

Firearm Registrations in Hawaii, 2016

Prepared by
Paul Perrone, Chief of Research & Statistics

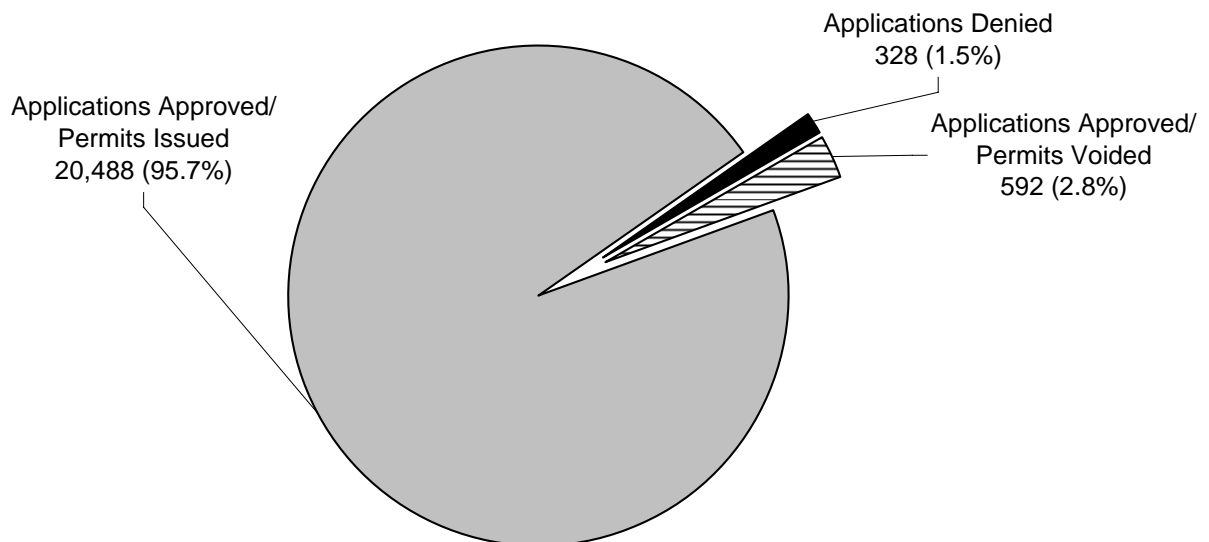
Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 134-14 requires the county police departments to provide to the Department of the Attorney General a monthly report of firearm registration activity. The data from these reports were compiled in order to provide the statistics presented herein for Calendar Year 2016. This is the seventeenth annual publication of *Firearm Registrations in Hawaii*.

Permit Applications Processed, Issued, Voided, and Denied

A total of 21,408 personal/private firearm permit applications were processed statewide during 2016, marking an 8.4% increase from 19,752 applications processed in 2015. Of the applications processed in 2016, 95.7% were approved and resulted in issued permits; 2.8% were approved but subsequently voided after the applicants failed to return for their permits within the specified time period; and 1.5% were denied due to one or more disqualifying factors. Figure 1 reveals additional information. Denials are described in greater detail throughout this report.

**Figure 1: Firearm Permit Application Outcomes,
State of Hawaii, 2016**

21,408 Applications Processed



Registrations and Importations

The 20,488 permits issued statewide in 2016 cover a total of 53,400 firearms registered throughout the year, resulting in a 14.1% increase from the 46,813 firearms registered during 2015. Slightly under half (26,616, or 49.8%) of the firearms registered during 2016 were imported from out-of-state, with the balance accounted for by transfers of firearms that were previously registered in Hawaii. Independent estimates made during the late-1990s by the Department of the Attorney General and the City & County of Honolulu Police Department conservatively placed the number of privately owned firearms in Hawaii at “at least” one million. Adding to that rough tally during the 2000 through 2016 period, a total of 520,622 firearms were registered (including some more than once) and 255,835 were imported, but there is no way to track the number of firearms that permanently leave the state.

Permits and Registrations, by Firearm Type

In the State of Hawaii, annual permits are issued in order to acquire an unlimited number of longarms (rifles and shotguns), while single-use permits are issued to acquire specific handguns. By firearm type, 52.7% (10,793) of the permits issued during 2016 were to acquire longarms, while 47.3% (9,695) were handgun permits. The tally of handgun permits is perennially confounded, however, as some of the county police departments issue a single permit listing all handguns that will be acquired simultaneously from the same source (i.e., one permit per transaction, per HRS § 134-2(e)), while the other departments issue one permit per handgun even if they are acquired in the same transaction.

Longarms accounted for 59.3% (31,648) of all firearms registered during 2016 (53,400). Broken out further, rifles and shotguns comprised 47.7% (25,461) and 11.6% (6,187) of total registrations, respectively. The remaining 40.7% (21,752) of firearms registered throughout 2016 were handguns.

County Comparisons and Registration Trends

Table 1 shows the distribution of firearm registration activity during 2016 across the four counties and for the State of Hawaii overall. Record high levels of firearm registration activity were reported by Kauai County (see page 6 for more information).

Table 1: Firearm Registration Activity, State of Hawaii and Counties, 2016

	C&C of Honolulu	Hawaii County	Maui County	Kauai County	State Total
Applications Processed	12,599	4,669	2,251	1,889	21,408
Applications Approved/ Permits Issued	12,204	4,491	2,115	1,678	20,488
Applications Approved/ Permits Voided	290	30	84	188	592
Applications Denied	105	148	52	23	328
Denial Rate	0.8%	3.2%	2.3%	1.2%	1.5%
Firearms Registered	31,613	11,585	5,660	4,542	53,400
Firearms Imported	16,856	5,545	2,403	1,812	26,616

As compared to Hawaii's resident population distribution, firearm registration activity occurred disproportionately across the four counties during 2016 (see Figure 2). (If the counties' registration activity occurred in equal proportion to their respective population sizes, then the three bars depicted for each county in Figure 2 would be of equal height and value.)

Figure 2: County Distribution of Permit Applications Processed and Denied (2016) versus Resident Population Distribution (2015)

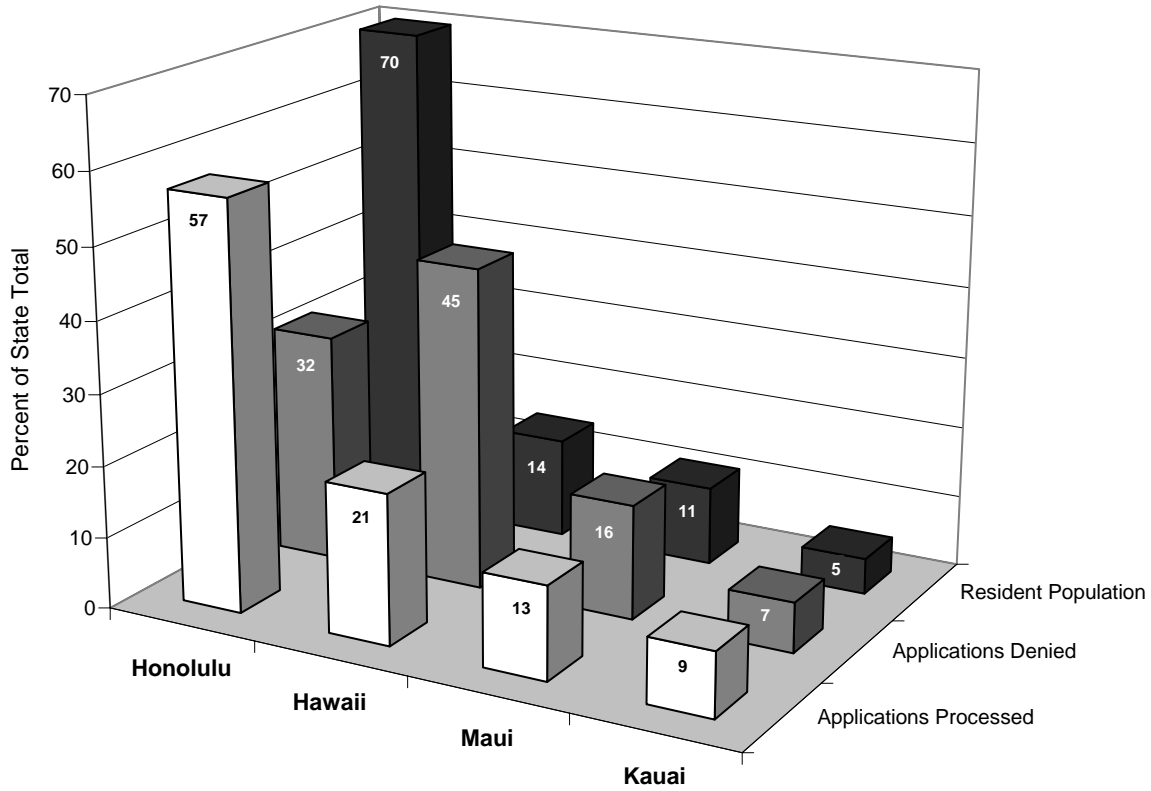
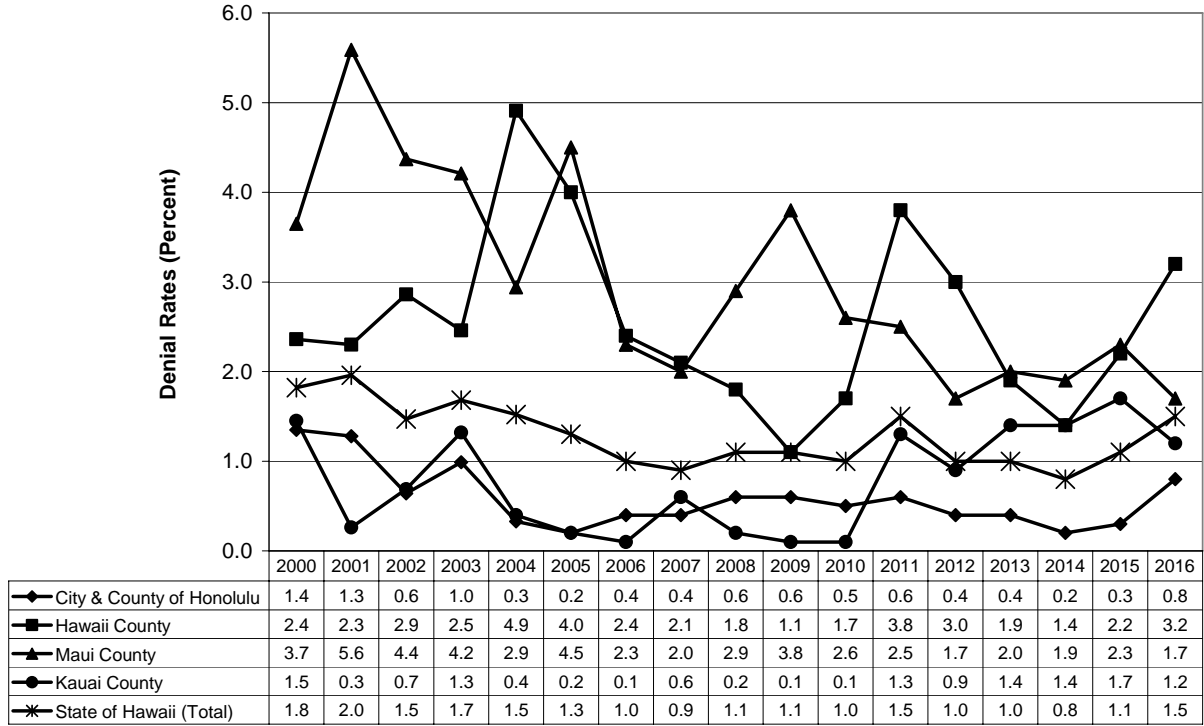


Figure 3 (next page) presents historical data on permit application denial rates for the State of Hawaii and each of its four counties. Notable are the consistently higher denial rates reported by Hawaii County and Maui County, as compared to the lower rates reported by Kauai County and the City & County of Honolulu.

Figure 3: Firearm Permit Application Denial Rates, State of Hawaii and Counties, 2000-2016



Firearm registration activity increased dramatically over the course of the 17 years for which these data have been systematically compiled and reported (see Figure 4). From 2000 through 2016, the number of statewide permit applications annually processed increased 341.1%, the number of firearms annually registered surged 392.2%, and the number of firearms annually imported climbed 368.2%.

Figure 4: Firearm Registration Trends, State of Hawaii, 2000-2016

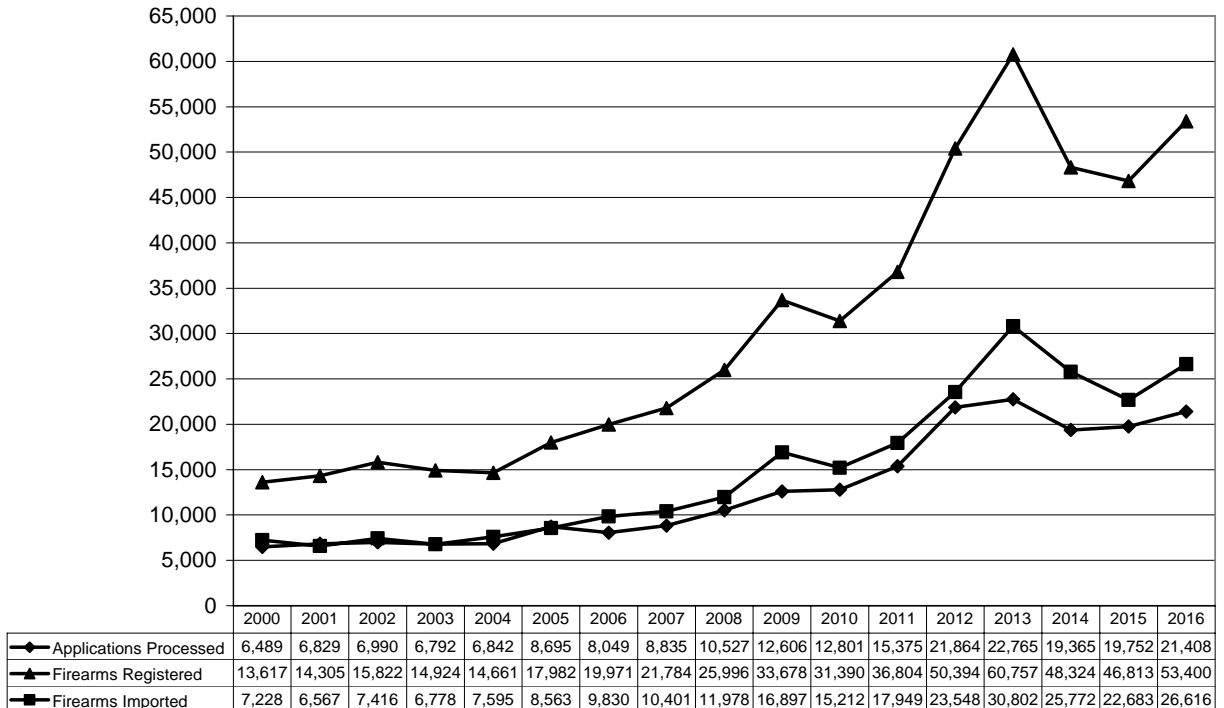
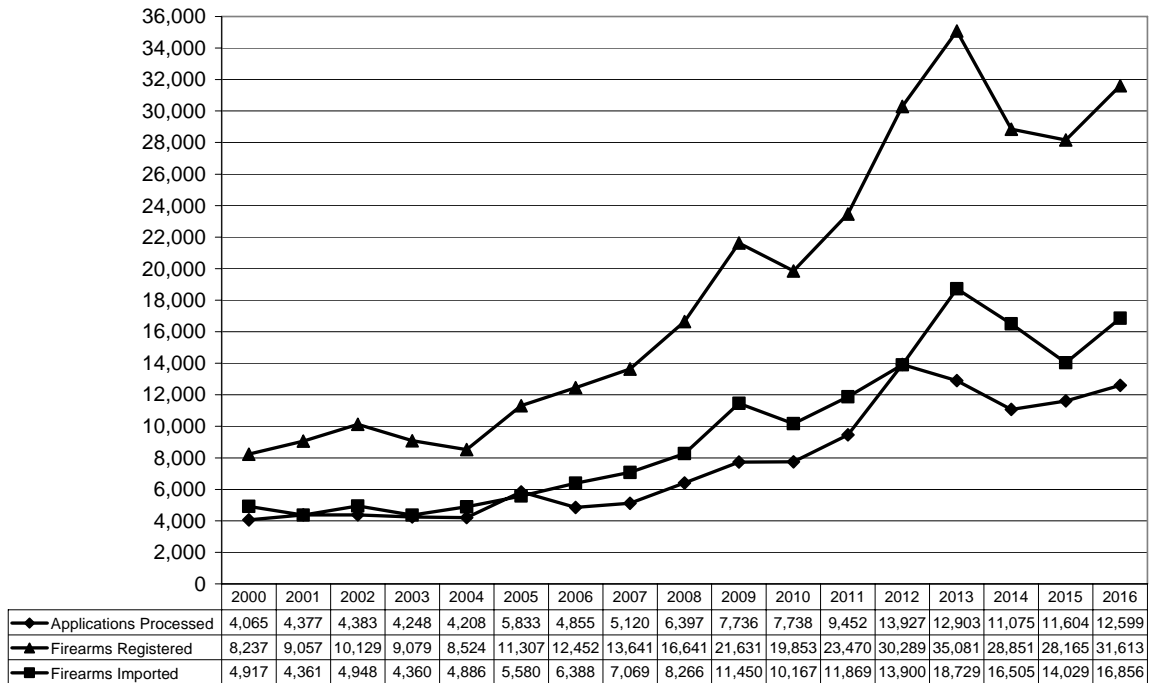


Figure 5 shows that, between 2000 and 2016 in the City & County of Honolulu, the annual tally of permits processed increased 309.9%, the number of firearms annually registered rose 383.8%, and the number of firearms annually imported climbed 342.8%.

Figure 5: Firearm Registration Trends, City & County of Honolulu, 2000-2016



As shown in Figure 6, the number of permits processed annually in Hawaii County during the 2000-2016 period surged 407.4%, the number of firearms annually registered jumped 399.1%, and the number of firearms annually imported skyrocketed 446.8%.

Figure 6: Firearm Registration Trends, Hawaii County, 2000-2016

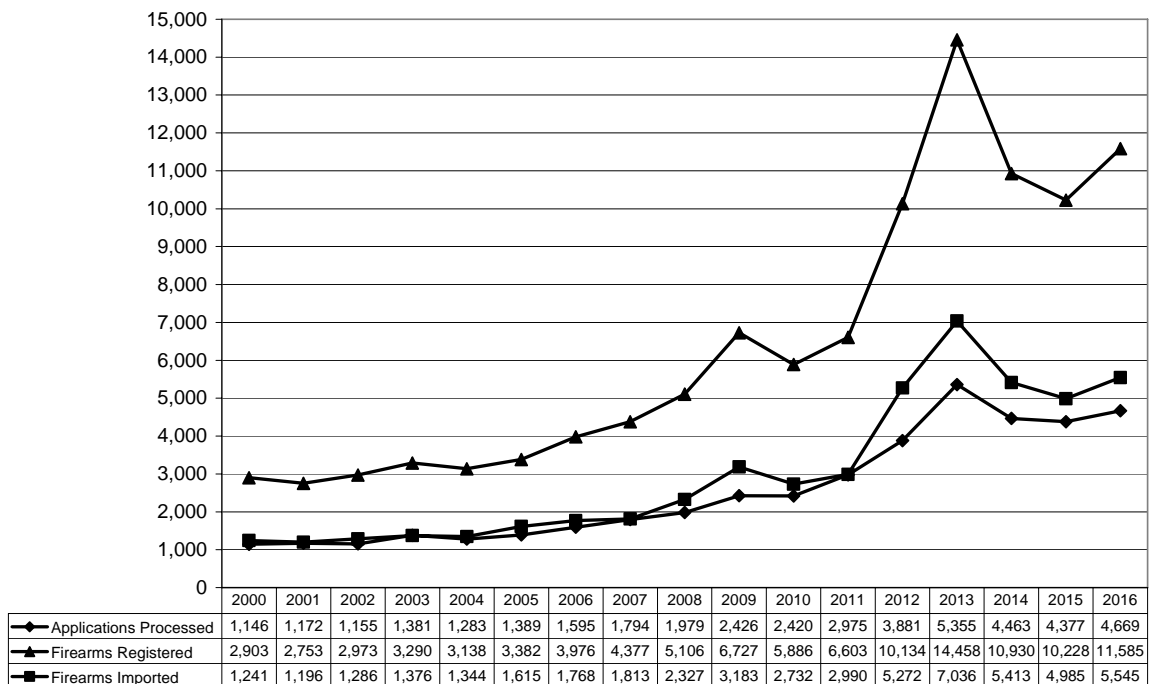
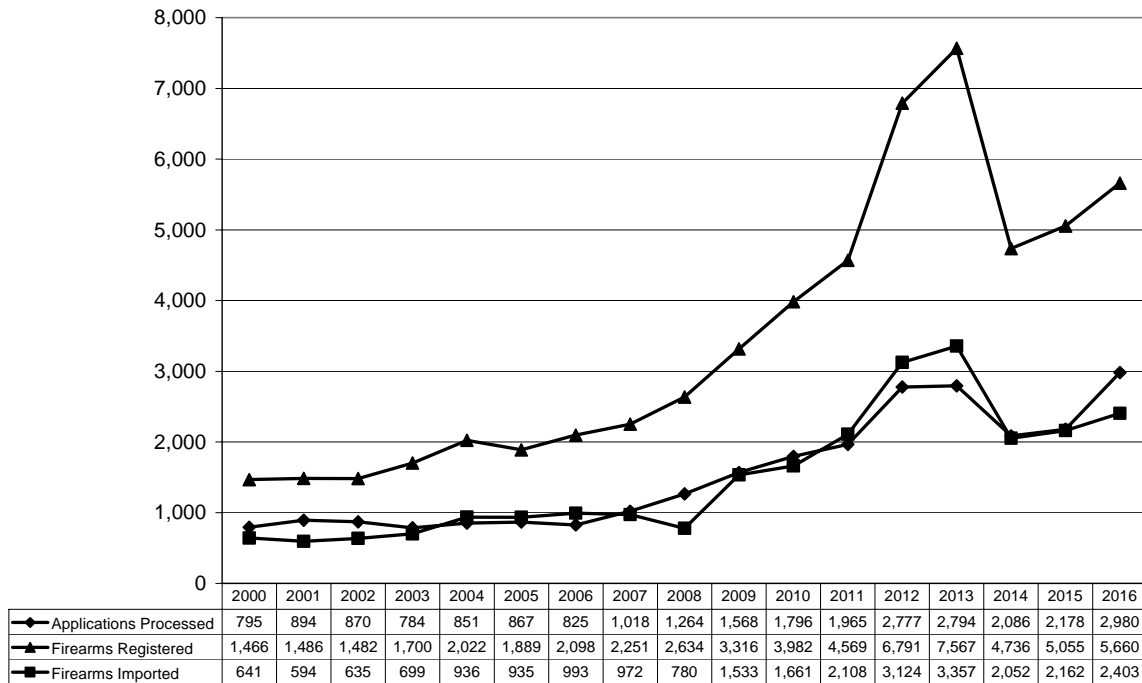


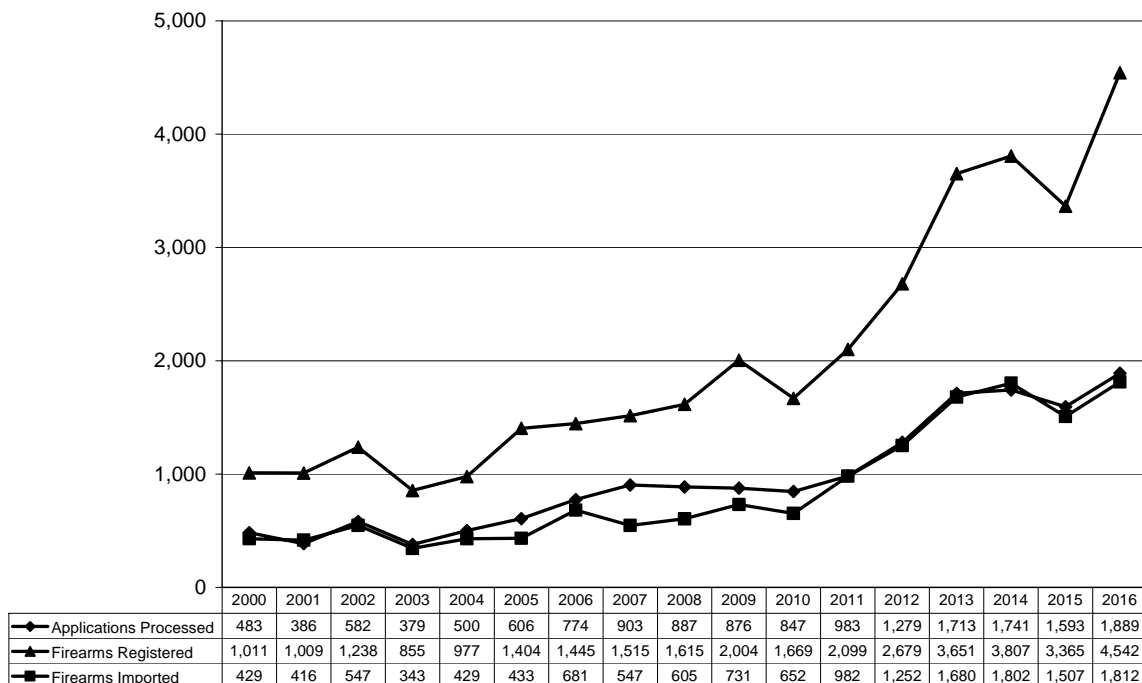
Figure 7 reveals that, between 2000 and 2016 in Maui County, the number of permits processed annually increased 374.8%, the number of firearms annually registered climbed 386.1%, and the tally of firearms annually imported rose 374.9%.

Figure 7: Firearm Registration Trends, Maui County, 2000-2016



As shown in Figure 8, the number of permits processed annually in Kauai County from 2000 through 2016 climbed 391.1%, the number of firearms registered skyrocketed 449.3%, and the number of firearms imported soared 422.4%. For 2016, Kauai County reported its record high tallies for all three categories.

Figure 8: Firearm Registration Trends, Kauai County, 2000-2016



Permit Application Denials

As noted earlier, 1.5% (328) of all permit applications in Hawaii during 2016 were denied for cause. Hawaii's 2016 denial rate is less than half of the 4.0% denial rate reported for all state and local agencies conducting background checks for firearm permits and transfers in 2014 (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016; the most current national data as of April 2017).

The vast majority of the 328 total denials in Hawaii during 2016 were for longarm (260, or 79.3%) rather than handgun (68, or 20.7%) permit applications. Following a trend since this annual report was first published, longarm permit applications in 2016 were denied at a rate (2.3%) that is several times greater than the denial rate for handgun permit applications (0.7%).

Approximately two-fifths (133, or 40.5%) of the denials in 2016 were due to the applicants' prior criminal convictions, while 7.0% (23) were due to pending cases.

It is a misdemeanor in the State of Hawaii to provide falsified information on firearm permit applications, unless the falsified information pertains to criminal or mental health histories, in which case it is a felony offense (HRS § 134-17). In 2016, falsified criminal or mental health information or both were provided in 60.1% (197) of the 328 denial cases; falsified information pertaining to anything other than criminal or mental health histories was provided in 1.5% (5) of the cases; and no falsified information was provided in 38.4% (126) of the cases.

Table 2 presents broad categorical data on the reasons for denied permit applications.

Table 2: Reasons for Denied Firearm Permit Applications, State of Hawaii, 2016

	#	%*
Mental Incompetence/Impairment**	147	44.8
"Other" Criminal Offense	124	37.8
Domestic Violence***	44	13.4
Drug Offense	16	4.9
Restraining/Protective Order	11	3.4
Other (e.g., non-U.S. citizen, dishonorable discharge from military)	11	3.4
Disqualifying Juvenile Offense	3	0.9

* Figures do not total 100% due to multiple reasons for some denials.

** Includes mental health issues and treatment; drug/alcohol abuse, addiction, and treatment; and medical marijuana patients. Denials for mental health and drug/alcohol problems and treatment can be satisfactorily resolved with a verified doctor's note stating that the applicant is no longer adversely affected. While an original denial cannot be appealed or overturned, a new application may be submitted and the appropriate permit will be issued. Former medical marijuana patients can successfully apply one year after the expiration of their medical marijuana approval cards.

*** Includes domestic violence-related offenses and counseling/treatment.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of information entered into a description field for each denial.

Table 3: Descriptions of Firearm Permit Application Denials, State of Hawaii, 2016

[328 Total Denials]	#	%*
abuse of family/household member	19	5.8
abuse of family/household member (x2)	2	0.6
abuse of family/household member (x2) + restraining order	1	0.3
abuse of family/household member + mental health issue/treatment	5	1.5
abuse of family/household member + mental health issue/treatment + substance abuse treatment	1	0.3
abuse of family/household member + motor vehicle theft	1	0.3
abuse of family/household member + weapon offense + criminal property damage	1	0.3
active APB from 2014 (unspecified offense)	1	0.3
alcohol abuse treatment	8	2.4
alcohol and substance abuse treatment	1	0.3
assault	34	10.4
assault (x2)	2	0.6
assault (x2) + abuse of family/household member	1	0.3
assault (x2) + mental health issue/treatment	1	0.3
assault + abuse of family/household member + harassment	1	0.3
assault + disqualifying juvenile offense	1	0.3
assault + harassment	1	0.3
assault + mental health issue/treatment	2	0.6
assault + warrant (unspecified)	1	0.3
assault with deadly weapon (mainland)	1	0.3
battery	4	1.2
battery (x3) + assault	1	0.3
battery + domestic violence (mainland)	1	0.3
battery on police	1	0.3
burglary	2	0.6
burglary (x2)	1	0.3
crime of violence (unspecified misdemeanor)	1	0.3
disorderly conduct	14	4.3
disorderly conduct + alcohol abuse treatment	1	0.3
dispositions n/a for military arrests 1968-69	1	0.3
disqualifying juvenile offense + mental health issue/treatment	2	0.6
doctor denied approval	2	0.6
domestic violence (mainland)	1	0.3
domestic violence intervention counseling	3	0.9
drug offense	6	1.8
drug paraphernalia	1	0.3
felony (unspecified)	7	2.1
felony arrest (unspecified) + mental health issue/treatment + drug and alcohol addiction	1	0.3
harassment	15	4.6
insane suspect case	1	0.3
kidnapping + assault	1	0.3
mainland indictments for racketeering, organized crime, money laundering, tax evasion, drug and other offenses (27 total)	1	0.3
marijuana possession (felony level)	1	0.3
medical marijuana patient	42	12.8
mental health issue/treatment	69	21.0
mental health issue/treatment + alcohol addiction	1	0.3
mental health issue/treatment + medical marijuana patient	1	0.3
mental health issue/treatment + substance abuse treatment	1	0.3
no response from California re disturbing the peace	1	0.3
no response from California re marijuana cultivation and sales	1	0.3
nonsupport (felony level)	1	0.3
not a U.S. citizen	3	0.9
positive field test for drugs	2	0.6
prior law enforcement contact and their observations	3	0.9
refused to complete necessary forms	1	0.3
refused to enroll in "Rap Back" program	1	0.3
restraining order	10	3.0
robbery	1	0.3

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Table 3
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sexual assault	1	0.3
substance abuse treatment	2	0.6
suicide attempt	2	0.6
suicide attempt (x2)	1	0.3
suicide attempt + mental health issues/treatment	1	0.3
terroristic threatening (x2) + abuse of family/household member	1	0.3
terroristic threatening (x2)	1	0.3
theft	6	1.8
theft + fraud	1	0.3
theft + mental health issue/treatment	1	0.3
violent crime (unspecified)	6	1.8
violent crime (unspecified) + harassment	1	0.3
warrant (unspecified)	5	1.5
warrant (unspecified) + abuse of family/household member	1	0.3
warrant (unspecified) + assault	1	0.3
warrant (unspecified) + medical clearance needed	1	0.3
warrant (unspecified) + mental health issue/treatment	1	0.3
warrant (unspecified) + opioid use	2	0.6

* Due to rounding, figures may not total 100%.

Licenses to Carry Firearms

Hawaii's county police departments also process license applications for the open and/or concealed carry of firearms in public. Statewide in 2016, 225 employees of private security firms were issued carry licenses, and five (2.2%) were denied for cause. A total of 27 private citizens applied for a concealed carry license in 2016, including 16 in the City & County of Honolulu, six in Hawaii County, and five in Kauai County; all applicants were denied by the respective county's chief of police.

Confiscations

Three legally prohibited firearms were confiscated by registration personnel statewide in 2016. All three were "assault pistols" as defined by state law.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with input and assistance from the county police departments' firearm registration personnel: **Debra Agena** (August through December), Statistics Clerk, and **Melanie Wong** (January through July), Firearms Registration Clerk, Maui County Police Department; **Lori Hara**, Firearms Registration Clerk, and **Arlene Young**, Senior Police Records Clerk, Hawaii County Police Department; **Jeaneth Panoy**, Weapons Registration Clerk, Kauai County Police Department; and the Firearms Registration Section, in particular **Suzy Yamasaki**, Firearms Registration Clerk, City & County of Honolulu Police Department. As the volume of registration activity documented in this report demonstrates, these dedicated professionals work hard to serve their communities.

Reference

Bureau of Justice Statistics (June 2016). *Background checks for firearms transfers, 2013-14: Statistical Tables*. U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs. NCJ 249849.