



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       | <b>6,842</b>  |
| Applications Approved/Permits Issued | 3,997       | 1,209      | 797      | 498       | <b>6,501</b>  |
| Applications Approved/Permits Voided | 197         | 11         | 29       | 0         | <b>237</b>    |
| Applications Rejected                | 14          | 63         | 25       | 2         | <b>104</b>    |
| Rejection Rate                       | 0.3%        | 4.9%       | 2.9%     | 0.4%      | <b>1.5%</b>   |
| Firearms Registered                  | 8,524       | 3,138      | 2,022    | 977       | <b>14,661</b> |
| Firearms Imported                    | 4,886       | 1,344      | 936      | 429       | <b>7,595</b>  |

(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](http://cpja.ag.state.hi.us).

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