

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1541

**February 6, 2019
10:00 a.m.
Room 430**

RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

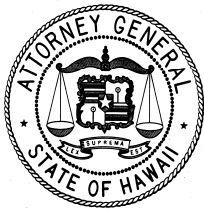
House Bill (H.B.) No. 1541 establishes the Hawaii Gun Violence Prevention Center (HGVPC), within the Department of Attorney General, to conduct extensive research on gun-related violence and its prevention. This bill also creates the HGVPC Special Fund (HGVPCSF) that would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, donations, contributions, and grants; appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds in FY 20 and FY 21 for deposit into the HGVPCSF; and appropriates an unspecified amount from the HGVPCSF in FY 20 and FY 21 for the hiring of three or more full-time equivalent permanent positions.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special or revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-52.4, HRS, respectively. Special and revolving funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users

or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue;

- 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and
- 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to H.B. No. 1541, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1541, RELATING TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Wednesday, February 06, 2019 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 430

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Amy Murakami, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General ("the Department") has given this bill significant consideration and appreciates its intent, but has the following concerns.

The purpose of this bill is to create, within the Department, a Hawai'i gun violence prevention center (Center) which would conduct and administer, through a special fund consisting of state appropriations and private donations, interdisciplinary research and analysis of gun related violence, gun violence prevention, and the effectiveness of existing laws and policies.

The Department is concerned about potential limitations to its effectiveness in this role because of its duties and responsibilities as the attorney and chief law enforcement officer for the State. To fund its mission, the Center may be expected to seek and accept private donations from individuals and companies. However, in its role as the attorney for the state, the Department brings suits against individuals and companies. The Department must avoid conflicts of interest or any appearance of impropriety and would not be able to accept donations from any entity that is either involved in litigation with the state or regulated by the state. This would include donations from foundations created by such entities or created by any entity that would appear to have a vested interest in any litigation involving the state. These constraints will severely limit the Department's ability to raise funds.

An entity such as the University of Hawai'i would not have the same constraints as the Department. In addition, the University of Hawai'i has the means and expertise to conduct research of this nature. It also has expertise in grant administration and coordinating multi-disciplinary research. The University also would likely have fewer potential conflicts of interest and funding issues. Perhaps for these same reasons, the two other states that have created state-funded gun violence prevention research centers placed the centers in universities. The University of California at Davis was able to receive \$5,000,000.00 over five years to start California's center in 2017. Last year, Rutgers University was selected to serve as New Jersey's Center on Gun Violence Research. Placing the Center within the University of Hawai'i would give the Center the best opportunity to succeed.

Even if the Center is not placed within the Department, the Department would like to be involved with the Center and to assist where possible. For example, it may be able to provide research data on the use of guns in violent crimes in Hawai'i. And, the Department is involved with programs that could help to address issues related to both violent crime and gun violence including: (1) Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative; (2) Domestic Violence Fatality Review; (3) Career Criminal Prosecution Program; and (4) Address Confidentiality Program.

The Department appreciates this opportunity to provide comments.



The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates
House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

State Capitol, Room 430
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HEARING: Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at 10:00am

RE: HB1541 Relating to Gun Violence Prevention

Aloha Members of the House Committee,

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition OPPOSES HB1541

A gun violence center is a waste of taxpayer's money and is not the solution to Hawaii's problems. It is already known that criminals, many of whom are already prohibited from possessing a gun, are the source of Hawaii's violent crime problems.

The people of Hawaii must be able to defend themselves through the use of open and concealed carry firearms in public. Hawaii's police departments do not issue any concealed carry permits to the public and the AG's office is against the notion of people carrying arms for self-defense. Concealed carry is permitted in 49 other states of which 14 are constitutional carry that do not require a permit. Hawaii is the only state in the nation that does not issue any concealed carry permits to its residents.

The Hawaii Firearms Coalition believes that a Gun Violence Prevention Center will be inherently biased against Hawaii's law abiding gun owners and Hawaii has a history of civil rights violations against the 2nd amendment. The legislature continues to propose and pass laws that hinder, harm, and even make criminals out of good people who own firearms. The AG's office proposes unconstitutional laws against the 2nd amendment and is against the use of firearms for self defense in public as seen in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Young v Hawaii lawsuit. The University of Hawaii system is also biased against individual rights that they do not agree with as was seen from 1st amendment violations in the past. Hawaii's government agencies cannot be trusted to protect the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

Suicide is a tragedy for everyone involved no matter what the method used. Firearm use in suicide is only one method used. The money allocated to the Gun Violence Prevention Center would be better used to research preventing suicides from occurring regardless of the method used.

For these reasons the Hawaii Firearms Coalition Opposes HB1541. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo

Todd Yukutake
Director, Hawaii Firearms Coalition
PH. (808) 255-3066
Email: todd@hifico.org

LATE

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:11:28 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Travis	HFC	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 8:41:06 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karin Nomura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 8:44:24 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edmund Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 9:55:10 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendon Heal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a complete waste of taxpayer dollars. Gun violence is a NON issue in Hawaii, compared to ALL the other problems that need IMMEDIATE ATTENTION in this State.

Do not waste time on these anti gun agenda bills. They go against the Constitution of the United States, the constitution of Hawaii, AND are in contrary to your sworn oaths when you took office!

Brendon Heal

VOTER

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 8:35:49 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1541 for the following reasons:

- The justification for this bill does not make logical sense. Gun violence is not a significant public health/safety problem in Hawaii. We have one of the lowest gun violence levels in the nation. Therefore there it is not important to spend very important tax dollars on studying something that isn't a problem here.
- The bill claims suicide is the real problem after mentioning issues with gun violence on the mainland. Also claims that suicides 'involve' a gun 20 percent of the time. We should look at the majority of the issues versus the minority.
- Hawaii has many other pressing issues to tend to such as high cost of living, homelessness, drug use, and traffic just to name a few. Taxpayer dollars need to be spent wisely FOR the people of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Marc

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 12:14:06 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Goo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Waste of money, there is more important things to help the citizens of Hawaii, like lower taxes, health care, homelessness. Simple, just lock the bad people up rather than letting them out on the streets.

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 12:22:47 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judy Goo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

A terrible waste of money considering unfunded pensions, poor schools and the rail.

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 12:37:31 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:19:44 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:28:59 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Hurt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:31:13 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This special fund proposed would be too political to be managed fairly as unbiased and scientific, as claimed. How can the state be trusted to set up an unbiased gun violence research program when it is already attempting through recent proposed legislation to confiscate semi-automatic firearms from nonviolent law abiding citizens?

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:09:38 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We can spend the money on other things instead. It's not like we have lots of it to waste either.

This bill will also be a waste because no law abiding citizen is allowed to carry a gun outside of their home. ALL permits allowing a law abiding citizen are denied and have been for 20 years. So the study would be incomplete.

PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Aaron Pule <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 1:08 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Aaron Pule
E-mail : aaronpule@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96706

Testimony : This email is in opposition of Hb1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Abraham Hall <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 11:15 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Abraham Hall
E-mail : abehall93@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Alvin Rodrigues <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 6:19 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Alvin Rodrigues
E-mail : al_bkk@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96797

Testimony : I oppose this Bill. According to your statistics there are about 1 suicide every other day in Hawaii which comes to about 182 deaths by suicide and off those deaths 2% of that is someone that used a gun. that would equal to about 4 yes four people a year out of a population of 1,480,000 as of 2017. Looking at this statistics alone would tell you BILL 1541 is a waste of taxpayers money.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Anthony Smith <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 11:13 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Anthony Smith
E-mail : Thunebug77@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : I strongly oppose bill HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Bobby Smith <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 1:15 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Bobby Smith
E-mail : 199gunfighter@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96744

Testimony : I am strongly opposed to HB 1541,And I am strongly opposed to Hawaii's democratic deceitful representatives constantly trying to "backdoor" policies without notifying Hawaii's law-abiding citizens By trying to force "more gun control" Down the throats of people who are doing absolutely nothing wrong. Perhaps you should focus on new ways to finance and pay for the rail. Instead of trying to find ways to punish Hawaii's law-abiding residents. Hawaii gun violence levels are some of the lowest in the nation. The only reason to try and study them would be to use the information to force more gun control. The state has so many financial issues now creating a new group to spend money on something that is neither needed or wanted would just show how wasteful the goverment of Hawaii is with its residents money.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Charles Ferrer <cferrer@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 8:29 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Charles Ferrer
E-mail : cferrer@hawaii.edu
Zip Code : 96782

Testimony : I strongly oppose HB1541. Hawaii gun violence levels are some of the lowest in the nation. The only reason to try and study them would be to use the information to force more gun control. The state has so many financial issues now creating a new group to spend money on something that is neither needed or wanted would just show how wasteful the government of Hawaii is with its residents money. This is a big waste of taxpayers money.

Please oppose HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Courtney Kealohapauole <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 7:18 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Courtney Kealohapauole
E-mail : c.kealohapauole@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96753

Testimony : This seems like a waste of time and money. What gun violence do we have here? We have drug abuse issues that the state should take care of first!

Amendment 2
- The Right to Bear Arms

A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Cyrus Chun <pupulehd@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 7:55 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Cyrus Chun
E-mail : pupulehd@hawaii.rr.com
Zip Code : 96825

Testimony : I oppose HB1541 because it is a waste of taxpayers money. Hawaii has the lowest gun violence crime of all 50 states. We have people killed by vehicles vice gun violence. We don't need a study to prove that unstable people are prone to gun violence. That's common knowledge. Save the money for better use like pay for rail or fight drugs and homelessness.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Danny Yamada <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 12:41 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Danny Yamada
E-mail : d808yamada@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96797

Testimony : This email is in OPPOSITION of SB1541. As a law abiding citizen I strongly oppose this bill.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of denis lucero <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 4:04 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : denis lucero
E-mail : dlucero5@aol.com
Zip Code : 96788-0251

Testimony : oppose on this bill...

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Desiree Koki <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 4:08 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Desiree Koki
E-mail : desandtrav@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96744

Testimony : I do not support this bill.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Deven English <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:27 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Deven English
E-mail : kamea6@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96797

Testimony : This email is in OPPOSITION of SB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Dietl Bagusto <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 5:36 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Dietl Bagusto
E-mail : dbagusto@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96732

Testimony : This email is in opposition of hb1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Donn Canevali <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:00 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Donn Canevali
E-mail : hoopuloa808@hotmail.com
Zip Code : 96720

Testimony : This e-mail is in opposition of HB 1541.
I believe that this bill is a complete waste of time and if passed it will be a waste of taxpayer money a better bill would be to make sure criminals serve the majority of their sentence.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Ed Roger Dela Cruz-Cabato <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:49 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Ed Roger Dela Cruz-Cabato
E-mail : subiejunkie808@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96786

Testimony : I Ed Roger, oppose of HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Eddie Racaza <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 6:57 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Eddie Racaza
E-mail : eracaza@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96706

Testimony : This email in regarding HB1541 and I STRONGLY OPPOSES this bill. Hawaii gun violence levels are some of the lowest in the nation. The only reason to try and study them would be to use the information to force more gun control. The state has so many financial issues now creating a new group to spend money on something that is neither needed or wanted and would just show how wasteful the government of Hawaii is with its residents money.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Elias Kona <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 6:32 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Elias Kona
E-mail : anokiak@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96826

Testimony : I oppose this bill because it will put the state into more debt than it already is when it could be allocated to somewhere else.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Genni Lou Cabato <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 8:19 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Genni Lou Cabato
E-mail : genni_lou12@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96786

Testimony : I Genni,
Oppose of HB1541 bill.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Isaac Lee <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:24 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Isaac Lee
E-mail : ilee0154@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96826

Testimony : I oppose HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Jake Hanawahine <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 11:06 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Jake Hanawahine
E-mail : da808rock@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96734

Testimony : This email is in opposition of hb1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Jason Ladera <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:48 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Jason Ladera
E-mail : mauka2makai78@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96766

Testimony : I DONT SUPPORT THIS BILL!!!
Spend our money wisely, like taking care of the bums,crackheads,drug problems (meth)...

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Joel Berg <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 1:27 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Joel Berg
E-mail : d2bergler@hotmail.com
Zip Code : 96789

Testimony : Please Oppose HB1541

Hawaii has a lot of problems. We have a drug problem, a property crime problem, a homelessness problem, a traffic problem and a distressing number of infrastructure problems. What we do NOT have is a gun problem. Rather than wasting my tax dollars implementing and enforcing this unimpactful policy please take those resources and start chipping away at the real causes of human misery here in the islands. If you won't I'm sure we can find someone who will.

Thank you for taking time to address my concerns.

Captain Joel Berg

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of John mark Guillermo <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:33 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : John mark Guillermo
E-mail : cornbeef07@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : I strongly oppose this bill

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Jose Valdez <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:36 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Jose Valdez
E-mail : joev362003@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : I Opposed Bill HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Kamalu Han <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 8:15 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Kamalu Han
E-mail : k.han@hotmail.com
Zip Code : 96818

Testimony : This email is in OPPOSITION of HB1541.

Hawaii gun violence levels are some of the lowest in the nation. The only reason to try and study them would be to use the information to force more gun control. The state has so many financial issues now creating a new group to spend money on something that is neither needed or wanted would just show how wasteful the government of Hawaii is with its residents money.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Katherine Neal <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 6:28 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Katherine Neal
E-mail : spaceyacht@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96820

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541. Hawaii has almost no gun violence, but for some reason we're going to fund a whole research department to prevent Hawaii gun violence? This is so blatantly manipulative and disingenuous it's sickening. The fact that this bill is included with about ten other anti-gun bills all at once gives a very clear idea of why it is there to begin with. This isn't here to help people, this is here to take away people's rights as guaranteed by the Hawaii Constitution and the US Constitution. STOP!

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Keith Nakanishi <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:05 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Keith Nakanishi
E-mail : Keith_Nakanishi@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96818

Testimony : This email is in opposition to HB1541. Please stop wasting my tax money since you already waste it in so many different other ways.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of kent kurihara <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:09 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : kent kurihara
E-mail : kentkurihara@hotmail.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

Funding the Attorney General's research is solely to discover more ways to restrict the citizen's Constitutionally protected RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS. Instead, the AG should be looking for ways to deter VIOLENCE of all kinds. Hawaii has historically had an extremely low rate of violent crime, and a very small portion of that violence is carried out with firearms. I do not support using my taxed income to target the limitation of my rights.

I am happy to discuss this bill with any Senator.

Thank you,

Kent Kurihara

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Kevin Kacatin <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 9:42 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Kevin Kacatin
E-mail : palisadeskid@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96782

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541.

The Hawaii Attorney General's Office submitted statistics to the office of Senator Nishihara. That data continues to support the fact Hawaii continues to have some of the LOWEST rates of firearm deaths in the nation. In 2017 Hawaii led the nation with the lowest deaths on record and in Honolulu County alone, firearms contributed to THREE (3) murders while OTHER WEAPONS contribute to 29 murders.

This is a waste of resources and tax dollars.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Klinton Kacatin <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 9:43 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Klinton Kacatin
E-mail : klinton.kacatin@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96782

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541.

Data collected in 2018 from the Hawaii Attorney General's Office continues to support the fact Hawaii continues to have some of the LOWEST rates of firearm deaths in the nation.

This is a waste of resources and tax dollars.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Kyle Murray <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:00 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Kyle Murray
E-mail : bs63366@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96782

Testimony : To who it concerns,

I am writing this to let you know that as a voting resident of Hawaii I am strongly opposed to the measures that are proposed in HB1541 and its implications in regards to firearms ownership in Hawaii. This bill is a waste of tax payers money that will be used against firearms owners in the future even though Hawaii has one of the lower rates of firearms crimes in the US.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Lance Akana <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:59 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Lance Akana
E-mail : ln.b.akana@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96793

Testimony : No more taxes! I oppose this bill

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Len Fergusen <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:13 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Len Fergusen
E-mail : lenfergusen@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96797

Testimony : This email is in opposition of SB1541, there is no need to infringe on the rights of lawful citizens. I am OPPOSED TO THIS BILL and I vote with my conscience and the facts.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Luisito Tadeo <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 8:55 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Luisito Tadeo
E-mail : eiuol808@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96797

Testimony : I opposed this bill

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Marcus Tanaka <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 8:30 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Marcus Tanaka
E-mail : changemyoil66@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96816

Testimony : Oppose.

Why waste money on a study since no one in hawaii can legally have a gun outside of their home or business?

Waste money that could be spent better else where.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Matthew Dasalla <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:35 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Matthew Dasalla
E-mail : dasa3055@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96797

Testimony : This email is in opposition of HB1541.

It is uncessesary and wasteful as Hawaii has one if the lowest gun violence rates per capita.

Use my tax money for harsher sentences or rehabilitation of repeat criminals.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Melissa Hirano <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:48 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Melissa Hirano
E-mail : manapuagirl21@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96814

Testimony : I Oppose HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Michael Savard <SAVARDM001@HAWAII.RR.COM>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 6:02 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Michael Savard
E-mail : SAVARDM001@HAWAII.RR.COM
Zip Code : 96744

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541..... Hawaii gun violence levels are some of the lowest in the nation. The only reason to try and study them would be to use the information to force more gun control. The state has so many financial issues now creating a new group to spend money on something that is neither needed or wanted would just show how wasteful the government of Hawaii is with its residents money.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Michelle Visitacion <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 8:34 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Michelle Visitacion
E-mail : michelleillest@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96797

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Mitchell Weber <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 9:11 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Mitchell Weber
E-mail : Mdotweber@icloud.com
Zip Code : 96789

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541,

Are the sponsors of this HB1541 aware of our states gun crime numbers versus crimes commuted with other weapons including fists? I believe the ratio is one in twenty nine, This committee would do nothing but divert more of my tax dollars to help deem supporters of the second amendment as "pre crime" purpotrators! Be honest with yourselves and wiser with my money!
Mahalo.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of murvyn lewis <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:46 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : murvyn lewis
E-mail : murvg81@live.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : Gun violence center? That's laughable. How about a human violence center, since that's what it is. When did we as a society stop assigning personal responsibility and start blaming inanimate objects for the crimes that we commit?

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Nathan Okamura <nateo@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 8:51 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Nathan Okamura
E-mail : nateo@hawaii.rr.com
Zip Code : 96789

Testimony : This email is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Noah Draskowski <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 7:08 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Noah Draskowski
E-mail : noahdraskowski@hotmail.com
Zip Code : 96761

Testimony : I oppose this bill.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Paul Arita <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:26 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Paul Arita
E-mail : pkarita@hotmail.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : This email is in OPPOSITION of HB1541. There are other more pressing needs to spend our time and effort as Hawaii has some of the lowest gun violence in the nation. Please consider allocating those funds to more pertinent issues which affect everyone such as homelessness or unemployment. These are the items that are in dire need at this time. Please do not try to limit the right of law abiding citizens. Thank you for your consideration.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Peter Abraham <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:46 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Peter Abraham
E-mail : kapsabraham@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96782

Testimony : Oppose hb1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Ray Bala <blackeyepro@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:38 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Ray Bala
E-mail : blackeyepro@sbcglobal.net
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : I oppose HB1541.

Sincerely,
Ray Bala

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Rebecca Canevali <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:49 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Rebecca Canevali
E-mail : ehulamai@me.com
Zip Code : 96749

Testimony : Aloha Kakou,

This email is in OPPOSITION to HB1541.

Hawaii gun violence levels are some of the lowest in the nation. The state has so many financial issues now creating a new group to spend money on something that is neither needed or wanted would just show how wasteful the government of Hawaii is with its residents' money.

Thank you for your attention and careful consideration in regards to this bill.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Rene Yuen <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:47 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Rene Yuen
E-mail : shiankasuiso99@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96822

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Robert Fields <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:55 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Robert Fields
E-mail : ryanfields13@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96793

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541.

Establishing the Hawaii Gun Violence Prevention Center would be a poor use of taxpayer money. Our state has very low levels of violent crime and establishing another government entity would be another wasteful use of our limited financial resources. This new entity would likely be used to create further gun-control measures to islanders who are already heavily burdened with ineffective gun laws. Please oppose HB1541. Thank You.

Respectfully,

Robert Fields
Wailuku, HI 96793

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Robert Okuda <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 4:00 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Robert Okuda
E-mail : robokuda002@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : This is a government overreach and I strongly oppose this bill.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Rogelio Lazaro <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 4:11 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Rogelio Lazaro
E-mail : gorgoisao@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96817

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

This is a waste of tax money and time. Funding should go to better our children's education and health.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Roland Miguel <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 9:29 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Roland Miguel
E-mail : rocmisr@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96706

Testimony : Hawai'i's gun violence is the lowest in the nation. This is waste of financial resources that can be used more wisely such as investigating unless spending of taxpayers money and government corruption.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Rudy Andrion <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 9:32 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Rudy Andrion
E-mail : roots4757@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96768

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

I'm a law abiding citizen and a registered voter in the state of Hawaii. I strongly OPPOSE HB1541. The taxes that I pay should not be wasted this way fix the other financial issues first instead this sows how wasteful Hawaii government is with tax payers money.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Samuel Levitz <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 9:17 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Samuel Levitz
E-mail : sailorsaml@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96814

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of sean goo <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:49 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : sean goo
E-mail : sean.goo23@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96816

Testimony : Another waste of tax payer money. We have more needs such as the homelessness, unfunded liabilities, and healthcare cost.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Shaun Woods <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 9:53 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Shaun Woods
E-mail : ctrsnarebear@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96818

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541.

"Gun violence prevention" is Newspeak for "violent threats against peaceful people who own guns." You know it's true. The only reason for this bill is to set up more gun control. Using money stolen from people via taxation to oppress them is unconscionable. It will also have no effect on crime levels. Hawaii is a fairly peaceful place, but as you begin to send armed men to enforce policies that keep people defenseless, the criminal element is emboldened, and our paradise here becomes a paradise lost.

Oppose this ridiculous bill, a solution in search of a problem - a violent threat veiled in the rhetoric of "violence prevention."

Sincerely,
Shaun Woods

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Stanley Mendes <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:52 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Stanley Mendes
E-mail : bhunter808@hotmail.com
Zip Code : 96776

Testimony : I strongly oppose of SB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of steven kumasaka <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 9:49 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : steven kumasaka
E-mail : macsak@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96821

Testimony : HI has one of the lowest rates of gun violence in the country
READ THE STUDY YOU SPENT A TON OF MONEY ON LAST YEAR

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Teina Anthony <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:02 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Teina Anthony
E-mail : teina9@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96815

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541..... I strongly urge you reconsider that the passing of this bill. There are law-abiding citizens in this state who are respectful of the gun laws imposed on us, although most of them are now almost an direct infringement on our 2A rights. Don't do it, the day will come where you might need that support from a person like us, and it won't be there because you silenced our rights. If anything BEFORE you vote, take a gun class, learn the community and realize we are here uphold law and order, not tear it down.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of thomas galli <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 7:14 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : thomas galli
E-mail : tom1.galli@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96816

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Timothy Welch <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 3:25 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Timothy Welch
E-mail : zatikat@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 88012

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION OF HB1541 because Hawaii gun violence levels are some of the lowest in the nation. The only reason to try and study them would be to use the information to force more gun control. The state has so many financial issues now creating a new group to spend money on something that is neither needed or wanted would just show how wasteful the government of Hawaii is with its residents money.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Travis Koki <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 4:05 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Travis Koki
E-mail : desandtrav@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96744

Testimony : I strongly disagree with this bill

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Wayne Berdon <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:36 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Wayne Berdon
E-mail : wayneberdon@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96826

Testimony : I strongly oppose HB1541. We have some of the lowest gun violence of any other state. Insisting on setting up a committee to dictate gun safety strategy is a waste of tax payer money

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Wesley Mcglothlin <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:34 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Wesley Mcglothlin
E-mail : weslmac@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96706

Testimony : Fraud waste and abuse I oppose

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HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:04:48 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kainoa Kaku	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:05:07 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

No, give the money to the police departments that are already tasked with enforcing the already extreme gun laws, one of the most highly regulated in the country. We have more than enough laws governing the possession of firearms.

PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Brandon W <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 11:01 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Brandon W
E-mail : wrxtremeracersti@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96778

Testimony : This email is in opposition of HB1541. There is too much government beaurocracy in Hawaii. When crimes involving firearms in Hawaii are among the lowest in the county, we don't need our tax dollars being wasted on an office to prevent a problem that's small in comparison to other problems the state faces. Please oppose HB1541. Thank you

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of David Kikukawa <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 10:17 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : David Kikukawa
E-mail : d.kikukawa@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96734

Testimony : I strongly oppose this bill.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Jonagustine Lim <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:57 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Jonagustine Lim
E-mail : jonagustine_lim@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96818

Testimony : I write in strong opposition to HB1541.

Hawaii does not have a gun violence problem and establishing this center is not only wasteful of taxpayer dollars and only serves to enact more restrictions on a constitutional right.

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HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:50:09 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gavin Lohmeier	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

re: HB1541

To whom it may concern:

I oppose this bill. It is not needed. Here in Hawaii compared to the mainland there is very little gun violence here. I don't think it is a good investment of time and money for this bill.

Respectfully,

Gavin Lohmeier

PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Jathan Talon <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 12:49 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Jathan Talon
E-mail : jtalon007@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96744

Testimony : This email is in OPPOSITION of HB1541.

Current federal law states that congress cannot mandate funds to prove gun control.

The reason for this is because it goes against scientific ethics. Its in place to force researchers to find real world evidence without the bias of financial funding.

HB1541 would allow a heavily bias gun control group to have a hand in research in attempt to prove something that is proven every day to be ineffective.

On a daily basis, we are thrown examples of how gun control does not work in this country. Even in Hawaii, the many cases of criminal acts already show how criminals actively ignore and render gun control laws as detrimental to the lives of those who follow them. Gun control has been proven by many current studies to not work. Studies done by the CDC, University of Harvard Law, Crime Prevention Research institute, and the FBI have all consistently shown in the past years that gun control does not work. Thus to actively fund programs that would prove gun control's effectiveness is to go against the rules of science and to blatantly lie to the public with a false sense of security.

Hawaii already has a low rate of violence that involve firearms, but overall violence is often ignored. Hawaii has a low population in comparison to the rest of the states. This contributes to a low gun death total statistic, but the rates at which criminals violate gun laws is no different from what criminals do in the mainland. Even recent shootings today have shown how criminals disobey gun laws and how defenseless the people of Hawaii are.

The state of Hawaii already has enough financial problems already, so the only reason to push for gun control research in a state that already has a low overall murder rate but high "death by law violating criminal" rate is to simply just promote the lies of gun control advocates. As a voting Constituent, I OPPOSE gun control bills that do nothing but infringe on gun owner's rights. This attempt to prove ineffective laws is not an exception.

Thank you for hearing this testimony and considering its opposition.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Robert Gerwig <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 12:34 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Robert Gerwig
E-mail : rgerwig@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96734

Testimony : I am in opposition of HB1541

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HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:02:57 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Allen Kainoa Leong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Alan Koond <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:35 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Alan Koond
E-mail : koons.alan@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96740

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541.

I am strongly opposed to this Bill. It would be a huge waste of taxpayer money in a state that has low gun violence already.

Alan Koons

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Nicholas Moniz-Teves <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 2:33 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Nicholas Moniz-Teves
E-mail : tevesnick@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96744

Testimony : I do not support this bill because the government should use the time and resources on other programs. I also feel this can be used against citizens to enact more law to strip ower right away. Also As a Hawaiian i feel the Constitution of America should not be infringed

Aloha, Nicholas Moniz-Teves

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Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.
Hawaii Judiciary Certified Spanish Court Interpreter, Tier 4

Senate District 10, House District 21. Moili'ili, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

To: Chair, Rep. Gregg Takayama; Vice-Chair, Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates
Members, House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs

Re: **HB 1541, SUPPORT**

Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Room 430

Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Gates, and Committee Members: Thank you for hearing HB 1541.

This testimony is presented as a private individual. I support the intent of this bill, which is to enable state and county government entities to make well-informed, data-based decisions so we can make Hawaii a safer and more peaceful place to live.

As the Legislative Reference Bureau made clear in their report, "Straight Shooting: An Objective Review of Hawaii Firearms Laws and Related Statistics"

(<http://lrbhawaii.org/reports/legrpts/lrb/2018/18-01.pdf>), Report #1, 2018,

"Applicable information is limited."

This bill touches on the *kuleana* of a number of government entities, non-profits, and professional and other interest groups. I look forward to reading and being factually informed by their testimony. In the same spirit, in the future, I would like to be able to read materials from the proposed research group.

After I have read the testimony, I may have more to say at subsequent hearings.

Thank you for taking the time to hear this bill, and to read and consider all the testimony. Respectfully, I ask this Committee to pass HB 1541.

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:52:46 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Quentin Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill, as it is yet another complete waste of time and tax payer dollars that will do nothing to protect citizens of Hawaii, and instead serves to provide avenues for further infringement upon our constitutional rights.

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:17:07 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please do not waste our tax money on this.

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:11:08 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seth Addison	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am testifying to strongly oppose HB1541. Statistically, Hawai'i has some of the lowest firearm related crime in the Nation. The only reason that I can see to establish a "Gun Violence Prevention Center" under the Attorney General is to take more money from the hardworking taxpayers of this State, and to take any information, surveys, data, polls, etc and manipulate/bend/twist/shoehorn it into an anti 2nd ammendment agenda and call for more gun control. Because there will always need to be just that one more law needed for public safety if there weren't enough firearm related laws on the books already.

This state is over burdened and over taxed already as it is with many over zealous public projects. Even though this seems like a nice warm and fuzzy feeling law to pass, all it will do is waste the taxpayer's money and ultimately infringe on our rights as citizens of the United States of America.

I again ask you to please oppose HB1541.

Thank you,

Seth Addison

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 5:00:38 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
taylor sumida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:



Institute for Rational and Evidence-based Legislation

P. O. Box 41

Mountain View, Hawaii 96771

February 5, 2019

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members,

Please vote NO on HB1541.

Not only is some entity designated as the “Hawaii Gun Violence Prevention Center” superfluous and unnecessary, the 10 authors of this bill engage in either disingenuous misleading statements of fact and statistics, or to put it more accurately, outright lies and deceptions that are merely parroting the deceptive talking points of the national anti-civil-rights organizations (“Giffords”, Bloomberg-funded Anytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action, the Brady Center, Violence Policy Center, etc.) dedicated to further infringing the civil rights of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves from criminal predation via the use of firearms.

Does that sound harsh? It's not, it's actually being kind, as what the authors have done is really a case of fraud. While an entire book would be required to detail each and every lie and fraudulent claim that appears in the rationale/justification prelude to the bill language itself, I will have to settle here for merely outlining just a few of the attempts to deceive.

First, and not without great significance, is the fact that “gun violence” is nothing more than a propagandist term, designed to deceive the uninformed. All of the claimed “statistics” the authors of this bill list as justifications are fabricated upon deliberate statistical manipulations, including confounding and conflating highly dissimilar events.

Let me give you an example of “gun violence” and how it has been “computed” by the authors of this bill to supposedly justify taxpayers of Hawaii spending money to generate “evidence” to further curtail their rights. Suppose a father in one part of his home, armed with a handgun in a holster, hears what he considers an unusual noise coming from another distant part of the house. He goes to investigate and determines that the sound is coming from the bedroom of his 10 and 7-year-old daughters. He opens the closed door of the room to see his 10-year-old daughter bound, gagged, raped, and murdered by knife wounds, while his 7-year-old daughter, also bound and gagged lies next to her on the bed, with a large man standing over her, still holding a knife. The father yells “Stop!”, at which point the man turns toward the 7-year-old girl and brings the knife up as if to attack her, the father then fires the gun at the rapist murderer and stops the attack, killing him and saving his second daughter.

Now, is that “gun violence” that needs “preventing” according to the authors of this bill? They seem to think so. It certainly is violence that included the use of a firearm. Do we want to prevent such an

instance of “gun violence”? We don't really know for sure how the authors of the bill view this because the justifications they give and sources they cite for such definitions are not completely clear. But it is likely that such an event, **AND ALL INSTANCES OF SELF DEFENSE WITH FIREARMS**, are counted by them to be instances of “gun violence”, which is really simply a pejorative term that identifies all firearm use as “violence” that needs to be “prevented”, thus there are no qualifications nor exceptions for justified homicide nor any other instance of justifiable self-defense. Why would anyone want to “prevent” such “gun violence” that saves lives (as happens millions of time per year as reported by the CDC which the authors of this bill falsely claim have been prohibited from doing precisely the research they have done)? What could that motive possibly be? Why wouldn't they use more accurate terms such as “Hawaii Center to Prevent Criminal Uses of Firearms and Suicide Prevention”? (Note also that the authors acknowledge that 80% of suicides are NOT committed with firearms, yet we see no mention of a “Hawaii Rope Violence Prevention Center” or a “Hawaii Knife Violence Prevention Center” or a “Hawaii Tall Building Violence Prevention Center” or a “Hawaii Sleeping Pill Violence Prevention Center”.) Why focus on the means of a mere 20% of “gun violence deaths”? It illustrates that conflating the majority of overall “gun deaths”, which are by far suicides (over 60%) compared to homicides, with “gun violence” is absurd and nothing more than deceptive propagandist methodology, as the same people have done by inventing the term “assault weapons” to attempt to confuse the uninformed that those are either fully automatic weapons or somehow more “dangerous” than other semi-automatic firearms having identical ballistic capabilities but merely having different cosmetic features. All the best quality studies show that there is a “substitution effect” wherein if one means of suicide is made more difficult to achieve, those determined to kill themselves simply resort to other means, and there is NO resulting decline in overall suicide. (Japan has a rate of suicide nearly 40% greater than the United States, and South Korea more than 50% greater, and virtually no ordinary citizen in either of those countries has access to firearms, and the “substitution effect” has proven true as those countries have taken means to attempt to restrict certain suicide methods).

The irony is that although the authors of the bill falsely claim that “Congress passed the Dickey Amendment, with a provision which prevents the use of federal money for gun violence research and prevention”, in fact **the CDC itself has produced the research** (“PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENCE”), ordered by Obama in 2013 using his “pen and phone”, which states that the number of instances of self-defense using firearms (aka according to the authors of this bill “gun violence”) far exceeds (by 1.5 to 8 TIMES) the number of criminal uses of firearms in the commission of crimes. I ask again, why would people want to label self-defense with firearms, wherein people save their own lives and/or the lives of their family members or neighbors or even strangers, as a “danger to public safety”? Yet that's exactly what the authors of this bill assert. All “gun violence” must be “prevented”. Don't believe me? Just read the sources of the statistics they cite and decide for yourself.

To make their preposterous assumptions even more absurd, their “cost” of “gun violence” (“\$229,000,000,000 in 2012”) **only includes the “negative” consequences of firearm use**, not the entire other side of the equation, the economic savings as a consequence of all the lives saved via self-defense uses of firearms, which are far more numerous than the deaths and injuries to innocent people. What kind of math analysis is that? See Dean Weingarten's slightly expanded essay on this fact below. This is analagous to analyzing how many people die and/or are injured in hospitals, and ignoring how many are saved and cured, then performing an economic analysis of all the lives lost and limited by injury and concluding that “hospital death and injury” must be “prevented” due to the obvious “public safety” hazard, and the best and most certain form of prevention is elimination. No one would take such an analysis seriously re hospitals (and “doctor and nurse violence”), yet that is exactly what the authors of this bill would have us believe re firearms. Why would they make such an obviously absurd claim? Are we supposed to believe that the consequences to the public of the justified self-

defense homicide of the rapist murderer in the above example is that we have to subtract the rapist murderer's lost life earnings and paid taxes that he will no longer be able to pay as a debit to the public well-being? That's what the authors of this bill would have us believe. Look up the source of their claim re “the economic cost of gun violence was estimated at \$229,000,000,000 in 2012” claim. There is not a single instance counted on the positive side of the ledger for all the people who are still alive and uninjured due to their self-defense use of a firearm against criminals, and those people outnumber the criminal uses/costs by 1.5 to 8 TIMES. The authors expect us to believe their one-sided analysis? Why the deception?

Does the Dickey amendment do what the authors claim (“a provision which **prevents the use of federal money for gun violence research and prevention**”)? Another blatant lie. All we have to do is 1. read the actual Dickey amendment, and 2. note all the “gun violence” research the CDC has done since the Dickey amendment was enacted. Both of those facts make the claim of the authors of this bill to be “mistaken” at best. Here's the actual quote on the restriction imposed by the Dickey amendment in 1996: the **Dickey Amendment** is a provision first inserted as a rider into the 1996 federal government omnibus spending bill which mandated that "none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may be used to advocate or promote gun control”.

NOT may not be used to research any firearms related events, but only against “advocate or promote gun control”. That's as clear as can be. The authors of this bill are liars, or ignorant.

You might ask, well why would Dickey introduce such a bill? Surely the CDC would only be producing pure research and not using public money to to “advocate or promote gun control”. You'd be wrong:

In a 1994 New York Times piece, titled “New Tactics Urged in Fight Against Crime,” you’ll find Mark Rosenberg” — then **director at the CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which oversaw the “gun violence” research** — urging America “to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes ... It used to be that smoking was a glamour symbol — cool, sexy, macho. Now it is dirty, deadly — and **banned**.”

It was Congress that did this because of the CDC's strong political stance against guns that was present in their work. This is due in part to, “[the] **official goal of the CDC’s parent agency, the U.S. Public Health Service, had been “...to reduce the number of handguns in private ownership”**, starting with a 25% reduction by the turn of the century.”

“We’re going to systematically build a case that owning firearms causes deaths. We’re doing the most we can do, given the political realities.” - P.W. O’Carroll, **Acting Section Head of Division of Injury Control, CDC**, quoted in Marsha F. Goldsmith, “Epidemiologists Aim at New Target: Health Risk of Handgun Proliferation,” *Journal of the American Medical Association* vol. 261 no. 5, February 3, 1989, pp. 675-76.

There are more examples of the CDC leaders “advocating and promoting gun control” without any evidence, but instead obviously indicating that they intended to make up (more) evidence. Thus the Dickey amendment, which only prohibited such advocacy. Why would we believe that any Hawaii-based research would be any different, given the makeup and obvious biases of the people who, like the authors of this legislation, would be making the decisions as to who would get funding?

In 1996, 1997, and 1998 the CDC conducted research into the number of times firearms were used for self-defense in the United States. Each year the research yielded approximately the same results, around 2,000,000 (two million) individual cases of self-defense uses of firearms PER YEAR. These surveys were conducted AFTER the Dickey amendment was passed in 1996 and effective in the years of those studies. Those studies confirmed the number of defensive firearm uses as published in peer-reviewed journals by criminology professors Gary Kleck and Mark Gertz earlier. However, in some extremely peculiar and odd happenstance, the CDC did NOT publish nor ever make public that they had conducted this research, much less reveal the results. It was only in the past couple of years that this research confirming the Kleck and Gertz research was “accidentally” found by someone going through old stored data files at the CDC.

How could the CDC have conducted this research on firearm related violence in 1997, and 1998 if they were prohibited from doing so as of 1996 as the authors of this bill claim? How did the CDC produce Obama's 2013 CDC Report, "Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence"? How did the CDC produce the two following reports if they were banned from doing so? Please note that here the academics (over two dozen) who were involved in the creation of this CDC report, eschewed the use of the term “gun violence” for the slightly more accurate “firearm-related violence”, and they obviously included the beneficial aspects of firearm use, especially in the millions of annual cases of self-defense.

CDC Report, "Firearm Homicides and Suicides in Major Metropolitan Areas — United States, 2006–2007 and 2009–2010".

CDC Report, "Elevated Rates of Urban Firearm Violence and Opportunities for Prevention—Wilmington, Delaware Final Report".

The cases of other state funded “gun violence research centers” has produced nothing but “advocacy study” results, because they only grant funds to people who they already know will produce the results they want to see: “guns are bad”. Certainly from the justifications offered by the authors of this bill, it's clear that they have no interest in actual facts, but only in producing more deceptive propaganda that influence the uninformed to side with their agenda of further infringing law-abiding citizens' civil rights.

The claims by the authors of this bill are intellectually dishonest at best, possibly ignorant, and possibly blatant lies. We aren't privy to the knowledge level or motivations of the authors, but here is no evidence to support their claims. This bill is an attempt to establish a taxpayer-funded center to produce more biased “advocacy reserach” wherein “researchers” create study parameters (like discounting all self-defense uses of firearms) that will influence the uniformend public opinion with deceptive headlines that are nothing more than propaganda talking points, and thus does not merit support from taxpayers.

Vote NO on HB1541.

Thank you,
George Pace

I here provide just a few of the many explanations for and refutations of the deliberately deceptive claims provided by the authors of this bill to attempt to justify what cannot be justified on a factual basis.

I have not included a copy of the 128 page CDC produced report order by Obama in 2013 as mentioned above, PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENCE, but it is available at:

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/18319/priorities-for-research-to-reduce-the-threat-of-firearm-related-violence>

“Gun Violence” is a Propaganda Metric

By Dean Weingarten

The label “gun violence” has become epidemic in the debate about firearms law and the second amendment. “Gun Violence” is a propaganda metric designed to win the debate in public discourse about the second amendment. It accomplishes this by defining the terms in a way favorable to gun prohibition efforts. Here is an example to illustrate the technique, using hospitals.

No one favors people dying in hospitals. Why would anyone want someone to die in a hospital? Therefore, we can create a legislative solution to hospital deaths. We can prevent nearly all hospital deaths with a simple law. All we need to do is to outlaw hospitals. Then people will not die in hospitals, and we will have virtually eliminated hospital deaths!

Of course, the overall death rate will now rise because the usefulness of hospitals will have been outlawed along with hospital deaths.

This is the construct of the term “gun violence”. When you lump all violence in which a gun is used into one category and define reducing that number as a positive good, in and of itself, you necessarily discard or negate anything positive that results from “gun violence”, and ignore violence that results from the substitution of other methods. That is the semantic trick that is being employed in this instance.

To avoid this trap, researchers need to look at **all unjustified violence** to see if policies that reduce “gun violence” reduce overall unjustified violence. If substitution of other methods increased the level of overall unjustified violence, or if no significant change in the level of unjustified violence occurs, then the policy had no positive effect. Ideally, but far more difficult, the research should be over sufficient time to take into account long term effects. That is the method that John Lott and other researchers used when they found that more guns resulted in less crime.

I use the term unjustified violence because violence itself is neutral, like gravity. Violence can be used for good or evil. If violence is used to defend the innocent or to protect society, it can most certainly be good. If violence is used for evil purposes, it can be evil.

Medically, this is similar to testing a new drug to prevent strokes, but ignoring the number of people who are given the drug who are dying of heart attacks. Doctors, who would never condone giving a drug that caused as many or more deaths as it prevented, seem to have no qualms about prescribing “gun control” without considering the lethal side effects of such measures.

Many papers have been written that measure the propaganda metric “gun violence” or often “gun deaths”. When you see that metric in a paper, it shows that the authors are engaged in either academic fraud or academic malpractice. Either the authors did not consider the possibilities of positive uses of guns or the substitution of other methods, or they are making a political statement that death by gunshot is more wrong than death by knife, bomb, arson, blunt object, or beating by hands and feet. If they did

not consider positive uses of guns or substitution of methods, their work can be discarded as fatally flawed. If they are making a political statement, then the work is political advocacy, not academic study.

If as many or more people die by murder and suicide after a gun ban as before the ban, all other factors being equal, then the ban has not had a positive effect. Of course, serious research needs to look at trends, multiple regression analysis, and numerous other factors, because “all other factors being equal” is a very rare condition in the real world. There are many ways to commit academic fraud and to lie with statistics.

It is clear that researchers who only measure “gun violence” or “gun deaths” are pushing propaganda, not serious research into ways to reduce the unjustified death rate.

<https://www.ammoland.com/2014/03/gun-violence-is-a-propaganda-metric/#axzz5eLEVfUiM>

* * * * *

Is the CDC Banned from Researching Gun Control?

According to our liberal friends, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is banned from researching gun violence, and it’s all thanks to the NRA.

In October 2017, following the massacre at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, the **Washington Post** ran an article titled “Why gun violence research has been shut down for 20 years.” In it, the author Todd Frankel writes that “In 1996, the Republican-majority Congress threatened to strip funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention unless it stopped funding research into firearm injuries and deaths. The National Rifle Association accused the CDC of promoting gun control. As a result, the CDC stopped funding gun-control research.”

What Frankel is referring to is the **Dickey Amendment**, named after Arkansas Republican Jay Dickey. It was as a result of his amendment that the CDC saw \$2.6 million cut from their budget, the exact amount they had spent on gun control efforts. It’s based off this chain of events that we see headlines like:

- This Senator Wants to Revive Federal Research on Gun Violence, 22 Years After Congress Banned It – **Mother Jones**
-
- Treat gun violence like the public health epidemic it is and lift research ban – **The Baltimore Sun**
-
- The CDC Can’t Fund Gun Violence Research. What if that Changed? – **Wired**
-

But here’s the thing – **the CDC was never banned from researching gun violence, or gun control**, despite the Dickey Amendment. According to The Federalist’s **David Harsanyi**:

Absolutely nothing in the amendment prohibits the CDC from studying “gun violence,” In response to this inconvenient fact, gun controllers will explain that while there isn’t an outright ban, the Dickey amendment has a “chilling” effect on the study

of gun violence. Unlikely is the notion that a \$2.6 million cut in funding so horrified the agency that it was rendered powerless to pay for or conduct studies on gun violence. The CDC funding tripled from 1996 to 2010. The CDC's budget is over six billion dollars today.

I assume that the purpose of this talking point is to suggest that opponents of gun control fear having their beliefs debunked, but when **Obama had the CDC study gun violence in 2013** (which you'd think would debunk this bogus narrative in it of itself), it hardly came to the conclusions that Obama wanted. In fact, the study acknowledged that there could be millions of self-defensive gun uses each year, and doesn't mention gun control once in its discussion of mass public shootings.

Defensive Use of Guns

Defensive use of guns by crime victims is a common occurrence, although the exact number remains disputed (Cook and Ludwig, 1996; Kleck, 2001a). Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million (Kleck, 2001a), in the context of about 300,000 violent crimes involving firearms in 2008 (BJS, 2010). On the other hand, some scholars point to a radically lower estimate of only 108,000 annual defensive uses based on the National Crime Victimization Survey (Cook et al., 1997). The variation in these numbers remains a controversy in the field. The estimate of 3 million defensive uses per year is based on an extrapolation from a small number of responses taken from more than 19 national surveys. The former estimate of 108,000 is difficult to interpret because respondents were not asked specifically about defensive gun use.

A different issue is whether defensive uses of guns, however numerous or rare they may be, are effective in preventing injury to the gun-wielding crime victim. Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual

Mass Shootings

According to the Congressional Research Service, public mass shootings “have claimed 547 lives and led to an additional 476 injured victims” since 1983 (Bjelopera et al., 2013, pp. 7-8). Mass shootings are a highly visible and moving tragedy, but represent only a small fraction of total firearm-related violence. Although it may seem that protection against such an event is nearly impossible, proactive law enforcement activities, including community policing and intelligence-led policing, may help prevent some mass shootings (Bjelopera et al., 2013). Analyzing the details of a prevented event against those of a realized event might provide guidance to schools and other locations with large groups of people about efficient and effective ways to avoid such an event. Proactive mental health risk assessment and interventions may also prevent some mass shootings. It is also apparent that some mass murder incidents are associated with suicides (Bell and McBride, 2010). However,

That’s hardly the only study out of the CDC that could hardly be considered damning to those favoring gun rights. Back in the 1990s the CDC conducted a series of surveys on self-defensive gun use in 1996, 1997, and 1998, then proceed to never release the findings or publicly acknowledge that they were researching the subject.

The question asked in the CDC survey addressed the use or threatened use of a firearm to deter a crime. “During the last 12 months, have you confronted another person with a firearm, even if you did not fire it, to protect yourself, your property, or someone else?”

Florida State University criminologist **Gary Kleck** recently got access to the surveys, and after reviewing them discovered that they found “in an average year during 1996–1998, 2.46 million U.S. adults used a gun for self-defense.”

At least two of those surveys was conducted in years that liberals claim the CDC was banned from conducting gun research.

Language clarifying that the Dickey Amendment does not prohibit the research of gun violence was signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 23rd of this year. Ironically, by the looks of the CDC’s past research, this won’t bode well for those advocating for the Dickey Amendment’s repeal.

* * * * *

No, Government Isn't 'Banned' From Studying Gun Violence

Gun control advocates want to lift the ban on politically motivated gun research because they're interested in politically motivated research.

A popular fiction circulating around the gun debate these days contends that “the government” has been “banned” from studying “gun violence.” This prohibition, I’m regularly assured, has led to a dearth of reliable science on firearms, and only when it’s lifted can America start alleviating the “epidemic” of mass shootings.

“Why Can’t the U.S. Treat Gun Violence as a Public-Health Problem?” asks one major publication. “Gun violence research by the government hasn’t been funded in two decades. But that may soon change,” says another. “The CDC can’t fund gun research. What if that changed?” ponders a third.

And on and on and on.

The most obvious problem with this assertion is that it’s untrue.

In 1996, a few years after the Center for Disease Controls had funded a highly controversial study that has since embedded itself into the “scientific” case for gun control, Arkansas Republican Jay Dickey* added an amendment to a funding bill that dictated “none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control” should be used to “advocate or promote gun control.” That same year, Congress also cut \$2.6 million from the CDC’s budget, the amount it spent on gun control efforts. Bill Clinton signed it into law. Absolutely nothing in the amendment prohibits the CDC from studying “gun violence,” even if this narrowly focused topic tells us little. In response to this inconvenient fact, gun controllers will explain that while there isn’t an outright ban, the Dickey amendment has a “chilling” effect on the study of gun violence.

Does it? Pointing out that “research plummeted after the 1996 ban” could just as easily tell us that most research funded by the CDC had been politically motivated. Because the idea that the CDC, whose spectacular mission creep has taken it from its primary goal of preventing malaria and other dangerous communicable diseases, to spending hundreds of millions of

dollars nagging you about how much salt you put on your steaks or how often you do calisthenics, is nervous about the repercussions of engaging in non-partisan research is hard to believe.

Also unlikely is the notion that a \$2.6 million cut in funding so horrified the agency that it was rendered powerless to pay for or conduct studies on gun violence. The CDC funding *tripled* from 1996 to 2010. The CDC's budget is over six billion dollars today. And the idea that the CDC was paralyzed through two-years of full Democratic Party control, and then six years under a president who was more antagonistic towards the Second Amendment than any other in history, is difficult to believe, because it's provably false.

In 2013, President Barack Obama not only signed an Executive Order directing the CDC to research "gun violence," the administration also provided an additional \$10 million to do it. Here is the study on gun violence that was supposedly banned and yet funded by the CDC. You might not have heard about the resulting research, because it contains numerous inconvenient facts about gun ownership that fails to propel the predetermined narrative. Trump's HHS Secretary Alex Azar is also open to the idea of funding more gun violence research.

It's not banned. It's not chilled.

Meanwhile, numerous states and private entities fund peer-reviewed studies and other research on gun violence. I know this because gun control advocates are constantly sending me studies that distort and conflate issues to help them make their arguments. My inbox is bombarded with studies and conferences and "webinars" dissecting gun violence.

The real problem here is two-fold. One, researchers want the CDC involved so they can access government data about American gun owners. Considering the rhetoric coming from Democrats — gun ownership being tantamount to terrorism, and so on — there's absolutely no reason Republicans should acquiesce to helping gun controllers circumvent the privacy of Americans citizens peacefully practicing their Constitutional rights.

Second, gun control advocates want to lift the ban on politically skewed research because *they're interested in producing politically skewed research*. When the American Medical Association declares gun violence a "public health crisis," it's not interested in a

balance look at the issue. When researchers advocate lifting the restrictions on advocacy at the CDC, they don't even pretend they not to hold pre-conceived notions about the outcomes. It's also worth noting that concerns over the politicization of the CDC were, then as now, well founded. If you read this 1994 *New York Times* piece, titled "New Tactics Urged in Fight Against Crime," you'll find Mark Rosenberg — then director at the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which oversaw the "gun violence" research — urging America "to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes ... It used to be that smoking was a glamour symbol — cool, sexy, macho. Now it is dirty, deadly — and banned."

There's no reason to allow activists — then or now — to use the veneer of state-sanctioned science for their partisan purposes. For example, we now know that Rosenberg and others at the CDC turned out to be wrong about the correlation between guns and crime — a steep drop in gun crimes coincided with the explosions of gun ownership from 1996 to 2014.

The Dickey Amendment *might* keep the CDC from funding activism. What it doesn't do is stop the CDC from funding good-faith rigorous research into violence.

<http://thefederalist.com/2018/03/09/no-government-isnt-banned-from-studying-gun-violence/>

* * * * *

"None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control."- This does not "ban" the CDC from researching gun violence. CDC was not banned from doing the research. In fact, CDC articles pertaining to firearms have held steady since the defunding, and even increased to 121 in 2013.

CDC very recently released a 16-page report that was commissioned by the city council of Wilmington, Delaware, on factors contributing to its abnormally high gun crime, and methods of prevention. The study weighed factors such as where the guns were coming from, the sex of the offenders, likeliness of committing a gun crime, and how unemployment plays a factor. In other words it studied, the environment surrounding the crime. It's purpose was to prevent biased advocacy on political views, which is something that cannot be included in research by definition.

In the late '80s and early '90s, the CDC was openly biased in opposing gun rights. CDC official and research head Patrick O'Carroll stated in a 1989 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, "We're going to systematically build a case that owning firearms causes deaths." His successor and director of the CDC National Center of Injury Prevention branch Mark Rosenberg told *Rolling Stone* in 1993 that he "envision[s] a long term campaign, similar to tobacco use and auto safety, to convince Americans that guns are, first and foremost, a public health menace." He went on to tell the *Washington Post* in 1994 "We need to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes. It used to be that smoking was a glamour symbol — cool, sexy, macho. Now it is dirty, deadly — and banned."

CDC leaders were not shy about their intentions of banning guns from the public. Sure enough, they acted on their desires. In October 1993, *The New England Journal of Medicine* released a study funded by the CDC to the tune of

\$1.7 million, entitled “Gun Ownership as a Risk Factor for Homicide in the Home.” The leader author was Dr. Arthur Kellermann, an epidemiologist, physician, and outspoken advocate of gun control.

In the study, Kellerman concluded that people who kept guns in their homes were 2.7 times more likely to be homicide victims as people who don't. Major media outlets, such as the New York Times, still cite these statistics.

However, the research was beyond flawed. For one, Kellermann used epidemiological methods in an attempt to investigate an issue dealing with criminology. In effect, this means he was treating gun violence the same as, say, the spread of West Nile, or bird flu.

It provided no proof or examples that the murder weapon used in these crimes belonged to the homeowner or had been kept in that home.

Furthermore, the gun victims he studied were anomalies. They were selected from homicide victims living in metropolitan areas with high gun-crime statistics, which completely discounted the statistical goliath of areas where gun owners engage in little to no crime.

Other factors that lent to the study's unreliability were: It is based entirely on people murdered in their homes, with 50 percent admitting this was the result of a “quarrel or romantic triangle,” and 30 percent said it was during a drug deal or other felonies such as rape or burglary; it made no consideration for guns used in self-defense; it provided no proof or examples that the murder weapon used in these crimes belonged to the homeowner or had been kept in that home.

These problems prompted objections and questions from leading scientists in the field of criminology, such as Yale University professor John Lott, Florida State's Gary Kleck, and University of Massachusetts sociology professors James D. Wright and Peter H. Rossi. Their research had come to vastly different conclusions, and they found the methodology unsound.

As Lott says of Kellermann's study in his book, “More Guns, Less Crime”: To demonstrate this, suppose that we use the same statistical method—with a matching control group—to do a study on the efficacy of hospital care. Assume that we collect data just as these authors did, compiling a list of all the people who died in a particular county over the period of a year. Then we ask their relatives whether they had been admitted to the hospital during the previous year. We also put together a control sample consisting of neighbors who are part of the same sex, race, and age group. Then we ask these men and women whether they have been in a hospital during the past year. My bet is that those who spent time in hospitals are much more likely to have died — quite probably a stronger relationship than that between homicides and gun ownership in Kellerman's study. If so, would we take that as evidence that hospitals kill people?

He summarized, “it's like comparing 100 people who went to a hospital in a given year with 100 similar people who did not, finding that more of the hospital patients died, and then announcing that hospitals increase the risk of death.” The final nail in the coffin came in 1995 when the Injury Prevention Network Newsletter told its readers to “organize a picket at gun manufacturing sites” and to “work for campaign finance reform to weaken the gun lobby's political clout.”

Appearing on the same page as the article pointing the finger at gun owners for the Oklahoma City bombing were the words, “This newsletter was supported in part by Grant #R49/CCR903697-06 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I'm fine with the CDC studying it like they do now, as long as the requirement to study it unbiasedly is still there. Do we really want government agencies "researching" topics to come to a predetermined finding? If we change a few words from the quotes that precipitated the "ban" would we be against it?

In the late '80s and early '90s, the CDC was openly biased in opposing gay rights. CDC official and research head Patrick O'Carroll stated in a 1989 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, “We're going to systematically build a case that homosexuality causes AIDS deaths.”

His successor and director of the CDC National Center of Injury Prevention branch Mark Rosenberg told Rolling Stone in 1993 that he "envisioned a long term campaign, similar to tobacco use and auto safety, to convince Americans that gays are, first and foremost, a public health menace." He went on to tell the Washington Post in 1994 "We need to revolutionize the way we look at homosexuals, like what we did with cigarettes.

* * * * *

Dispelling the Myth That the US Government is Banned From Studying Gun Violence.

Origins of the Myth

At its core this is a gross misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the fact. While the US government and its agencies are free to conduct whatever research, studies, or reports on the subject they see fit the CDC is explicitly barred from using its funds to promote gun control.

The actual law reads as such:

"None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control." - Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997

So the CDC can research whatever they want, produce any studies or reports they want, and present any findings they want. The only thing they cannot do is use their funding to promote gun control, which is a political position.

The Reasoning behind the Restriction

Those that repeat and propagate this myth often blame the NRA for it. However as the above citation shows the actual law was put in place by the US Congress.

It was Congress that did this because of the CDC's strong political stance against guns that was present in their work. This is due in part to, " [the] official goal of the CDC's parent agency, the U.S. Public Health Service, had been "...to reduce the number of handguns in private ownership", starting with a 25% reduction by the turn of the century."

But why would the US Congress feel so compelled to implement such a specific measure? As the aforementioned quote mentioned the CDC, by its own admission, took a stance against gun ownership and produced biased studies and reports to support the predetermined objective of promoting gun control.

"We're going to systematically build a case that owning firearms causes deaths. We're doing the most we can do, given the political realities. - P.W. O'Carroll, Acting Section Head of Division of Injury Control, CDC, quoted in Marsha F. Goldsmith, "Epidemiologists Aim at New Target: Health Risk of Handgun Proliferation," Journal of the American Medical Association vol. 261 no. 5, February 3, 1989, pp. 675-76.

"In 1979 the American public health community adopted the "objective to reduce the number of handguns in private ownership," the initial target being a 25% reduction by the year 2000.³ Based on studies, and propelled by leadership from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the

objective has broadened so that it now includes banning and confiscation of all handguns, restrictive licensing of owners of other firearms, and eventual elimination of firearms from American life, excepting (perhaps) only a small elite of extremely wealthy collectors, hunters, or target shooters. This is the case in many European countries."

The Clear Evidence that Disproves the Myth

Still the most damning evidence that disproves this myth are the reports and studies themselves. Here are some recent studies on gun violence produced by the CDC:

CDC Report, "Firearm Homicides and Suicides in Major Metropolitan Areas — United States, 2006–2007 and 2009–2010".

CDC Report, "Elevated Rates of Urban Firearm Violence and Opportunities for Prevention—Wilmington, Delaware Final Report".

CDC, Report, "Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence".

Besides these the CDC has also conducted firearms related studies from those on suicides to those on hearing safety, such as:

CDC Report, "Noise and Lead Exposures at an Outdoor Firing Range — California"

Increase in Suicide in the United States, 1999–2014

In addition to the CDC reports there are a plethora of government agencies and organizations that conduct firearm related and specific studies and reports ranging from annual reports to special studies. These include:

FBI Annual Uniform Crime Reporting

FBI report "A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013"

The Congressional Research Service's report "Mass Murder with Firearms: Incidents and Victims, 1999-2013"

DOJ Report to National Institute of Justice, "Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003"

DOJ's "Firearm Use by Offenders".

The Bureau of Justice Statistics alone has Over 20 gun related studies and reports over the past two decades.

Conclusion

So not only can the US government conduct studies, research, and reports on the subject they have they have produced a vast amount if those over the past few decades.

* * * * *

CDC Gun Research Backfires on Obama

In the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, President Obama issued a list of Executive Orders. Notably among them, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) was given \$10 million to research gun violence.

"Year after year, those who oppose even modest gun-safety measures have threatened to defund scientific or medical research into the causes of gun violence, I will direct the Centers for Disease Control to go ahead and study the best ways to reduce it," Obama said on Jan. 16.

As a result, a 1996 Congressional ban on research by the CDC "to advocate or promote gun control" was lifted. Finally, anti-gun proponents- and presumably the Obama Administration- thought gun owners and the NRA would be met with irrefutable scientific evidence to support why guns make Americans less safe.

Mainstream media outlets praised the order to lift the ban and lambasted the NRA and Congress for having put it in place.

It was the "Executive Order the NRA Should Fear the Most," according to The Atlantic.

The CDC ban on gun research "caused lasting damage," reported ABC News.

Salon said the ban was part of the NRA's "war on gun science."

And CBS News lamented that the NRA "stymied" CDC research.

Most mainstream journalists argued the NRA's opposition to CDC gun research demonstrated its fear of being contradicted by science; few- if any- cited why the NRA may have had legitimate concerns. The culture of the CDC at the time could hardly be described as lacking bias on firearms.

"We need to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes," Dr. Mark Rosenberg, who oversaw CDC gun research, told The Washington Post in 1994. "Now [smoking] is dirty, deadly and banned."

Does Rosenberg sound like a man who should be trusted to conduct taxpayer-funded studies on guns?

Rosenberg's statement coincided with a CDC study by Arthur Kellermann and Donald Reay, who argued guns in the home are 43 times more likely to be used to kill a family member than an intruder. The study had serious flaws; namely, it skewed the ratio by failing to consider defensive uses of firearms in which the intruder wasn't killed. It has since been refuted by several studies, including one by Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck, indicating Americans use guns for self-defense 2.5 million times annually. However, the damage had been done- the "43 times" myth is perhaps gun-control advocates' most commonly cited argument, and a lot of people still believe it to this day.

So, the NRA and Congress took action. But with the ban lifted, what does the CDC's first major gun research in 17 years reveal? Not exactly what Obama and anti-gun advocates expected. In fact, you might say Obama's plan backfired.

Here are some key findings from the CDC report, "Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence," released in June:

1. Armed citizens are less likely to be injured by an attacker:

"Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual defensive uses of guns (i.e., incidents in which a gun was 'used' by the crime victim in the sense of attacking or threatening an offender) have found consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies."

2. Defensive uses of guns are common:

"Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million per year... in the context of about 300,000 violent crimes involving firearms in 2008."

3. Mass shootings and accidental firearm deaths account for a small fraction of gun-related deaths, and both are declining:

"The number of public mass shootings of the type that occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School accounted for a very small fraction of all firearm-related deaths. Since 1983 there have been 78 events in which 4 or more individuals were killed by a single perpetrator in 1 day in the United States, resulting in 547 victims and 476 injured persons." The report also notes, "Unintentional firearm-related deaths have steadily declined during the past century. The number of unintentional deaths due to firearm-related incidents accounted for less than 1 percent of all unintentional fatalities in 2010."

4. "Interventions" (i.e, gun control) such as background checks, so-called assault rifle bans and gun-free zones produce "mixed" results:

"Whether gun restrictions reduce firearm-related violence is an unresolved issue." The report could not conclude whether "passage of right-to-carry laws decrease or increase violence crime."

5. Gun buyback/turn-in programs are "ineffective" in reducing crime:

"There is empirical evidence that gun turn in programs are ineffective, as noted in the 2005 NRC study *Firearms and Violence: A Critical Review*. For example, in 2009, an estimated 310 million guns were available to civilians in the United States (Krouse, 2012), but gun buy-back programs typically recover less than 1,000 guns (NRC, 2005). On the local level, buy-backs may increase awareness of firearm violence. However, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for example, guns recovered in the buy-back were not the same guns as those most often used in homicides and suicides (Kuhn et al., 2002)."

6. Stolen guns and retail/gun show purchases account for very little crime:

"More recent prisoner surveys suggest that stolen guns account for only a small percentage of guns used by convicted criminals. According to a 1997 survey of inmates, approximately 70 percent of the guns used or possess by criminals at the time of their arrest came from family or friends, drug dealers, street purchases, or the underground market."

7. The vast majority of gun-related deaths are not homicides, but suicides:

"Between the years 2000-2010 firearm-related suicides significantly outnumbered homicides for all age groups, annually accounting for 61 percent of the more than 335,600 people who died from firearms related violence in the United States."

Why No One Has Heard This

Given the CDC's prior track record on guns, you may be surprised by the extent with which the new research refutes some of the anti-gun movement's deepest convictions.

What are opponents of the Second Amendment doing about the new data? Perhaps predictably, they're ignoring it. President Obama, Michael Bloomberg and the Brady Campaign remain silent. Most suspicious of all, the various media outlets that so eagerly anticipated the CDC research are looking the other way as well. One must wonder how media coverage of the CDC report may have differed, had the research more closely fit an anti-gun narrative.

Even worse, the few mainstream journalists who did report the CDC's findings chose to cherry-pick from the data. Most, like NBC News, reported exclusively on the finding that gun suicides are up. Largely lost in that discussion is the fact that the overall rate of suicide- regardless of whether a gun is involved or not- is also up.

Others seized upon the CDC's finding that, "The U.S. rate of firearm-related homicide is higher than that of any other industrialized country: 19.5 times higher than the rates in other high-income countries." However, as noted by the Las Vegas Guardian Express, if figures are excluded from such anti-gun bastions as Illinois, California, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., "The homicide rate in the United States would be in line with any other country."

The CDC report is overall a blow to the Obama Administration's unconstitutional agenda. It largely supports the Second Amendment, and contradicts common anti-gun arguments. Unfortunately, mainstream media failed to get the story they were hoping for, and their silence on the matter is a screaming illustration of their underlying agenda.

* * * * *

Obama Study Concluded Firearms Used for Self-Defense ‘Important Crime Deterrent’

“Self-defense can be an important crime deterrent,” concluded a study by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mandated via executive order by President Barack Obama. The findings also question the effectiveness of gun-control measures.

The \$10 million study was commissioned by President Barack Obama as part of 23 executive orders he signed in January of 2013.

The study’s findings include:

Gun-use is the safest of studied “self-protective strategies,”

Suicide accounts for most firearm deaths,

Felons who use guns very seldom obtain their guns by stealing them, and

There is no evidence that gun restrictions reduce gun violence.

“Studies that directly assessed the effect of actual defensive uses of guns (i.e., incidents in which a gun was ‘used’ by the crime victim in the sense of attacking or threatening an offender) have found consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies,” the CDC study, entitled “Priorities For Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence,” states.

Researchers also found that the majority of firearm deaths are from suicide, not homicide. “Between the years 2000 and 2010, firearm-related suicides significantly outnumbered homicides for all age groups, annually accounting for 61 percent of the more than 335,600 people who died from firearm-related violence in the United States.”

“Most felons report obtaining the majority of their firearms from informal sources,” adds the report, while “stolen guns account for only a small percentage of guns used by convicted criminals.”

The report expresses uncertainty about gun control measures, stating that “whether gun restrictions reduce firearm-related violence is an unresolved issue,” and that there is no evidence “that passage of right-to-carry laws decrease or increase violence crime.” It also stated that proposed “gun turn-in programs are ineffective.”

Instead, researchers proposed gun safety technologies such as “external locking devices and biometric systems” to reduce firearm-related deaths.

* * * * *

PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of alvin bustillo <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:47 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : alvin bustillo
E-mail : buba808@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96744

Testimony : as a law abiding citizen who hunts and shoots for fun and recreation i oppose this bill

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Austin White <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:47 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Austin White
E-mail : austinowhite@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96789

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

Hawaii gun violence levels are some of the lowest in the nation. The only reason to try and study them would be to use the information to force more gun control. Hawaii already has a plan in place through the Attorney Generals Office Research and Statistics Branch and every year they provide crime information throughout the state.
(<http://ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/rs/>)

The state has so many financial issues now creating a new group to spend money on something that is neither needed or wanted would just show how wasteful the goverment of Hawaii is with its residents money.

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From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Benedicto Abrigado <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:40 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Benedicto Abrigado
E-mail : Buck.ster1982@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : I respectfully opposed Bill HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Brendon Heal <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 6:54 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Brendon Heal
E-mail : heaviescc@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96707

Testimony :

This is a complete waste of taxpayer dollars. Gun violence is a NON issue in Hawaii, compared to ALL the other problems that need IMMEDIATE ATTENTION in this State.

Do not waste time on these anti gun agenda bills. They go against the Constitution of the United States, the constitution of Hawaii, AND are in contrary to your sworn oaths when you took office!

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From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Brian Ley <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 4:41 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Brian Ley
E-mail : brianLey0522@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96778

Testimony : This email is in strong opposition of HB 1541. How about we spend the money working on our drug and alcohol problem. We already know guns are only used about 12% of crimes hands feet, knives clubs tools are used more than guns

Brian Ley

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From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Calvin Flores <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 6:43 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Calvin Flores
E-mail : kaleimon@hotmail.com
Zip Code : 96761

Testimony : This email is in OPPOSITION of HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Carlo Barbasa <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:49 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Carlo Barbasa
E-mail : carlo.barbasa@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96818

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541. No more new government bureaucracies. If the true goal is to end “gun violence” (which by your own statistics annually accounts for fewer than 15% of all homicides in the state), please divest funds into the private sector where efficiencies and innovations have thrived.

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From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Catherine Abrigado <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:06 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Catherine Abrigado
E-mail : Buck.ster1982@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : I respectfully opposed Bill HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Cheryl Holliday <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:14 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Cheryl Holliday
E-mail : cherylholliday@ymail.com
Zip Code : 96792

Testimony : This email is in opposition to HB1541. Hawaii has one of the lowest rates for gun crimes and shootings. We have a horrible homeless problem where money spent on studying gun violence could be better spent on homeless concerns. Most gun owners are law abiding citizens and go through extensive safety training as a result of gun ownership. Criminals do not. Thank you for listening.

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From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Jon Abbott <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:45 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Jon Abbott
E-mail : jonwebsterabbott@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96822

Testimony : This email is in OPPOSITION of HB1541. There is no need to waste tax payer dollars on a problem that hardly exists in the state of Hawaii. I urge you to oppose this measure.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Maria Christina Hunter <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:14 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Maria Christina Hunter
E-mail : Buck.ster1982@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : I respectfully oppose Bill HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of michael jumalon <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:15 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : michael jumalon
E-mail : Shawnak_66@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96720

Testimony : This e-mail is in OPPOSITION of HB1541. I work hard to purchase guns as a collector and follow all the laws and rules to be allowed to keep my guns. It would be unfair for myself and others who abide by the rules to have to give up their rights because of a small fraction of individuals wrong doings.

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From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of murvyn lewis <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:46 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : murvyn lewis
E-mail : murvg81@live.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : Gun violence center? That's laughable. How about a human violence center, since that's what it is. When did we as a society stop assigning personal responsibility and start blaming inanimate objects for the crimes that we commit?

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Norman Akau <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 4:26 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Norman Akau
E-mail : nor8ak@aol.com
Zip Code : 96744

Testimony : I strongly oppose this bill

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HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:33:53 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Pierce	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We do not have a gun violence problem in Hawaii. We have drug problems, homeless problems, theft problems and vandalizing problems. Any increased fundings should go to those areas of need first. Thank you, Jason Pierce.

PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Richy Chang <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 11:26 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Richy Chang
E-mail : inchang.1391@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96720

Testimony : This email is in OPPOSITION OF HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Ricky Carvalho <oaktree@sandwichisles.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:34 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Ricky Carvalho
E-mail : oaktree@sandwichisles.net
Zip Code : 96720

Testimony : It infringes on our right to bear arms.

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Rio Valdez <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:45 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Rio Valdez
E-mail : joev362003@yahoo.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : I respectfully oppose Bill HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Shannon Hunter <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:19 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Shannon Hunter
E-mail : Buck.ster1982@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96819

Testimony : I respectfully oppose Bill HB1541

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of steven kumasaka <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:26 AM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : steven kumasaka
E-mail : macsak@gmail.com
Zip Code : 96821

Testimony : OPPOSE
legislature spent lots of money last year to do a study
READ THE RESULTS
it says that Hawaii DOES NOT have a gun violence problem

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PVMtestimony

From: Ninja Forms TxnMail <ninja_forms_txnmail@t9n.feedblitz.com> on behalf of Tony Lee <feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:24 PM
To: PVMtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1541

This e-mail is to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1541

Name : Tony Lee
E-mail : ling0821@hotmail.com
Zip Code : 96789

Testimony : oppose 1541

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HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:31:03 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB1541. We have little scientific data on the effects of guns on families, households, and communities, although we know that their presence results in high rates of completed suicides, homicides, injuries, and trauma. The federal government has blocked research on this topic, by providing no public funding to academics. This is a wonderful move to support research on the effects of gun ownership, gun presence, and different types of gun safety policies.

I have experienced danger from guns on a number of occasions, and find it ridiculous that I live in a nation with incredibly high rates of gun deaths, and incredibly lax laws governing these dangerous weapons.

I hope that this bill will be passed and the data might be used to maintain our island way of life, which currently is safer than in many other locations of the USA.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.

LATE

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:07:02 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry Nagai	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

LATE

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:10:48 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1541.

Borrowed from a friend my sentiments non the less though.

"This is a complete waste of taxpayer dollars. Gun violence is a NON issue in Hawaii, compared to ALL the other problems that need IMMEDIATE ATTENTION in this State.

Do not waste time on these anti gun agenda bills. They go against the Constitution of the United States, the constitution of Hawaii, AND are in contrary to your sworn oaths when you took office!"

Every gun owner in this state needs to STOP VOTING for these people.
Every gun owner needs to register to VOTE.

No matter what your union says
no matter what your grandma says

no matter what your boss says

2A needs to be your one and only issue.

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:49:06 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM



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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. this is another veiled attempt to now use taxpayer dollars to conduct politically biased studies whose only purpose is to deprive citizens of their constitutional rights. The State of Hawaii can surely use this funding for better purposes, since the legislature is always squawking about how there isn't enough money to go around, and that we need to raise taxes. Well, we sure as heck don't need this politically-biased wild goose chase to be funded by the hard working citizens of Hawaii.

LATE

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:25:49 PM
Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlo Barbasa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

With all of Hawaii's bureaucratic bloat, a growing homeless population living in our public spaces and walkways, and a likely-\$10 billion rail system not yet finished nor paid for, I can not support the creation of any new "special funds" or "research centers", especially for a problem which, by the Hawaii's own statistical analyses, accounts for less than 13% of the violent crime committed annually in Hawaii, of which less than 0.5% are murder by firearm.

Please spend the money elsewhere or release those funds into the private sector which will create better efficiencies and save taxpayer dollars.

LATE

HB-1541

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:05:41 AM
Testimony for PVM on 2/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Meade	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Hawai'i has many differentiating factors from the continental states. It is pono that we examine for ourselves how we can reduce gun violence rather than relying on more generic research which will surely not take into account the things that make Hawai'i unique.