

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT TO OPEN TWO ADDITIONAL FIREARM PERMIT APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION LOCATIONS IN KAPOLEI AND KANEOHE.

1 WHEREAS, under section 134-2 of the Hawaii Revised
2 Statutes, all persons who wish to acquire ownership of a firearm
3 must first obtain a permit to acquire from the chief of police;
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6 WHEREAS, under section 134-3 of the Hawaii Revised
7 Statutes, all persons who bring a firearm into the State, or who
8 acquire a firearm pursuant to section 134-2 of the Hawaii
9 Revised Statutes, must register the firearm in person within
10 five days of arrival or purchase; and

12 WHEREAS, in order to comply with these statutes, Oahu 13 residents must make three separate trips to the Honolulu Police 14 Department's Firearms Unit, located at the Main Police Station 15 in downtown Honolulu three times: first to apply for the permit, 16 then to pick up the permit, and finally to register the firearm 17 with permit in hand; and

WHEREAS, due to high demand and the time-consuming nature of the procedures involved, firearm owners encounter long lines at the Firearms Unit, and must sometimes wait up to nine hours in order to comply with the requirements of the above statutes, forcing them to take multiple leaves of absence from work and suffer from the resulting income loss; and

26 WHEREAS, while the Honolulu Police Department uses sworn 27 law enforcement officers to perform the tasks of firearm permit 28 application processing and firearm registration, thus removing 29 officers who could otherwise be patrolling our communities, the



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police departments of the respective counties are able to free 1 2 up sworn officers by having non-law enforcement personnel 3 perform these functions; and 4 5 WHEREAS, according to the Honolulu Police Department's 6 website, as of February 2016, the Firearms Unit now offers 7 permit applicants and registrants the option to access the necessary forms online, then take completed forms to the 8 Firearms Unit to expedite the permit application and firearm 9 10 registration processes; and 11 12 WHEREAS, while this change is laudable, and could make a discernible difference if the vast majority of permit applicants 13 and firearm registrants were to utilize the online forms, this 14 15 change alone does not suffice, as there continues to be long 16 wait times at the Firearms Unit at the Main Police Station. compounded by that office's limited hours of operation; and 17 18 WHEREAS, according to data collected by the Department of 19 20 the Attorney General, there were over eleven thousand firearm applications processed in the City and County of Honolulu in 21 2014, and based on this figure, it can be inferred that the 22 23 Firearms Unit must process, on average, around forty-four 24 applications per day; and 25 26 WHEREAS, although the data does not indicate what percentage of permit applicants and firearm registrants reside 27 on the leeward and windward portions of Oahu, it is reasonable 28 29 to assume that many of them do not live in the urban core; and 30 31 WHEREAS, Oahu's only firearm permit application and registration location is located twelve miles from Kaneohe and 32 33 twenty-three miles from Kapolei; and 34 35 WHEREAS, separate and apart from the issue of long wait 36 times at the Firearms Unit of the Main Police Station, there are 37 many logistical challenges faced by Oahu residents who do not 38 live in the urban core; and 39 40 WHEREAS, Hawaii's "place to keep" laws require that when 41 transporting a firearm to complete the in-person registration



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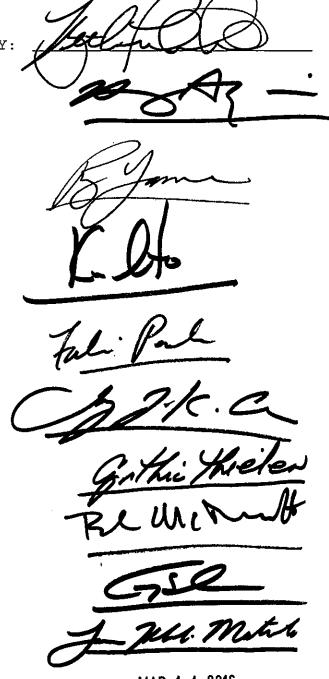
1 process, the owner must travel directly from home to the police 2 station and back, with no stops or errands in between; and 3 4 WHEREAS, the travel time into downtown Honolulu from other 5 parts of the island, coupled with the difficulty of finding 6 parking near the Main Police Station during weekday business 7 hours, only lengthens the amount of time this process already takes for firearm owners who do not live in the urban core; now, 8 9 therefore. 10 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 12 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that this body requests 13 the Honolulu Police Department to relieve the strain on the Main 14 15 Police Station's Firearms Unit as well as the burden on firearm 16 owners residing outside the urban core by opening satellite 17 firearm permit application and registration locations in Kapolei 18 and Kaneohe; and 19 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honolulu Police Department is requested to consider using non-law enforcement personnel to 21 process firearm permit applications and/or firearm registrations 22 23 at both the Main Police Station and the Kapolei and Kaneohe 24 satellite locations, in order to free up sworn law enforcement 25 officers to perform enforcement duties; and 26 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of 28 Honolulu is requested to provide the Honolulu Police Department with any and all additional funding necessary to carry out the 29 30 requested changes to the present system; and 31 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's 34 Congressional Delegation in the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the Mayor of the City and County of 35 Honolulu, the Chief of the Honolulu Police Department, the 36 37 President of the National Rifle Association, and the President of the Hawaii Rifle Association. 38 39 40 41



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OFFERED BY:



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