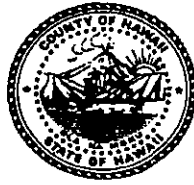


William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



**LATE TESTIMONY** Harry S. Kubojiri  
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira  
Deputy Police Chief

## County of Hawai`i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998  
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January 30, 2013

Senator Will Espero  
Chairperson and Committee Members  
Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

**RE: SENATE BILL 69, RELATING TO GUNS BUY-BACK PROGRAM, APPROPRIATION**

Dear Senator Espero:

The Hawai`i Police Department supports the intent of Senate Bill No. 69 with reservations as noted below. The intent of this bill is to appropriate \$100,000 to the County Police Departments to initiate a gun buy-back program.

A Gun Buy-Back Program would provide the citizens of the County of Hawai`i with a voluntary and anonymous means of relinquishing unwanted firearms in exchange for some type of monetary compensation. We would however, recommend that the Bill be amended to exclude the "No questions asked" portion as a firearm used in a crime and turned in should not by any means be a cause for "Absolution" from criminal conduct associated with use of that firearm.

On the Island of Hawai`i, it has become an all too common occurrence for our Criminal Investigators to come into contact with Marijuana users, growers, and dealers and find them to be in possession of illegal firearms. This also applies to methamphetamine and other "hard drug" users/dealers. Not only would this lessen the number of unwanted guns that are in the hands of drug dealers and out on our streets, it could also prevent these deadly weapons from falling into the hands of someone capable of committing serious crimes with them. In fact, in the past month we have experienced the attempted murder of two Police Officers and the unrelated murder of a civilian by persons who are not lawfully able to possess firearms and who apparently obtained firearms through some form of criminality.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to support this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to testify on Senate Bill No. 69.

Sincerely,

*Harry S. Kubojiri*  
HARRY S. KUBOJIRI  
POLICE CHIEF

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
Mayor

# LATE TESTIMONY



JOHN D. KIM  
Prosecuting Attorney  
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First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
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Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Supervisor, Appellate, Asset Forfeiture and Administrative Services Division

## TESTIMONY

ON

SB69 - RELATING TO FIREARMS

January 31, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero  
Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker  
Vice Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the PSM Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, is in SUPPORT of SB 69, Relating to Firearms.

SB 69 proposes to appropriate \$100,000 the county police departments to initiate a gun buy-back program. We agree with the intent of this measure to help in efforts to get guns off the streets. It will also help citizens, especially senior citizens, with disposing of unwanted firearms. We caution, however, that sufficient funds must be appropriated to fund this program.

We ask that SB 69 be PASSED.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

# LATE TESTIMONY

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cranston Pia	Individual	Oppose	No

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Abbot	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This appears to be a waste of taxpayer money. At it's worst it would allow a felon who used a firearm in the commission of a crime to not only dispose of the weapon but get paid for doing so.

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Baltazar	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!

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles J Uhlir	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!

# LIVE TESTIMONY

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kristopher macavoy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am oppose to this Bill SB69

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kristopher macavoy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am oppose to this Bill SB69

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tana-Lee Rebhan-Kang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha... I OPPOSE this bill. If \$100,000 must be spent, spend it on addressing the problems including but not limited to mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, domestic violence, and anger management, without which most murders and massacres would not occur. The state and national governments are "shooting themselves in the foot", so to speak, by this rash move to enact more laws limiting the rights of LEGAL gun owners. There are thousands more gun owners now than there were before the tragic shooting at Newtown, simply as a reaction to your action. I, for one, just completed the required pistol safety class and joined both the national and Hawaii rifle associations, not because I want a gun, but because this is the beginning of a slippery slope eroding our second amendment rights, and I am digging in my heels.  
Tana-Lee Rebhan-Kang

# LATE TESTIMONY

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Howard Kam Jr.	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have previously submitted by testimony in opposition to SB69 and have not changed by opposition to the Bill. However, in the event the Legislature feels compelled to approve this Bill, I suggest that it be amended to strike its funding since if citizens which to turn-in their firearms they can do so and the funds can be used for more pressing governmental programs or services.

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I believe this is a waste of taxpayers money which can be used for more needy programs versus giving out funds to buy back firearms.

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

# LATE TESTIMONY

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Thorp	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: It is unfortunate that our society has, to a large extent, surrendered its responsibility to protect itself to various law enforcement agencies. The police are unable to do much to prevent crime, seldom are present to stop crimes in progress and mainly secure the crime scene, gather evidence and later attempt to apprehend the criminal to prevent further crimes. This does nothing to protect us in the time that crimes are being committed. Criminals, by definition, do not obey the law. Only law-abiding citizens will be affected by new, more stringent gun regulations. Stripping honest people of their gun rights produces a safer environment for criminals to operate in and is a detriment to everyone's safety. We need only to look at Chicago and Washington, D.C., to see that stricter gun laws have an effect opposite of the desired one. If we want to be safer we need better mental health care, institutionalization if needed, fewer gun-free zones, which leave us as sitting ducks, and we must not leave the responsibility for our safety to someone else. Let's stop wasting precious time on gun laws that will not work.

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ken	sgrc	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Please..Hawaii gun laws are secure enough..no need for additional modifications..consider responsible gun owners who has followed all the rules..the proposals are pupule!

# LATE TESTIMONY

## SB69

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for PSM on Jan 31, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Honorable Senators and Representatives, Please respect the culture and the will of the people of Hawaii. I am over 65 and live with my disabled wife in a rural area of the Big Island. Our firearms are the only equalizer we would have if someone broke in and tried to harm us. The police could take 20 minutes or longer on this island. Gun crime is very low in this state simply because many of us have guns, whether for hunting, sport or self defense. It is a fact that where the gun laws are liberal, the crime rate stays low. If you "infringe" our right to arm ourselves, it is unconstitutional. As it is, by not granting any CCW licenses, this has already occurred. A buy-back program is a complete waste of our tax dollars, and will serve no purpose. If someone wants to turn in guns, let them do so to reputable dealers. Please stop this law, and any others that seek to restrict legal gun owners; because then only the "bad guys" will have guns, just like in Chicago. Those who follow the law are punished and restricted, while the lawless remain lawless. This state is doing pretty well as it is. Just enforce the laws that we already have, and allow CCW permits once again. Thank you. Respectfully, William Forster