

ACT 217

H.B. NO. 500

A Bill for an Act Relating to Firearms.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is widely recognized as a community relatively free of violence involving firearms. The legislature further finds that this low rate of violence is attributable to our strict controls on the possession and use of firearms within our State. However, the legislature recognizes

that there is a need to expand our visitor industry by developing niche markets, such as recreational hunting, that would encourage visitors who may want to enjoy Hawaii's optimal climate and scenic landscapes while also engaging in legal recreational firearms activities.

The purpose of this Act is to allow nonresident aliens who are visiting the State for the purposes of engaging in recreational target shooting or game hunting to be allowed to bring legal firearms into the State under certain conditions for such limited purposes.

SECTION 2. Section 134-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) Every person arriving in the State who brings or by any other manner causes to be brought into the State a firearm of any description, whether usable or unusable, serviceable or unserviceable, modern or antique, shall register the firearm within three days after arrival of the person or of the firearm, whichever arrives later, with the chief of police of the county of the person's place of business or, if there is no place of business, [such] the person's residence or, if there is neither a place of business nor residence, the person's place of sojourn[; provided that no]. A nonresident alien [shall be allowed to] may bring firearms [a firearm of any description into the State.] not otherwise prohibited by law into the State for a continuous period not to exceed ninety days; provided that the person meets the registration requirement of this section and the person possesses:

- (1) A valid Hawaii hunting license procured under chapter 183D, part II, or a commercial or private shooting preserve permit issued pursuant to section 183D-34;
- (2) A written document indicating the person has been invited to the State to shoot on private land; or
- (3) Written notification from a firing range or target shooting business indicating that the person will actually engage in target shooting.

The nonresident alien shall be limited to a nontransferable registration of not more than ten firearms for the purpose of the above activities.’’

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved July 2, 1999.)