

Testimony regarding HCR55

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REVIEW GUN AMNESTY PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES AND THEIR POTENTIAL APPLICABILITY IN THIS STATE.

Report Title:

Urging AG to review gun amnesty programs and submit a report.

I strongly support the review of gun amnesty programs in other states for their considered applicability to Hawaii, as proposed by this measure.

I have no issue with people owning firearms, whether it be for hunting, self-defense, or simply as collectibles. However, these should all be obtained lawfully—including the background check and documentation of the firearm being transferred or delivered to an individual. For those firearms that are either obtained illegally, or the transfer of said firearm was not legal or documented, I feel that they should be surrendered to the proper authorities. Though, a lack of a gun amnesty program creates a barrier to people turning in illegal or undocumented firearms due to fear of questions or repercussions. Not only do these firearms pose a potential risk of loss, theft, or malicious conduct, it could even create a situation of a desperate attempt to dispose of a firearm in an unsecure way, then coming into the possession of a child. Therefore, this is not only an issue of legality; it is an issue of safety. Having a gun amnesty program (one tailored to Hawaii's needs) facilitates a more lawful and safe environment by removing unwanted firearms from the community in a secure way.