the hunter's education course and many more private businesses. Aren't provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state already being accomplished by the county police departments? As a taxpayer, why are spending money on a gun buy back program? People already have the choice of turning in unwanted firearms for free. Most people are spending hundreds and even thousands of dollars on each firearm. Why would they even consider selling these firearms for everyone knows will be just 'chump change'? Please kill this bill and put more effort into fixing our roadways, education, parks, etc.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Russell Takata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: With the exception of the background check for out-of-state registration, this measure now includes "nice to hear" items and double the price tag of the original bill. the gun buy-back program sounds good but isn't going to prevent crime. The provision of gun safety and training is another sounds good item but tries to duplicate private programs already in existence using NRA certified instructors. It seems the funding will pay be primarily for administrative costs and programs that will not reduce gun-related crime.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/16/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
s saito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/15/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sheldon miyakado	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I believe that all firearm owners should register with HPD and the fee shall apply including any back ground checks. I don't believe in the buy back program since it didn't work in Seattle. An amnesty program may be a better solution as it allows people to turn in illegal or illegally obtained firearms without the fear of prosecution. This will take the illegal firearms off the streets and or out of people's possession in a safe manner.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelton Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Dear Committee members,

It is obvious the person(s) introducing this bill has no idea of the process involved in registering an “Out of State” firearm. A person registering such a firearm, if not already a registered firearm owner with prints and photograph already on file, has it done at the time of registration. Their identity and criminal history check, etc is also accomplished at that time to ensure they are legally able to possess/own a firearm in the state of Hawaii.

On the issue of “Gun safety education and training for the community”, firearms safety program resources are already WIDELY available through various organizations, one of which is the National Rifle Association (NRA). In fact, the NRA and its instructors, is one of the recognized resources under Hawaii Revised Statutes 134-2 (g) (4) for citizens to meet the safety and training requirements for applying for their handgun permit to acquire.

Lastly, appropriating public money to purchase unwanted private property (firearms) accomplishes nothing for public safety. How does offering “cash incentives to gun possessors to forfeit their firearms” remove illegal firearms from the hands of criminals? I find it hard to believe this could possible be efficient and effective method for removing firearms from the hands of any criminal and are these not the ones who we should be targeting? If a citizen wishes to be rid of their firearms, they could easily turn them into any police department or sell them at any gunstore, both options that would cost us taxpayers NOTHING. Will we be funding a “Drug/Alcohol Buy-Back” program next? Drugs and alcohol do more harm to society than firearms, so if one thinks buy-back programs are an efficient method of combating a problem than it would seem logical to implement such programs aimed at these problems instead.

As a taxpayer, it is too much to expect that our political representatives actually understand what their proposals will supposedly accomplish and its cost-to-benefit value?

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Siegfried T Runge	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this bill because the money involved could be spent more effectively by supporting existing NRA Instructor programs with the construction of more public ranges and proper classrooms. As an example, here on Oahu the sole over-crowded public range is located at Koko Head. For those living in central Oahu, Leeward Oahu and the North Shore, the commute to the range is quite long. It is also frequently futile since the range fills up early and the hours have been cut significantly. Lack of facilities similarly impacts the frequency with which the NRA Instructor programs can be offered. Further, at present none of the county police departments have existing training programs to teach safety to the public. They failed on their promise to develop such programs when mandatory training for handgun permits was enacted in 1994. There is no evidence to support the idea that they would be any more successful this time. Hawaii's NRA Basic Firearm Safety Instructors have trained thousands of people in both safe gun handling practices and state laws governing firearms. This has been done at no expense to the government, with a perfect safety record and at minimal cost to gun owners. It seems reasonable to support such success since it makes Hawaii's existing gun safety/registration program work. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Inouye	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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I am opposed to this bill because among other things the many redundancies that is already performed by the proposed bill. When I first came back to the State of Hawaii, from active military service, I complied with the state law to register my firearms. I went through this proposed bill's process. I was finger printed for an FBI background check despite the fact that I still had prints already on file as a military officer for a secret clearance; to even hold clearances at this level one had to have a clean criminal background abstract with no mental deficiencies.

In my opinion, a gun buyback program will not be very successful and counterproductive. This is not Los Angeles or other parts of the mainland where even cheap guns are available to dispose. It would also create a criminal market for gun disposal. Currently, in this state, it is not possible to pawn a firearm. We have always had one of the strictest firearms laws in the nation. Using a firearm buyback encourages theft because there is currently no legitimate market for its disposal.

On the issue of "gun safety education and training for the community," that function too is redundant. It is already available and conducted by certified instructors in the private sector. I do not think local law enforcement would want the additional responsibility burden. A simple analogy would be to require the Fire Department or EMS to mandatorily take on the responsibility of conducting all certified First Aid instruction; that type of certification is already in the private sector.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 10:55:35 AM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Gomes	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. The police departments don't have the expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Nor should it be within their purview to do so. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector, a fact easily uncovered by the bill's author if they actually desired to engage in valid research methods. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. So what is the point of this bill, other than someone being a sore loser because of their idea not having any merit? And finally, I shake my head at any legislator that wants to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. Happy trails to them! The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. If there is \$200,000 to be tossed away for such non-sensical at this time in our history, as a taxpayer I implore you to use that money on roads, education, parks, etc. Please kill this bill off in your Committee. Thank you!

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [burtonbuilders50@gmail.com](mailto:burtonbuilders50@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 9:30:38 AM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Burton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Senate WAM, I oppose this waste of my taxes. Our understrength police have enough to do. They don't have time or training to do extensive medical background checks, or teach NRA Basic Gun Safety, and they don't need to be buying used guns, either. Please do your job and trim this pork. Sincerely, Steve Burton

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [macsak@gmail.com](mailto:macsak@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steven a kumasaka dds	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: this is a waste of time and money most guns collected will be broken or part of a crime there will also be side markets forming where enterprising people will intercept the buyback candidates and offer them more money for their guns

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [stevesmith@dakineherbfarm.com](mailto:stevesmith@dakineherbfarm.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 17, 2013 1:38:24 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven R Smith	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Sirs, The problem with gun control is that people don't see the down side. In the last century over 100 million people were murdered by their own governments after having first been lawfully disarmed. It is a simple fact that you cannot mass murder people who have arms to defend themselves. Gun control does not cause genocide. It is a necessary prerequisite. I hope you will consider these facts before acting on any more gun control laws in Hawaii, already one of the most heavily regulated states in the union. Respectively, Steven R Smith

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Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Ways & Means Committee

RE: SB69, SD1 RELATING TO FIREARMS – OPPOSE

DATE: Wednesday, February 20, 2013  
TIME: 9:45AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

February 18, 2013

Honorable Chair and Members,

I oppose this bill because:

Requiring gun registrants who already have fingerprints on file for previous registration is unnecessary and will further exacerbate the already lengthy process of registration.

To me, it would be more appropriate to earmark some of the money set aside in this bill for additional police personnel and set up of additional locations on all islands for individuals to register their firearms.

I object to the wording “perform extensive mental health checks for certain individuals”.

The police department has no gun safety program set up for the community, and in all the time it has been mandated to set this up, no move has been made to do so.

If the Legislature truly wished to promote public safety, you would recommend we set aside money to improve the Koko Head Shooting Complex and install proper classrooms there in which to teach. In addition you would set aside funds to develop more public shooting ranges and proper classrooms in our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Shaheen Mulkern  
808-396-6595  
susan.mulkern@gmail.com

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kiamanu@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kiamanu@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 10:08:42 AM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
T. Merrill	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a taxpayer, I OPPOSE this bill. The police departments don't have the expertise, time, or resources to engage in 'gun safety' education. Nor should it be within their purview to do so. The subject of firearms safety is well covered in the private sector, a fact easily uncovered by the bill's author if they actually desired to engage in valid research methods. The provisions regarding photographing, fingerprinting, background checks on firearms/owners being brought in from out of state--have always been accomplished by the county police departments. So what is the point of this bill, other than someone being a sore loser because of their idea not having any merit? And finally, I shake my head at any legislator that wants to throw \$200,000 at a non-issue in this era of strict budgets. People can turn in their guns for destruction, for free, if that's what they want to do with their own property. Happy trails to them! The police departments can advertise those types of programs with existing PSAs through the news media, without the expenditure of scarce funds. If there is \$200,000 to be tossed away for such non-sensical at this time in our history, as a taxpayer I implore you to use that money on roads, education, parks, etc. Please kill this bill off in your Committee. Thank you!

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ted\\_salmon@yahoo.com](mailto:ted_salmon@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 8:32:56 AM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Salmon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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I oppose SB69, and ask that you stop this bill for the following reasons:

- Private organizations such as the NRA are currently conducting safety courses at no cost to the government. The police department is neither funded nor staffed to conduct such training, so increased costs would be passed along to the taxpayer not only to conduct the courses, but to establish the infrastructure to do so. This is not a problem that needs fixing.
- Gun buy-back programs are historically ineffective. Before you appropriate hundreds of thousands of dollars to implement one, you should do your research on their efficacy. Here's an excerpt from a recent article in the Cincinnati Enquirer:

“The rifles, pistols and shotguns always look impressive when they're displayed at news conferences celebrating the end of gun buyback campaigns. Spread across tables or piled high into overflowing stacks, all those weapons reinforce the notion that trading cash for guns works. It gets guns off the street, organizers say, and makes the city safer. The problem, according to years of research, is that it does neither... Researchers who have evaluated gun control strategies say buybacks – despite their popularity – are among the least effective ways to reduce gun violence. They say targeted police patrols, intervention efforts with known criminals and, to a lesser extent, tougher gun laws all work better than buybacks.” The full article is at:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/01/12/gun-buybacks-popular-but-ineffective/1829165/>

- Hawaii has some of the most restrictive guns laws in the nation, already imposing a significant burden on law-abiding citizens. Guns violence is rare here. There is no evidence that imposing further restrictions will have an impact. There are other issues that need your attention. Passing new laws that appeal to emotion rather than reason simply to give the appearance that you are “doing something” when nothing really needs to be done is the height of hypocrisy.

Respectfully, Thomas Johnson

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tim.yee@ferguson.com](mailto:tim.yee@ferguson.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 7:58:03 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy K Yee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: OPPOSE!

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Todd@muscleinc-hi.com](mailto:Todd@muscleinc-hi.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 2:31:45 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Fujimoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this plan to waste tax payer money in these tough economic times. Anyone who wants to get rid of any unwanted firearms can do it at any time at any police station. We DO NOT need to waste anymore taxpayer money for such silly things!

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tabraham08@gmail.com](mailto:tabraham08@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM\*  
**Date:** Friday, February 15, 2013 4:10:18 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/15/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [AusCaDog@gmail.com](mailto:AusCaDog@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 3:50:58 AM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vernon Okamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am OPPOSED to ALL portions of this bill. HPD has FAILED to establish Gun Safety program mandated in 1994. Charging to Register firearms brought in from out of state is a good Reason NOT to register any firearm. The lengthy registration process now is badly handled. Many stated do not register firearms at all and have less problems than Hawaii. Gun "buy backs" is a waste of public funds at a time when Hawaii is losing Millions In military funding since Sen Inouye's passing. "Buy backs" are a good way for criminals to get rid of firearms used in a crime and get paid for it. Buy backs do not take into account firearms thurned in that have historical or esthetic value. Such firearms should be sold and can bring in much added \$\$ rather than being destroyed.

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**From:** [ferrerv001](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB 69, SD1 (SSCR334)  
**Date:** Friday, February 15, 2013 4:22:47 PM

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Dear Senator: David Y Ige , Michelle N.Kidani, Suzanne Chun Oakland, Ronald D. Kouchi, Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Russell E. Ruderman, J. Kalani English, Laura H. Thielen Will Espero, Jill N. Tokuda, Will Espero, Jill N. Tokuda, Gilbert Kahele, Sam Slom, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

I oppose SB 69, SD1 (SSCR334). As a law-abiding citizen and a responsible gun owner, I am deeply saddened by the recent tragedies and I support efforts to curb violence in all forms. However, I do not support the efforts of any lawmaker who seeks to restrict my rights under the Second Amendment, or to impose new restrictions on me and other law-abiding firearm owners.

Rather, I support a comprehensive approach to preventing violence in our communities through a thorough evaluation of the challenges we face. That review must include the enforcement of existing laws, the need for heightened security approaches, and greater consideration on how to better manage the acutely mentally ill.

As a law-abiding citizen and a constituent, I ask that you represent me in these matters.

Sincerely,

Victor M Ferrer

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [towle@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:towle@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 11:28:20 AM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Virginia U. "Ginger" Towle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is an excellent start to make our state safer from gun violence. This is an extremely necessary program. Please PASS!!

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [whiga.mkha@att.net](mailto:whiga.mkha@att.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 18, 2013 4:51:09 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/18/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wade Higa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill that waste's taxpayer money just to make lawmaker's feel and look good. Please use our taxpayer monies for better purposes such as taking care of our kupuna, keiki and homeless.

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**Cc:** [Bpepe@optonline.net](mailto:Bpepe@optonline.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB69 on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 17, 2013 1:06:32 PM

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SB69

Submitted on: 2/17/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2013 09:45AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William S Pepe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose. Other than the NRA, there have never been good safety training programs

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IN OPPOSITION TO SB69, SENATE DRAFT 1 (SD-1)

Honorable Chair and Members,

I am opposed to this bill because it will do nothing to improve the safety and security of the populace but will increase the financial burden on the taxpayers of Hawaii.

Specifically:

- I support the NICS checks for out-of-state registration, and fingerprinting (but not on registrants who already have prints on file). Their prints don't change. This however will further lengthen the intolerable lines currently jamming the firearms sections, so some of the appropriation must be earmarked for additional personnel as well as additional police station locations on all Islands, where background checks, registration, and permits can be handled expeditiously.
- The county police departments have no training programs to teach the public firearms training and safety. Teaching beginning shooters is far different from teaching police recruits. They failed on their promise to develop such programs when mandatory training for handgun permits was enacted in 1994. Police Public Information officers have repeatedly advised public forums that passive surrender or fleeing is better than responding with a gun to a lethal attack, contrary to statistical evidence showing that response increases the likelihood of serious injury or death for the victim.
- Hawaii's NRA Basic Firearm Safety Instructors have trained thousands of people in safe gun handling practices and state laws governing firearms at no expense to the government and with a perfect safety record. If the Legislature wants to spend money where it counts, NRA Instructor programs on all Islands need more public ranges and proper classrooms.
- Buy-backs waste taxpayer money. They are a public relations campaign for the Legislature and the police departments, with no public safety value.
- The Hawaii Senate Committees on Health and Public Safety have assigned the complicated issue of improving mental health background checks to a working group of professionals (SB932, SD1). Our existing mental health background checks are sufficiently strong to await the outcome. County police departments should operate within the current statutes, not "perform extensive checks for certain individuals."

Respectfully,

Wolcott L. Beard  
USN Retired  
94-515 Haniu Place  
Waipahu, HI 96797