



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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Attorney General Releases Annual Firearm Registration Statistics

Honolulu - A special report detailing state firearm registration statistics for Calendar Year 2004 was released today by the Department of the Attorney General.

A total of 6,842 private/personal firearm permit applications were processed in Hawaii during 2004, marking a 0.7% increase since 2003. Of the applications processed in 2004, 95.0% (6,501) were approved and resulted in issued permits, 3.5% (237) were approved but subsequently voided after the applicants failed to return for their permits within a specified time period, and 1.5% (104) were rejected due to one or more disqualifying factors. For comparison, the most current national data show a 1.9% rejection rate for all state and local agencies conducting background checks in 2003.

Firearm registration activity has increased over the five-year period that these data have been systematically compiled and reported. From 2000 to 2004, the number of processed applications increased 5.4%, the number of firearms registered increased 7.7%, and the number of firearms imported increased 5.1%.

**Firearm Registration Activity,
State of Hawaii and Counties, 2004**

	C&C of Hon.	Hawaii Co.	Maui Co.	Kauai Co.	State Total
Applications Processed	4,208	1,283	851	500	6,842
Applications Approved/Permits Issued	3,997	1,209	797	498	6,501
Applications Approved/Permits Voided	197	11	29	0	237
Applications Rejected	14	63	25	2	104
Rejection Rate	0.3%	4.9%	2.9%	0.4%	1.5%
Firearms Registered	8,524	3,138	2,022	977	14,661
Firearms Imported	4,886	1,344	936	429	7,595

(more)

The 6,842 permits issued in Hawaii during 2004 covered a total of 14,661 firearms registered, of which 43.8% (6,417) were rifles, 39.6% (5,810) were handguns, and 16.6% (2,432) were shotguns. Just over half (51.8%) of the firearms registered during 2004 were imported from out of state, with the remainder accounted for by in-state transfers. Although it is impossible to provide a precise tally of privately owned firearms in Hawaii, law enforcement estimates place the figure at approximately one million.

In 2004, the majority (54.8%, or 57) of the 104 rejections were not based on the criminal histories of the applicants, 38.5% (40) were due to prior criminal convictions, and 6.7% (7) were due to pending criminal cases. The following table presents categorical data on more specific reasons for rejected permit applications.

**Reasons for Rejecting Firearm Permit Applications,
State of Hawaii, 2004**

	Number	Percent*
Mental Health Issues/Treatment	37	35.6
"Other" Offense	27	26.0
Domestic Violence Offense	18	17.3
Other (e.g., non-U.S. citizen)	9	8.7
Disqualifying Juvenile Offense	6	5.8
Temporary Restraining Order	4	3.8
Drug Offense	2	1.9

* Figures do not total 100% due to multiple disqualifying factors for some applicants and missing data for one case.

The vast majority of rejections in Hawaii during 2004 were for longarm (85.6%, or 89) rather than handgun (14.4%, or 15) permit applications. Following a five-year trend, longarm permit applications in 2004 were rejected at a rate almost five times higher than the rejection rate for handgun permit applications (2.3% for longarm permit applications versus 0.5% for handgun permit applications).

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

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