

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

September 1, 2023

**Committee
Report No. _____**

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, having met on August 1, 2023, and reconvened on August 2, 2023, makes reference to Resolution 23-184, entitled “APPROVING FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2024 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE A STATE BILL RELATING TO FIREARMS.”

Resolution 23-184’s purpose is to approve for inclusion in the 2024 Hawai‘i State Association of Counties Legislative Package a proposed State bill, attached as Exhibit “A,” entitled “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREARMS.”

The purposes of the proposed State bill are to: 1) prohibit felons from purchasing or possessing air or replica guns; and 2) make it a felony for a felon to possess or purchase an air or replica gun.

Your Committee noted Ordinance 5549 to update regulations on air guns and incorporate regulations on replica guns, similar to those for firearms, will go into effect on November 1, 2023.

Your Committee also noted Federal law 18 U.S.C. Subsection 922(g) was recently enacted, which prohibits a convicted felon from possessing a firearm.

A representative of the Department of Police expressed support of the proposed State bill. He said air guns can inflict serious or fatal injuries. He further said air and replica guns are difficult to differentiate from a real firearm when responding to high-risk calls.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

Page 2

**Committee
Report No.** _____

The Prosecuting Attorney also expressed support of the proposed State bill, but suggested the Council work with the Hawaii Law Enforcement Coalition, which is composed of the Chief of Police and Prosecuting Attorney from each of Hawaii's four counties.

He said the Departments of the Prosecuting Attorney and Police can assist the Council with getting the proposed bill introduced during the Coalition's September meeting when other proposed State legislation is discussed.

Your Committee voted 8-0 to recommend filing of Resolution 23-184. Committee Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and members Cook, Johnson, Kama, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci voted "aye." Committee member Sugimura was excused.

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution 23-184 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



NOHELANI U'U-HODGINS, Chair