

News Releases

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Attorney General releases firearm registration statistics

Honolulu, Hawaii — The Department of the Attorney General released a special report detailing state firearm registration statistics for Calendar Year 2001.

A total of 6,829 personal/private firearm permit applications were processed in Hawaii during 2001, marking a 5.2% increase from the 6,489 applications processed in 2000. Of the applications processed in 2001, 94.3% (6,443) were approved and resulted in issued permits; 3.7% (252) were approved but subsequently voided after the applicants failed to return for their permits within a specified time period; and 2.0% (134) were rejected due to one or more disqualifying factors. These proportions are essentially unchanged from the figures reported for 2000.

The 6,443 permits issued in 2001 cover a total of 14,305 firearms registered. Roughly half (45.9%, or 6,567) of these firearms were imported from out of state, with the remainder accounted for by in-state transfers.

Longarms accounted for 58.4% (8,353) of all firearms registered in 2001. Broken out further, rifles and shotguns comprised 42.5% (6,077) and 15.9% (2,276) of total registrations, respectively; the remaining 39.7% (5,952) of registered firearms were handguns.

Firearm Registration Activity by County, State of Hawaii, 2001

	C&C Honolulu	Hawaii County	Maui County	Kauai County	State Total
Applications Processed	4,377	1,172	894	386	6,829
Applications Approved/ Permits Issued	4,149	1,108	801	385	6,443
Applications Approved/ Permits Voided	172	37	43	0	252
Applications Rejected	56	27	50	1	134
Rejection Rate	1.3%	2.3%	5.6%	0.3%	2.0%
Firearms Registered	9,057	2,753	1,486	1,009	14,305
Firearms Imported	4,361	1,196	594	416	6,567

As compared to Hawaii's resident population distribution, firearm registration activity occurred disproportionately across the four counties during 2001. Considerably fewer permit applications

were processed in the City & County of Honolulu than would be expected based on its population size, and proportionately far fewer applications were rejected. Hawaii County recorded an almost 50% larger-than-expected share of processed applications and an even greater portion of rejections. Maui County's proportion of rejections was 336% the size of its share of the state population. Applications were processed in Kauai County in roughly equal proportion to its population size, although fewer rejections than expected were recorded.

**Reasons for Rejecting Firearm Permit Applications,
State of Hawaii, 2001**

	Frequency	Percent of Total Rejections
Mental Health Issues/Treatment	65	48.5
Other Crime	39	29.1
Domestic Violence	13	9.7
Drug Offense	9	6.7
Disqualifying Juvenile Record	5	3.7
Temporary Restraining Order	4	3.0
Other (e.g., non-U.S. citizen)	4	3.0

Total rejections = 134; multiple reasons for rejections yield a total of 139 in this table.

As noted previously, 2.0% (134) of all permit applications in Hawaii during 2001 were rejected for cause. Hawaii's rejection rate compares favorably with the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics' figure of 2.5% reported for all state and local agencies conducting background checks for firearm permits and transfers in 2000. The Hawaii statistic is particularly noteworthy when taking into consideration the state's comparatively exhaustive background check procedures and extensive list of disqualifying factors.

Of the 134 total rejections, 37.3% (50) were due to prior criminal convictions, while 6.7% (9) arose from current indictments or otherwise pending cases. The majority (56.0%, or 75) of rejections were not based on the criminal history of the applicants.

Rejections for mental health issues (including past or present drug/alcohol treatment), which comprise about half of all rejections, can be favorably resolved with a doctor's note stating that the applicant is no longer adversely affected. While an original rejection cannot be overturned, a new application may be submitted and the appropriate permit will be issued. It is unknown how many applicants who are initially rejected for mental health reasons successfully reapply for permits.

Copies of the eight-page report can be downloaded from the Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division's web site at cpja.ag.state.hi.us

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