
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIREARMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has one of
2 the most stringent firearms carry laws in the nation. However,
3 Hawaii's law has come under scrutiny in light of a recent
4 federal appeals court decision. While the decision is currently
5 under review, it has highlighted a concern in the application of
6 Hawaii's law.

7 This concern involves the approval of licenses to carry
8 firearms. Hawaii's law grants some discretion to the county
9 chiefs of police with respect to the approval of these licenses.
10 Additionally, a license to carry a firearm is only valid within
11 the county in which the license is granted. This discretion may
12 create a situation in which each county uses differing standards
13 for the granting of licenses to carry firearms within that
14 respective county. As licenses to carry firearms are not valid
15 statewide, there is no single statewide authority that oversees
16 the granting of these licenses.



1 The legislature believes that addressing this lack of
2 statewide oversight by authorizing the attorney general to grant
3 licenses at the state level would help to strengthen Hawaii's
4 license-to-carry-firearms law. Establishing a state-level
5 authority would also result in a consistent standard that
6 applies to all applicants and provide a mechanism for these
7 licenses to be valid statewide. However, licenses granted by
8 the respective county chiefs of police to applicants who are
9 employed by a private guard agency would continue to be valid
10 only within the county that granted the license.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Establish the attorney general's authority, and
13 require the attorney general to grant, in exceptional
14 cases, licenses to carry concealed or unconcealed
15 firearms;
- 16 (2) Clarify that the authority of the respective county
17 chiefs of police to grant licenses to carry
18 unconcealed firearms is limited to applicants who are
19 engaged in the protection of life and property while
20 employed and on duty with a guard agency and who are



- 1 in compliance with the requirements of section
- 2 463-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 3 (3) Specify the training requirements for license
- 4 applicants; and
- 5 (4) Amend the fee from a per-license to a per-application
- 6 basis, and increase the fee to more accurately reflect
- 7 the time and resources spent on application
- 8 processing.

9 SECTION 2. Section 134-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 10 amended to read as follows:

11 **"§134-9 Licenses to carry.** (a) In an exceptional case,
 12 when an applicant shows reason to fear injury to the applicant's
 13 person or property, and is not prohibited under section 134-7
 14 from the ownership or possession of a firearm, the [~~chief of~~
 15 ~~police of the appropriate county may~~] attorney general shall
 16 grant a license to an applicant who is a citizen of the United
 17 States of the age of twenty-one years or more or to a duly
 18 accredited official representative of a foreign nation of the
 19 age of twenty-one years or more to carry a pistol or revolver
 20 and ammunition therefor concealed or unconcealed on the person
 21 within the [~~county where the license is granted.~~] State.



1 (b) Where the urgency or the need has been sufficiently
2 indicated, the respective chief of police may grant to an
3 applicant of good moral character who is a citizen of the United
4 States of the age of twenty-one years or more, is engaged in the
5 protection of life and property[,-] while employed and on duty
6 with a guard agency as defined in section 463-1, is in
7 compliance with the requirements of section 463-10.5, and is not
8 prohibited under section 134-7 from the ownership or possession
9 of a firearm, a license to carry a pistol or revolver and
10 ammunition therefor unconcealed on the person within the county
11 where the license is granted.

12 (c) The chief of police of the appropriate county, the
13 attorney general, or the chief's or attorney general's
14 designated representative, shall perform an inquiry on an
15 applicant by using the National Instant Criminal Background
16 Check System, to include a check of the Immigration and Customs
17 Enforcement databases where the applicant is not a citizen of
18 the United States, before any determination to grant a license
19 is made. Unless renewed, the license shall expire one year from
20 the date of issue.



1 ~~[(b)]~~ (d) The chief of police of each county and the
2 attorney general shall adopt procedures to require that any
3 person granted a license to carry a concealed or unconcealed
4 weapon on the person shall:

- 5 (1) Be qualified to use the firearm in a safe manner~~[+]~~ by
6 having completed, no more than one hundred eighty days
7 prior to applying for a license, a firearms safety or
8 training course that is described in section 134-
9 2(g)(2), (3), or (4);
- 10 (2) Appear to be a suitable person to be so licensed;
- 11 (3) Not be prohibited under section 134-7 from the
12 ownership or possession of a firearm; and
- 13 (4) Not have been adjudged insane or not appear to be
14 mentally deranged.

15 ~~[(e)]~~ (e) No person shall carry concealed or unconcealed
16 on the person a pistol or revolver without being licensed to do
17 so under this section or in compliance with sections 134-5(c) or
18 134-25.

19 ~~[(d)]~~ (f) A fee of ~~[\$10]~~ \$100 shall be charged for each
20 license application and shall be deposited in the treasury of
21 the ~~[county in which the license is granted.]~~ State."



1 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
2 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
3 begun before its effective date.

4 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Firearms; Licenses to Carry; Fees

Description:

Establishes the Attorney General's authority, and clarifies the respective county police chiefs' existing authority, and requires the Attorney General to grant licenses to carry concealed or unconcealed firearms. Specifies training requirements for license applicants. Amends the fee from a per-license to a per-application basis and increases the fee.
(SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

