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No. _

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1292
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A STATE QUALIFYING SHOOTING RANGE AT
KULANI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN EAST HAWAII ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

By
Clayton A. Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 19, 2009; 9:30AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Hanohano, Representative Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the legislature's interest in the development of a shooting range for law enforcement's use on the Island of Hawaii. However, the cost of building this range, as well as the operational costs of this proposed range are not included in the Governor's biennium budget.

PSD appreciates the intent of this measure. However, given the current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to enact this measure at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

February 18, 2009

Testimony IN OPPOSITON on HB1292
Before the House Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, February 19, 2009, 9:30 am, Rm. 309

Chair Hanohano, Vice-Chair Aquino, and Members,

Hawaii Rifle Association does not understand why a shooting range would be constructed for use a few hours a week for state corrections officers to qualify when a joint use range could be built to accommodate civilian shooters and other agencies as well. A simple amendment to that effect would permit HRA to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.

The too few public ranges in our State operate in that manner now. The arrangement is logical, since law enforcement trains mostly during weekday working hours, and civilian shooters prefer weekends and holidays. Ukumehame range on Maui, near Lahaina, built in the early 90's, is joint use, as is Koko Head Shooting Complex on Oahu. Civilian shooting clubs contribute to range management at both.

The 2008 SCORP study reports that 25% of Hawaii residents who responded shoot rifles and pistols as outdoor recreation and agree that more ranges are needed. 18,000 hunters in the state, many of them in East Hawaii, need a place to sight in. HRS 134 requires training to qualify for a handgun permit. Shooting ranges are a very popular tourist destination.

There are presently no public shooting ranges suitable for rifle and pistol shooting in East Hawaii. The public shotgun range in Hilo cannot safely accommodate those firearms because there is not enough depth to those ranges or a suitable backstop. The Big Island Gun Club operates a private rifle and pistol range in Mountain View, open to members and guests, so in fact serving the shooting public, but on leased acreage. A few years ago they lost their lease at another site and were without any range for over a year. They remain subject to landowner priorities.

Urban encroachment, environmental issues, neighborhood resistance, and the loss of "unofficial" ranges all limit range availability, so a place to shoot is a community resource that should be shared.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify for HRA.

Dr. Maxwell Cooper, Director, HRA
225-6944

From: Jim O'Keefe [jokeefe@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 7:46 AM
To: PBStestimony
Subject: Kulani range

Categories: Orange Category

Testimony IN OPPOSITON on HB1292
Before the House Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, February 19, 2009, 9:30 am, Rm. 309

Chair Hanohano, Vice-Chair Aquino, and Members,

I am an NRA Certified Firearms Instructor operating in East Hawaii, training civilians, law enforcement and military members in the safe, reffective and responsible use of firearms. I count several corrections officers among my students, and regularly participate with them in various shooting competitions and events. I would submit that they benefit from their contact with civilian and LE firearms users. To exclude civilians from their proposed range would be a disservice to the corrections officers and the public they serve. Maui's Ukumehame Range, and Oahu's Koko Head complex both serve law enforcement and the public safely and to the benefit of all.

James M O'Keefe
Hilo, HI