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To: Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair;
Members, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, & Public Affairs

To: Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; Sen. Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair;
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: March 22, 2018, 2:15 p.m., Room 229

Re: **SCR 116, SR 73, SUPPORT with comments**

Thank you for hearing these resolutions. Respectfully, I ask you to pass these resolutions. My testimony on SCR 116 and on SR 73 is identical. My hope is that my comments will contribute to strengthening these resolutions.

Currently I am the president of Hawaii Interpreter Action Network, a professional association of interpreters and translators. This testimony is offered in my capacity as a private individual. It draws on my experience as a RCUH researcher.ⁱ My responsibilities included collecting data and interviewing the “data tenders,” as Dr. John M. Knox, Ph.D. (my boss) called them, regarding how they collected the data. Our indicators included ten (10) years of selected crime data.

Hawaii crime data originates at the county level, with the county police. It flows upwards to the Hawaii State Office of the Attorney General. That office then provides data to the FBI. So, I interviewed the police officers in each county who collected the indicators of interest to the project. Different counties may collect the data in different ways, and compile and share it in different ways.ⁱⁱ I also talked to Hawaii Data Book staff, the AG contact person, and attended Census workshops.ⁱⁱⁱ

Census data is the basis for a lot of valuable population data. However, as Dr. Knox noted in our Technical Final Report for the project, Hawaii has two “special populations.” These are tourists, and the military—and it can be difficult to account for them.

Naturally, when I saw these resolutions, I was immediately heartened. This is the right direction. In order to learn more about Hawaii’s gun laws, I have already been talking to both current and retired federal and state law enforcement officers.^{iv}

With this in mind, here are my comments. All factual errors and misguided suggestions are my own responsibility.^v

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- Guns in Hawaii are regulated under federal and state laws, and also, crucially, under county regulations.
- Consultation with ATF prior to finalizing the text of the resolutions would be useful.
- For data and statistics, my recommendation is to include at least two more sources of knowledge and sophistication: Our Hawaii State Statistician, and the current AG staff responsible for collecting crime data.
- Long gun (rifles, shotguns) permits differ from other gun permits. **A single long gun permit can cover an unlimited number of long guns.** The guns may therefore be more difficult to track accurately.
- Long guns matter, because while they are generally considered guns for hunting, there are other, criminal uses.
 - A long gun can be used to kill a person, perhaps by a professional hit man.
 - A long gun can be cut down and made into a hand gun (for ex., a sawed off shotgun).
- For the next legislative session, my suggestion is to have a “one permit, one gun” bill.
- Gun counts and gun-related events should ideally be collected by type of gun (long gun, hand gun, sawed-off shotgun, etc.) as well as by category of gun event. Note that there will be multiple sources for gun counts: gun permits, gun sales, and guns in gun events.
- For publication, my suggestion is to coordinate with both the Judiciary and the Hawaii State Data Book staff. It would be useful in future for the Data Book to publish the data. Hawaii may be able to show some leadership in this area.
- The Judiciary may want to publish some of it, but their annual report is not what most people would think to consult for this type of information. For lack of time to check, I do not know if the kind of data and statistics we are discussing are included in the National Center for State Courts “Court Statistics Project.”^{vi}

These are terrific resolutions. My appreciation goes out to those who thought them up and who have contributed to them so far. Please do pass them. Thank you.

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ⁱ Research Specialist, Social Indicators Study, Hawai'i Prevention Needs Assessment: Family of Studies (a National Institutes of Health grant), Social Science Research Institute, Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Conducted extensive interviews with data tenders in both the public and private sectors, including interviews with county officials in all counties. Wrote up results, entered data, maintained records, junior author and final editor of the Technical Final Report. Attended Census workshops on using Census data. 2001.

ⁱⁱ This may have changed. Without doing the interviews, it's hard to know.

ⁱⁱⁱ The report will need statistics as well as data. Some of those statistics will be in terms of ratios, such as how many gun threats, attacks, or homicides per unit of population, or by age group, gender, etc. That's where the Census comes in.

^{iv} I'm being deliberately vague about this. They discussed matters with me at some length, but not for attribution.

^v The suggestions really are mine.

^{vi} <http://www.courtstatistics.org/>. Accessed 3/21/18.