



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MEDIA RELEASE

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Governor Signs Measure to Enhance Hawaii's Firearm Registration Requirements

Honolulu- Governor Neil Abercrombie today signed into law a measure to promote gun safety and enhance registration requirements for firearms brought into Hawaii.

[Senate Bill 69](#), relating to firearms, closes a loophole in Hawaii's firearms law by requiring individuals who bring into Hawaii firearms produced outside of the State to undergo a background check.

"With the recent shootings in Aurora, Colorado and Newton, Connecticut, gun violence has been thrust into the forefront of many discussions across the country, including here in Hawaii," said Senator Will Espero, who introduced the measure and chairs the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs. "This measure promotes gun safety by strengthening Hawaii's firearm registration requirements and ensuring that individuals bringing firearms into our State are receiving proper background checks."

Under Hawaii's previous law, a person arriving in the State with a firearm was required to register the firearm, but no permit process or background check was required. This created a loophole which allowed individuals who might have been prohibited from acquiring a firearm in Hawaii the ability to acquire a firearm outside of this State, where a permit process or extensive background check may not be required, then possess and be considered a registered firearm owners after registering with the county police department.

SB 69, requires county police departments under certain conditions to fingerprint, photograph and perform background checks on individuals who wish to register a firearm that was procured out-of-state. The measure also authorizes the police departments to assess a fee for conducting a fingerprint check and specifies the amount of the fee. Additionally, it extends the time period for registering a firearm procured out-of-state for consistency with the time period for registering firearms obtained in or imported into the State.

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