

SB 358

Measure Title:
RELATING TO FIREARMS

Report Title:
Firearms; Prohibition Against Seizure During Emergency

Description:
Prohibits person or government entity from seizing any firearm or ammunition under civil defense, emergency, or disaster relief powers, or during any civil defense emergency period or any time of national emergency or crisis, from any individual who is lawfully permitted to carry or possess the firearm or ammunition under part I of chapter 134 and who carries, possesses, or uses the firearm or ammunition in a lawful manner. Prohibits suspension or revocation, under emergency powers, of permits or licenses lawfully acquired and maintained under part I of chapter 134.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 358
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREARMS

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

February 3, 2009

Chair Espero and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony on Senate Bill 358.

The proposed bill amends HRS Chapter 134 by prohibiting State and county law enforcement from seizing firearms or ammunition during an emergency or disaster. The proposed bill further prohibits State and county law enforcement to suspend or revoke permits and licenses to carry firearms and ammunition during emergencies and disasters. It also voids the authority to require the reregistration of firearms.

We do not support this bill.

Given the many disasters the State has experienced in the last two decades including the National state of emergency brought on by the tragic terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, New York City, in 2001, there was not one instance where the seizure of firearms and ammunition was invoked under HRS Chapter 128. In view of the general threat of terrorism that our Nation faces, we believe that the proposed bill is not necessary and may frustrate law enforcement officials in the maintenance of law and order before, during, and after major emergencies and disasters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 358.

From: Yorozuyo@aol.com [mailto:Yorozuyo@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 9:00 AM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Cc: Sen. Robert Bunda; Sen. Fred Hemmings
Subject: Senate Bill 358; House Bill 412

1. Senate Bill 358: State Senator Samuel Slom (R-8)

The above referenced Senate Bill 358, is a forgone conclusion and should be passed without opposition.

Title VII of the Robert T. Sanford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (**Title 42 U.S.C. 5201**) is amended by adding at the end the following: **SEC 706. FIREARMS POLICIES.**

(a) Prohibition on Confiscation of Firearms- No officer or employee of the United States (including any member of the uniformed services (national guard)), or person operating pursuant to or under color of Federal law, or **receiving Federal funds, or under control of any Federal official, or providing services to such an officer, employee, or other person, while acting in support of relief from a major disaster or emergency, may...**

Confiscation would be a violation of the Second, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendment. (c) Private Rights of Action- (1) ...causes such individual to be subjected to the **deprivation of any of the rights, privileges, or immunities secured by this section.**

Deprivation of such rights is subject to Title 42 U.S.C. 1983 action.

This act is also a part of **Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill**. Any state engaged in the illegal confiscation of firearms will not receive any federal funding, federal personnel or equipment.

Department of Homeland Security amendment was based on H.R. 5013. Bill passed the House of Representatives 322-99, 28 July 2006, the U.S. Senate 84-16, 13 July 2006, signed by President Bush into Federal law October 2006.

Hawaii is already considered a "**welfare state**", can we afford such nonsense as forfeiting Federal funding, personnel and equipment? I think not.

2. House Bill 412:

The banning of .50 cal. BMG rifles and ammunition, is once again a pre-constraint upon a constitutional right. We, the people are part of the "**unorganized militia**" as described in Title 10, Chapter 13, Militia. The unorganized militia are those persons who are not members of the army or naval reserves. As such, we have three basic weapons that cannot be threatened. Rifle, pistol, and knife. As such it is our civil constitutional duty to become familiar, competent and proficient with the common weapons of the infantryman. The .50 cal. rifle gives the infantryman the opportunity to engage a hostile element at a long range of one thousand yards. The M-16 and M-15 gives the

infantryman the opportunity to engage the hostile element at a comfortable intermediate range of 250 to 300 meters. The hand pistol, provides the opportunity to engage in close range of 15-25 yards. The knife, is the final option of survival, in hand to hand combat.

There are no known statistics that the .50 caliber rifle is used to bring down aircrafts. For that matter, of the recent aircraft accident of a flock of birds that brought down a passenger jetliner. Are we going to ban birds from airports and runways? In fact, more birds have caused untold aircraft damages and crashes than a single .50 caliber rifle. Once again, it is only a **"feel good"** Sarah Brady drive at the expense of the people of Hawaii. The rifle is already registered, and since it costs nearly US\$6,000.00 per rifle, there are not many. If a .50 cal. rifle is abused, I am certain it would be easy to locate the perpetrator.

Once again, you cannot deny or prohibit a constitutionally protected individual right based on the concept that a person may abuse it in the future. To be in such principles of government is to engage in socialism, which is not what our republican form of government is about.

George K. Young, Jr.
1083 Apono Place
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(808) 895-1735
E-mail: yorozuyo@aol.com

Senators,

I am writing to encourage you to vote AGAINST House Bill 412 and to vote FOR Senate Bill 358. With the SCOTUS decision in DC vs Heller reaffirming the right to keep and bear arms as an individual right, it is responsible legislature that you ensure Hawaii law is in agreement with our U.S. Constitution.

While anti-gun enthusiasts continue to ignore this important decision, their argument is flawed. They would have you believe that: no sportsman has any use for 50BMG firearms; that the ammunition is too powerful for sporting use; and that the only firearms chambered for it are for military use. I counter this with the many safari hunters in Hawaii who have found the ballistics of the 50BMG to be ideal for many dangerous game; that the ammunition is actually less powerful than the entire Nitro Express line of safari cartridges of .450, .470, .476, .500, .577, .600, and .700 caliber (and no one is crying to have them outlawed while there are probably more rifles chambered in them in Hawaii than BMG); and there are many manufacturers currently chambering in 50BMG for single-shot, bolt-action, as well as semi-automatic firearms. The bill is completely inconsistent in its treatment of large caliber ammunition which it purports to address, and is therefore, an unacceptable piece of legislation. On top of this, there has been a huge amount of misinformation presented by the anti-gun lobby and little main stream media rebuttal to that misinformation. (If you are a staffer weeding through letters or even the senator yourself, I invite you to inform yourself on some of the misinformation that has been passed as gospel in the web article below. It is well written, mostly stays away from sarcasm, and presents official industry and government responses to the questions the journalists should have asked before they published. At a minimum, it could let you help you boss from looking foolish if they were to actually use some of the bad info in session.) The web address is:

<http://fiftycal.org/frenchrebuttal0511.php>

On Senate Bill 358, the Katrina fiasco has resulted in millions of dollars in financial responsibility to the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans. Most states have either passed or are writing legislation similar to our bill. This is a good bill and will pass muster both from a 2nd Amendment, and financial responsibility standpoint to the State of Hawaii and us, your constituency.

I apologize for taking so much of your time, but am committed to supporting our individual rights both locally and throughout our great nation.

Sincerely,

Joe Marcotte
201 N. Circle Mauka St
Wahiawa, HI 96786

808-372-6110

Dear member of the Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee.
Your committee will hold a hearing on Senate Bill 358 on Tuesday, February 3 at 1:15 p.m. in Room 229. Please support this bill.

Emergencies are, by definition, very troubled times which often strain a state's public safety resources. As we saw in the Katrina wracked New Orleans area, confiscation of firearms and ammunition from honest gun owners caused huge difficulties which haven't been resolved even yet.

Throughout our history, whenever disasters or other problems have left public safety agencies so stressed that they were unable to operate effectively, honest citizens have exercised their right to defend themselves and their neighbors from the inevitable predations of the human jackals who emerge to attack the defenseless in such circumstances. New Orleans is still tied up in legal difficulties trying to mitigate the suffering and damage caused by the door to door sweep prompted by the weapons confiscation order. Victims or their survivors will sue if they are disarmed and suffer as a consequence, and legal considerations aside, it is unconscionable to leave a populace defenseless when criminals know that the authorities cannot respond effectively.

The writers of the Constitution understood that the people have the natural right to defend themselves, and wisely restated that right, among others, in the Bill of Rights. Doing so was the only way that the Constitution would be ratified. They also knew that honest people can be trusted to act on behalf of their neighbors in the common defense in times of trouble. Our State government should reiterate that trust by passage of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian Isaacson
Kailua, HI

Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee

State Senators: Will Espero, Chair; Robert Bunda, V-Chair; Kalani English; Mike Gabbard; Brickwood Galuteria; Michelle Kidani; Fred Hemmings

Re: Senate Bill 358 (State Senator Samuel Slom)...prohibit a person or government entity from seizing firearms or ammunition during a declared state of emergency.

Senators:

I am in FAVOR of Senate Bill 358 as it reaffirms our 2nd amendment rights, period!

Thank you,

Rauyl Nakayama
1010 So. King Street #209
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Jerry Jackson [mailto:JerryJackson@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 11:38 AM

To: Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; 'State Senator Fred Hemmings'; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Robert Bunda; Sen. Will Espero

Subject: Senate Bill 358

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I've received information that you will hear subject bill on Tuesday, February 3rd at 1:15 pm. I would like to see this bill as introduced by Senator Samuel Slom passed as it would prohibit a person or government entity from seizing firearms or ammunition during a declared state of emergency. Had such a bill been in effect in New Orleans during the hurricane that devastated the area, I'm sure citizens would have had the ability to protect themselves and their property.

Thank you.

Jerry Jackson, Alewa Drive, Honolulu, HI 96817

Cell (808)306-9057



From: Susan Hughes [mailto:alohajunction@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 7:04 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: Senate Bill 358

We strongly support this bill. PLease vote YES!
MAhalo,
Robert & Susan Hughes
Volcano, HI 96785

From: Paul Rizzo [mailto:rizzop002@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 7:02 PM

To: Sen. Will Espero; Sen. Robert Bunda; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Fred Hemmings

Cc: Sen. Sam Slom

Subject: Senate Bill 358

Dear Sirs.

Please support SB358, introduced by Senator Samuel Slom, which prohibits the confiscation of firearms and ammunition during a civil or national emergency or crisis. Regardless of partisanship and ideology, you all can agree to the reality that citizens need to be capable of protecting their lives, loved ones, and property, in the event that official resources become depleted and can not protect the most rural areas of our state.

Please allow us to protect ourselves, state, and country, by supporting SB358.

Respectfully,

Paul Rizzo
Hilo, HI

Please support Bill 358

Regards

Michael J. Botha

President

Sandwich Isle Pest Solutions

96-1368 Waihona Street

Pearl City, HI 96782

License: PCO 771

Phone: 808 456 7716

Fax: 808 456 7266

mjbotha@sandwichisle.com

www.sandwichisle.com

Subject: Senate Bill 358

Dear Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bill 358. Given the events in New Orleans during hurricane Katrina where lawfully owned firearms were confiscated, it is important that Hawaii clearly define its position should a similar event or disaster occur here. While the courts ruled the confiscation unconstitutional, the damage was done. Many of the firearms were returned to their owners in unusable condition. Worse, had a personal defense situation arise during the time of confiscation, lawful gun owners would not have had the use of their firearms to defend themselves.

Please support Senate Bill 358.

Respectfully,

Sean Spillane

92-7139 Elele Street #802
Kapolei, HI 96707
808 782 2308

From: Ski Dombrowski [mailto:Ski@DesertWatchSecurity.com]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:03 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: Re: Senate Bill 358

Aloha Everyone,

I am sending this e-mail to your offices to express my Strong Support of State Senator Samuel Slom (R-8) submission of SB358.

R. Ski Dombrowski MBA,CMAS
President/CEO
Office Telephone: 808-847-3559
Fax: 808-847-3960
Cellular Telephone: 808-927-5977
E-mail: ski@desertwatchsecurity.com
www.desertwatchsecurity.com

From: TowerEngr@aol.com [mailto:TowerEngr@aol.com]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:40 PM

To: Sen. Will Espero

Cc: Sen. Robert Bunda; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Fred Hemmings; mongeona001@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: IN SUPPORT OF Senate Bill 358 - -

Dear Senators:

Re: Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee SB 358

As a citizen, resident, voter, business owner, residence owner and disabled veteran I urge you to please support SB 358. In times like these, common sense is the appropriate action and this makes good sense.

Your support of SB 358 is appreciated.

Jerry Whitehead
Honolulu, Hawaii

From: Claire Hill [mailto:clairehill64@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:32 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: SB358

Please support SB358. Claire Hill 808-652-9365

From: Bob Doeringer [mailto:bob-doeringer@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:23 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: Senate Bill 358

Senator Espero,

I would like to strongly encourage you to support State Senator Samuel Slom's bill (SB358) to prohibit a person or government entity from seizing firearms or ammunition during a declared state of emergency. The very idea of such confiscation during a state of emergency is absolutely contrary to Second Amendment Rights would prevent law abiding citizens from protecting their families and property when they might urgently need to do so. As a state senator, it is your duty to support laws that will protect the citizens of this state and this bill certainly does that.

Sincerely,
Bob Doeringer
Kaneohe, HI

From: Sean Choo [mailto:kolohekanakamaoli@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 1:16 AM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: *****SPAM***** Senate Bill 358

Senator Espero,

Respectfully, I would like to express my adamant support for Senate Bill 358. I strongly urge you to protect my 2nd amendment rights by supporting this bill.

Thank you,
Sean



*A Hui Hou,
Sean*

From: Shelton Yamashiro [mailto:shelton.yamashiro@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 11:46 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero; Sen. Robert Bunda; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Fred Hemmings
Subject: SB358

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my support of this bill. As a veteran and citizen I find it appalling that such a bill even needs to be submitted to your committee for consideration. It should be a given that citizens should not be deprived of tools by which they can protect their families in times of grave danger and turmoil.

Please consider lending your support to the passage of this bill so that in the event of a widespread emergency or disaster, law abiding, gun owning citizens can rest easier knowing that state and local government personnel and agencies won't have the authority to confiscate our legal firearms as was done in New Orleans during hurricane Katrina recovery. Knowing so will allow us to concentrate on the tasks of recovery rather than fretting over the safety of our families, neighbors and communities.

Aloha,
Shelton P. Yamashiro

From: Reva Hamilton [mailto:mochamonday@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 10:18 PM

To: Sen. Sam Slom; Sen. Will Espero; Sen. Robert Bunda; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Fred Hemmings

Subject: Fw: Mixed thoughts on Senate Bill #358

TO: The Honorable Hawaii State Senators

REF: Senate Bill #358

Frankly, ladies and gentlemen, Senate Bill #358 is a mess! You have lumped several issues together under one bold heading which prohibits violating our Constitutional Right to keep and bear arms.

OF COURSE WE SUPPORT PROHIBITION OF VIOLATION OF OUR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS. It is a sad commentary on the current state of affairs in our Country that it even has to come up for a vote. If you do not support §134 – Prohibition against seizure of firearms or ammunition during emergency or disaster, you undermine our United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Please do the honorable thing – vote yes specifically on §134 – Prohibition against seizure of firearms or ammunition during emergency or disaster, and support law-abiding citizens' right to protect themselves and their families. What happened in New Orleans was horrible, and will be held up to ridicule for all time.

Further, Senate Bill #358 has an issue I do not support, and one I simply cannot understand.

Section 2, § 128-6 – Civil Defense Powers, in general: What the heck is #5? Why would you possibly need compulsory blood-typing of females? This requires further explanation. Can there possibly be a good reason for this? Are you playing God?

Section 3, § 134-32 – License to sell and manufacture firearms; conditions: This is another infringement on our Constitutional right to protect ourselves. Most citizens believe the government will protect them, and do not want to go through the hassle of purchasing and registering a firearm in Hawaii. If the time comes when they need a firearm for protection of their family, they should have every opportunity to purchase a defensive firearm. Seizure of firearms from a legally licensed firearms dealer under emergency conditions would be an egregious overstep of legislative powers.

The Founding Fathers wrote a Document that gave 'The People' certain inalienable rights. They further guaranteed those rights through our Bill of Rights. Their hallowed words, which limited the power of government, have served us well for over two hundred years. Why do you persist in perpetual self-serving interpretations of those documents? You are elected to serve the people under the Constitution. Please uphold our Constitutional Rights, and meddle with no more than you are authorized under the Constitution.

Thank you for your consideration,
Reva Hamilton

From: Bushidoswd@aol.com [mailto:Bushidoswd@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 8:44 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: re: support for Bill 358

Dear Senator,

The theft of firearms by the New Orleans police department during hurricane Katrina harks back to the Third Reich and the Gestapo tactics in Germany.

This unconscionable usurpation of our second amendment right should never happen again. I strongly support Senate bill 358 and eagerly await the final disposition and vote.

Sincerely,
Robert Benson
Manoa

-----Original Message-----

From: Melvin Ah Ching
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 4:11 PM
To: PSM Testimony
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 358

-----Original Message-----

From: madmonk@hawaiian.net [mailto:madmonk@hawaiian.net]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:18 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero; Sen. Robert Bunda; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Michelle Kidani; Sen. Fred Hemmings; Sen. Sam Slom
Subject: Senate Bill 358

Aloha Senator!

We are writing to strongly support Senate Bill 358. A recent US Supreme Court decision emphasized the constitutional right to keep and bear arms, especially for personal protection. This is even more critical in the case of a declared state of emergency...when police (stretched thin at the best of times!) are even less likely to respond in a timely manner (assuming communications are intact to make the call).

Thanks in advance for your vote in favor of this much needed legislation.

Cordially,

William & JoAnne Georgi
PO Box 51040
Ele'ele, HI 96705
808-332-0057

PS - William is a former national park ranger...(a federal law enforcement officer).

From: Dennis & Leona Martin [mailto:kapuaponi@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 1:34 PM
To: Sharon Lum Ho
Subject: Fw: senate bill 358

----- Original Message -----

From: Dennis & Leona Martin
To: psmtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 1:32 PM
Subject: senate bill 358

Aloha, My name is dennis martin I live in kamuela on the big island. I am FOR bill 358 prohibiting seizure of weapons and firearms during an emergency. Law abiding citizens should have access to weapons during this time ...otherwise only criminals would have guns.

Thank you
Dennis

P.S. I am against house bill 412 banning . 50 caliber weapons and ammo. I wish to exercize all my 2nd amendment rights. No restrictions.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Testimony in support of SB 358

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair
Members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would like to express my strong support for SB 358.

I was one of the many Hawaii based healthcare providers who assisted on Kauai immediately after Hurricane Iniki. Well, not immediately, as it took some time for the authorities to clear the airport facilities in order to allow planes to land with the needed supplies and personnel. This delay in responding to the needs of the citizens of Kauai, and the expected delays in the event of another similar disaster, is the very reason it is important to pass SB 358. I witnessed firsthand the limitations imposed on civil services during these types of situations.

Our isolation, and the length of time required for help to arrive from the mainland, is often used to justify preparing to be self-sufficient in the event of an emergency. This is obviously a very good idea and is, in fact, routinely suggested to the citizens of Hawaii. Citizens are advised to keep adequate water, food, medications, and other essential items on hand should normal civil services be impacted in the event of an emergency. And, in the same vein, citizens should be advised to prepare themselves to protect those emergency supplies and themselves in the event that the police, hampered by either storm damage or civil unrest, cannot respond to requests for help or assistance.

After Hurricane Katrina, many New Orleans residents legally armed themselves to protect their lives and property from civil disorder. With no way to call for help, and police unable to respond, honest citizens were able to defend themselves and their neighbors against looters, arsonists and other criminals.¹

However, just when these people needed guns the most, New Orleans's Police Superintendent ordered the confiscation of firearms, allegedly under a state emergency powers law. "No one will be able to be armed," he said. "Guns will be taken. Only law enforcement will be allowed to have guns."²

Unfortunately, many states have "emergency powers" laws that give the government permission to suspend or limit gun sales, and to prohibit or restrict citizens from transporting or carrying firearms. In some states, authorities are authorized to seize guns

¹ Felicity Barringer & Jere Longman, Police and Owners Begin to Challenge Looters, New York Times, September 1, 2005; Robert Tanner, With Guns And Generators, A Few Homeowners Stand Guard (AP), Columbia Tribune, September 5, 2005; Bob Dart, Armed Militia Protects Its New Orleans Neighborhood, Austin American-Statesman, Sept. 10, 2005.

² Timothy Dwyer & Ann Scott Tyson, Troops Escalate Urgency of Evacuation, Washington Post, Sept. 9, 2005.

outright from citizens who've committed no crime--and who would then be defenseless against disorder.

The movement to change these laws is gaining speed. Just two months after Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana legislature--with only one dissenting vote--adopted a resolution declaring "the policy of the state of Louisiana to protect and uphold the citizens' right to keep and bear arms in their residences, businesses, and means of transport, and on their persons," condemning the seizure of firearms from New Orleans citizens, and announcing it planned to amend Louisiana's emergency powers law "to rectify the denial of these rights." Since then, 27 additional states have joined Louisiana by passing laws to protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners by prohibiting the confiscation of firearms during a time of emergency.

Congress and President Bush also saw the need to act to protect gun owners' rights during emergencies. H.R. 5013, the "Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act," was introduced in the House by Louisiana Congressman Bobby Jindal and passed the House on July 25, 2006 with a broad bi-partisan margin of 322-99. Senator David Vitter, also of Louisiana, introduced the Senate version of the bill and added it as an Amendment to Homeland Security Appropriations, which passed the United States Senate by 84-16. On October 9, 2006, President George W. Bush signed this legislation into law.

In the past, America has balanced emergency needs with respect for constitutional rights. Months before Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Congress passed the Property Requisition Act of 1941, which allowed the President, as a last resort, to seize needed war materials "upon the payment of fair and just compensation." The Congress, concerned about the prospect of gun confiscation, included language to prohibit registration or seizure of privately owned firearms. America and its allies went on to win the greatest armed conflict in history. Today, Hawaii's legislatures should follow that lead.

Thank you.

Bill Richter, RN
Director and Secretary of The Hawaii Rifle Association