

Firearm Registrations in Hawaii, 2015

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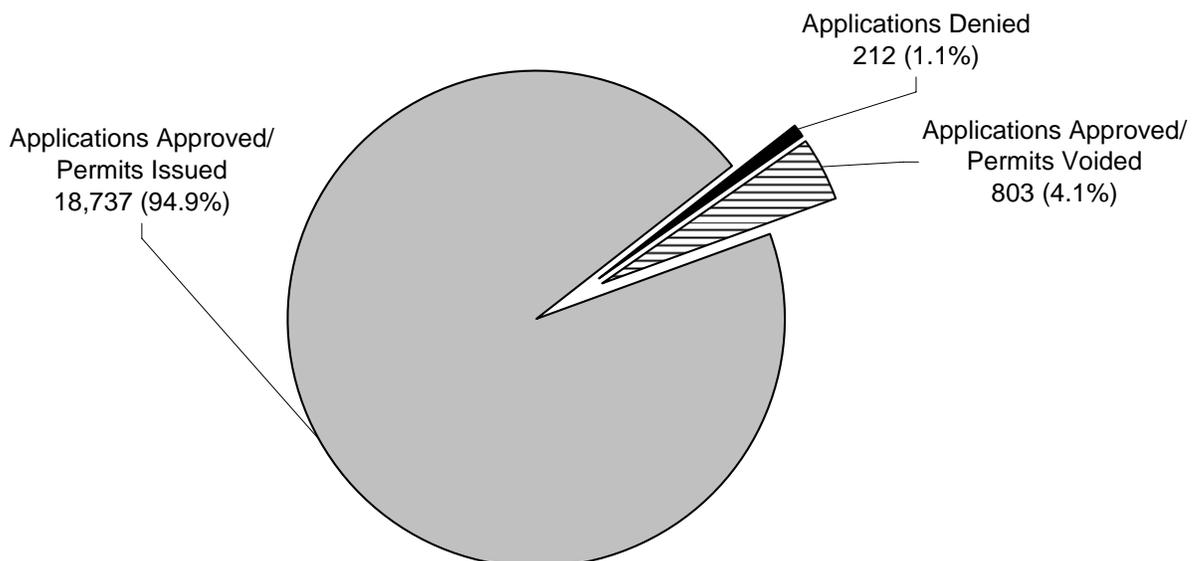
Hawaii Revised Statutes section 134-14 requires the county police departments to provide to the Department of the Attorney General a monthly report of firearm registration activity. The data from these reports were compiled in order to provide the statistics presented herein for Calendar Year 2015. This is the sixteenth annual publication of *Firearm Registrations in Hawaii*.

Permit Applications Processed, Issued, Voided, and Denied

A total of 19,752 personal/private firearm permit applications were processed statewide during 2015, marking a 2.0% increase from the number of applications processed in 2014. Of the applications processed in 2015, 94.9% were approved and resulted in issued permits; 4.1% were approved but subsequently voided after the applicants failed to return for their permits within the specified time period; and 1.1% 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, 2015**

(N = 19,752 Total Applications Processed)



Registrations and Importations

The 18,737 permits issued statewide in 2015 cover a total of 46,813 firearms registered throughout the year, resulting in a 3.1% decrease from the number of firearms registered during 2014. A little under half (22,683, or 48.5%) of the firearms registered in 2015 were imported from out-of-state, with the balance (24,130, or 51.5%) accounted for by transfers of firearms that were previously registered in Hawaii. Although there is no way to track the number of firearms that permanently leave the state, 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 total number of privately owned firearms in Hawaii at roughly one million. Subsequently, during the 2000 through 2015 period, a total of 467,222 firearms were registered (including some more than once) and 229,219 were imported.

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, 52.1% (9,771) of the 18,737 total permits issued during 2015 were to acquire longarms, while 47.9% (8,966) 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 Hawaii Revised Statutes section 134-2(e)), while the other departments issue one permit per handgun even if they are acquired in the same transaction.

Longarms accounted for 54.1% (25,349) of all firearms registered in 2015 (46,813). Broken out further, rifles and shotguns comprised 43.1% (20,199) and a record low of 11.0% (5,150) of total registrations, respectively. A record high 45.9% (21,464) of firearms registered in 2015 were handguns.

County Comparisons and Registration Trends

Table 1 shows the distribution of firearm registration activity during 2015 across the four counties and for the State of Hawaii overall.

Table 1: Firearm Registration Activity, State of Hawaii and Counties, 2015

	C&C of Honolulu	Hawaii County	Maui County	Kauai County	State Total
Applications Processed	11,604	4,377	2,178	1,593	19,752
Applications Approved/ Permits Issued	10,993	4,261	2,045	1,438	18,737
Applications Approved/ Permits Voided	571	21	83	128	803
Applications Denied	40	95	50	27	212
Denial Rate	0.3%	2.2%	2.3%	1.7%	1.1%
Firearms Registered	28,165	10,228	5,055	3,365	46,813
Firearms Imported	14,029	4,985	2,162	1,507	22,683

As compared to Hawaii's resident population distribution, firearm registration activity occurred disproportionately across the four counties during 2015 (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.)

Based on its population size, fewer permit applications were processed in the City & County of Honolulu during 2015 than would be expected, and far fewer denials were recorded. Hawaii County reported more processed applications and far more denials than expected. Maui County processed as many applications as would be expected for its population size, and denied many more applications. Kauai County processed more applications and denied many more than anticipated.

Figure 2: County Distribution of Permit Applications Processed and Denied (2015) versus Resident Population Distribution (2014)

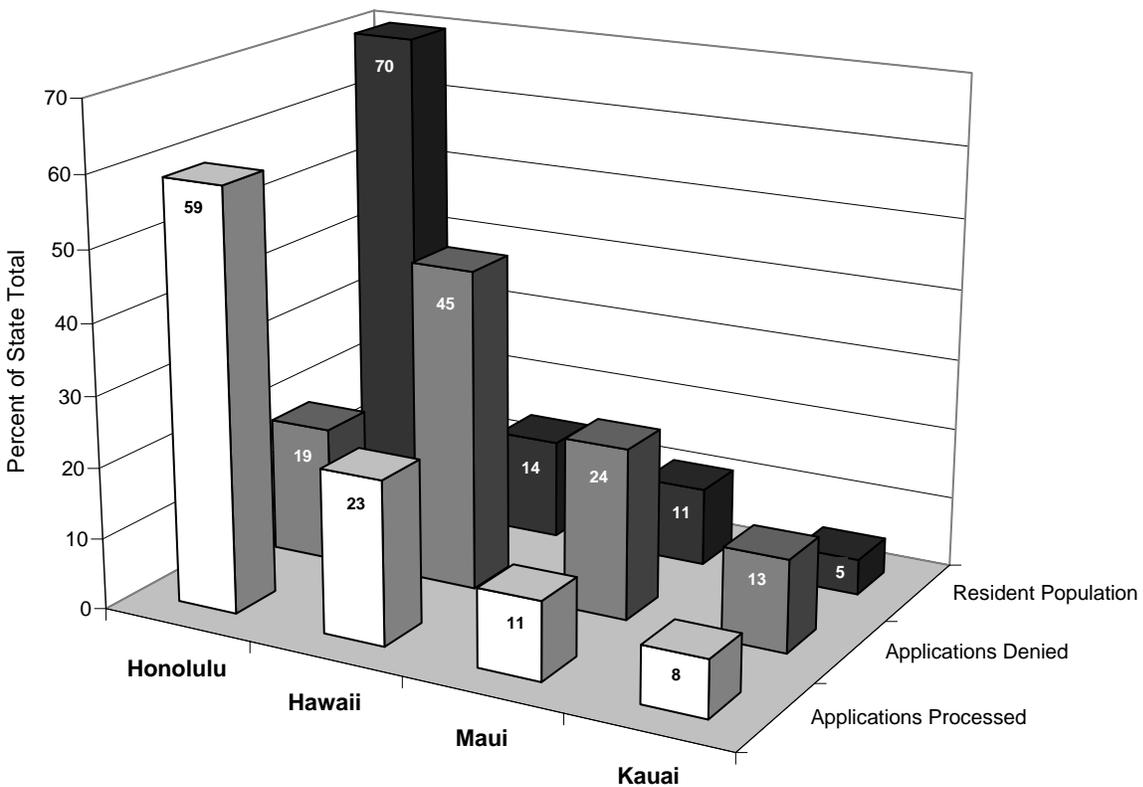
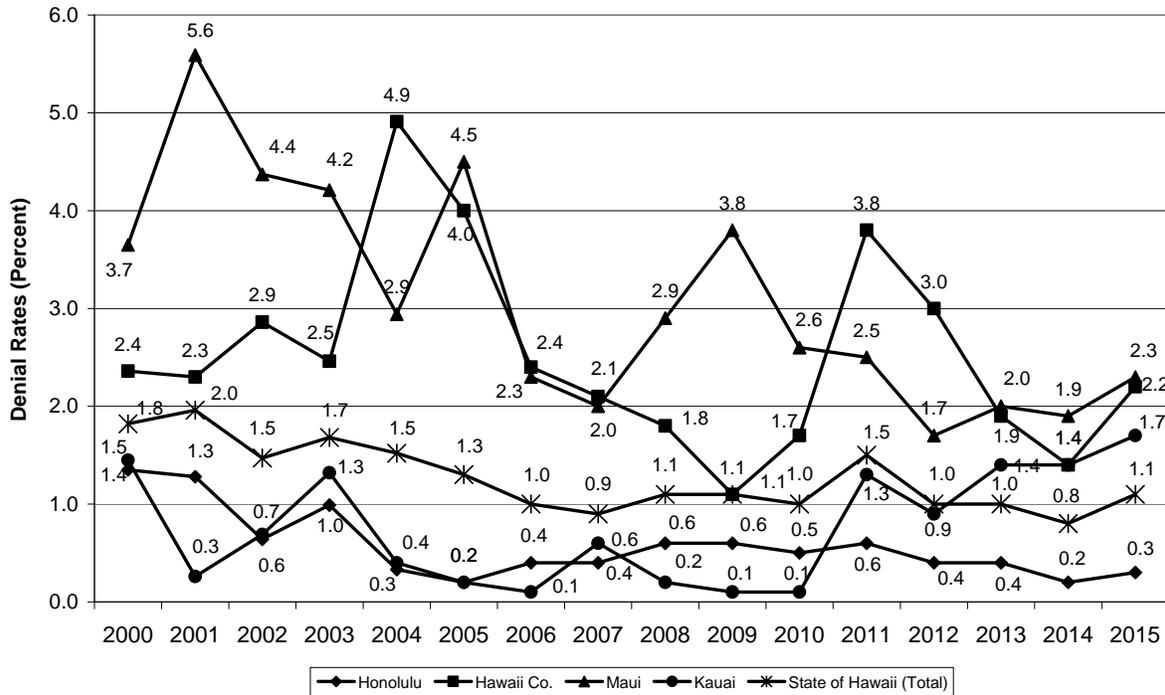


Figure 3 (next page) presents historical data on denial rates for the State of Hawaii and each of its four counties. Notable are the consistently higher denial rates reported by Hawaii County and Maui County, as compared to the lower rates reported by Kauai County and the City & County of Honolulu.

Figure 3: Firearm Permit Application Denial Rates, State of Hawaii and Counties, 2000-2015



Firearm registration activity increased dramatically over the course of the 16 years for which these data have been systematically compiled and reported (see Figure 4). From 2000 through 2015, the number of statewide permit applications processed annually climbed 204.4% (i.e., more than tripled), the number of firearms registered rose 243.8%, and the number of firearms imported surged 213.8%.

Figure 4: Firearm Registration Trends, State of Hawaii, 2000-2015

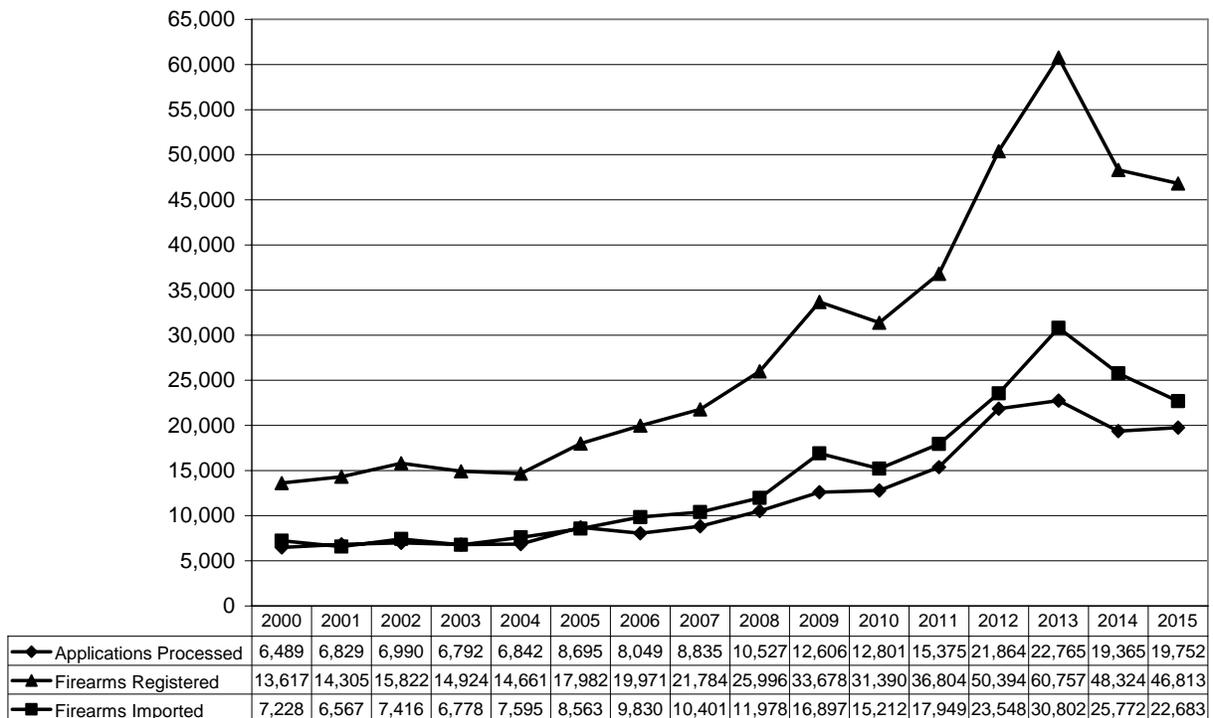
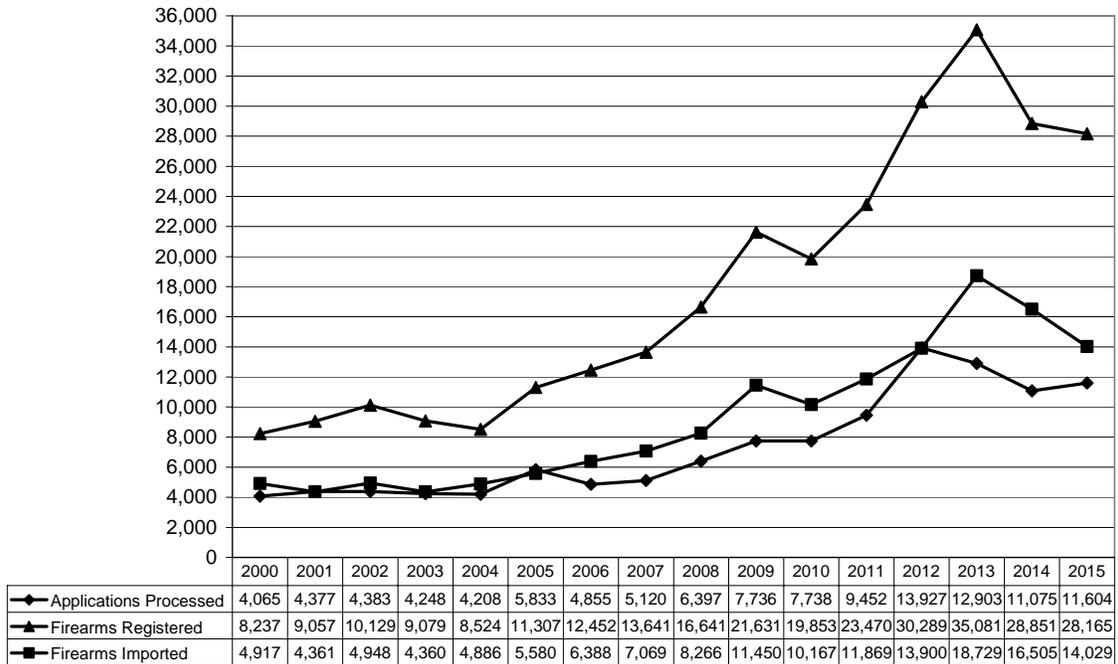


Figure 5 shows that, between 2000 and 2015 in the City & County of Honolulu, the annual tally of permits processed increased 185.5%, the number of firearms registered rose 241.9%, and the number of firearms imported climbed 185.3%.

Figure 5: Firearm Registration Trends, City & County of Honolulu, 2000-2015



As shown in Figure 6, the number of permits processed annually in Hawaii County during the 2000-2015 period surged 281.9%, the number of firearms registered rose 252.3%, and the number of firearms imported skyrocketed 301.7% (i.e., more than quadrupled).

Figure 6: Firearm Registration Trends, Hawaii County, 2000-2015

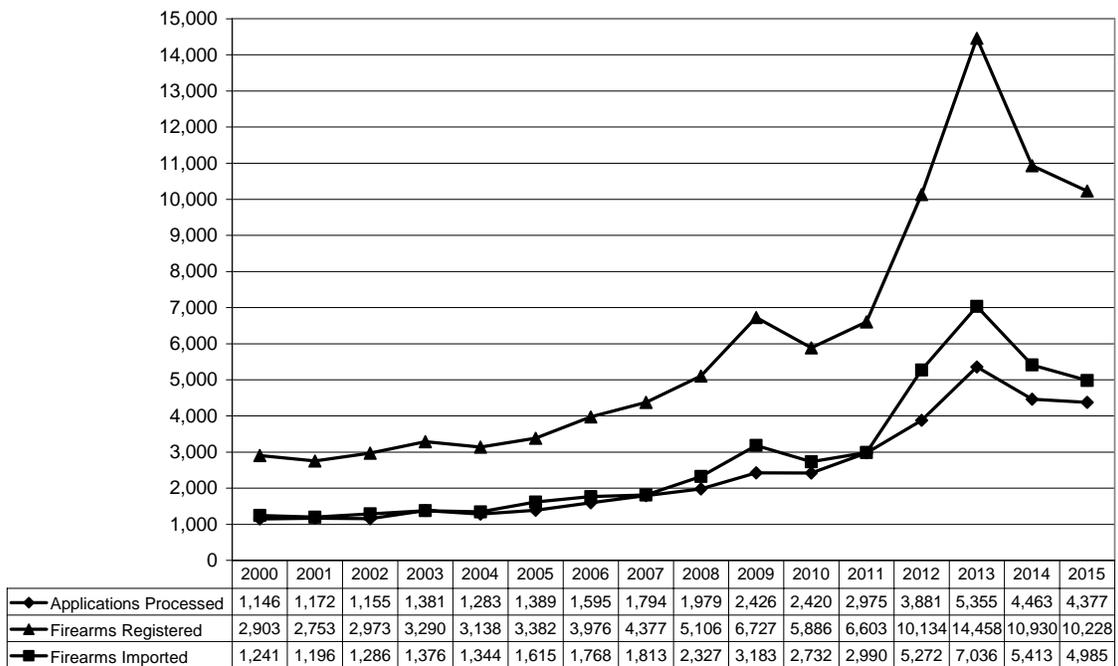
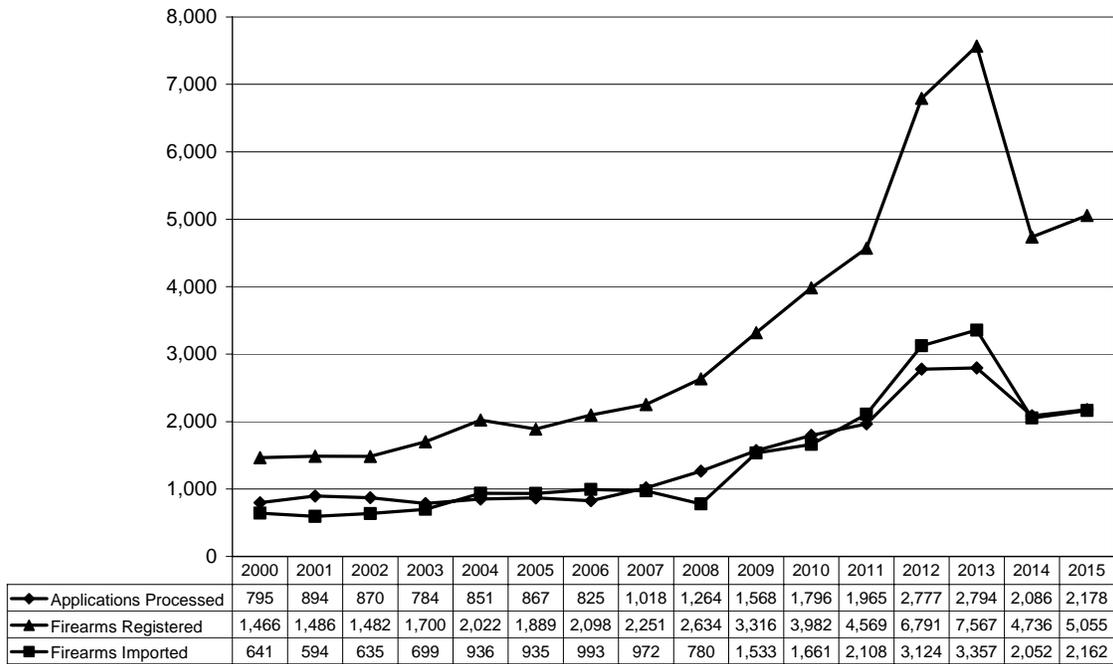


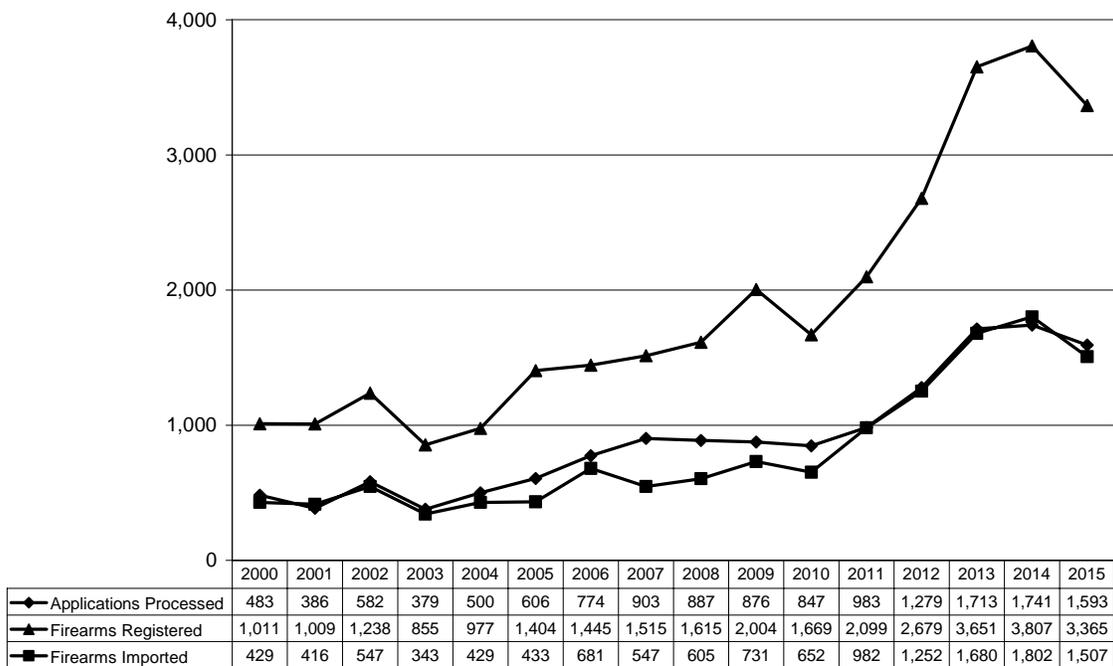
Figure 7 reveals that, between 2000 and 2015 in Maui County, the number of permits processed annually increased 174.0%, the number of firearms registered climbed 244.8%, and the tally of firearms imported rose 237.3%.

Figure 7: Firearm Registration Trends, Maui County, 2000-2015



As shown in Figure 8, the number of permits processed annually in Kauai County from 2000 through 2015 jumped 229.8%, the number of firearms registered surged 232.8%, and the number of firearms imported soared 251.3%.

Figure 8: Firearm Registration Trends, Kauai County, 2000-2015



Permit Application Denials

As noted earlier, 1.1% (212) of all permit applications in Hawaii during 2015 were denied for cause. Hawaii's 2015 denial rate is less than half of the 2.3% rate reported for all state and local agencies conducting background checks for firearm permits and transfers in 2012 (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014; the most current national data as of March 2016).

The vast majority of denials in Hawaii during 2015 were for longarm (179, or 84.4%) rather than handgun (33, or 15.6%) permit applications. Following a trend since this annual report was first published, longarm permit applications in 2015 were denied at a rate (1.7%) that is several times greater than the denial rate for handgun permit applications (0.4%).

Over one-third (80, or 37.7%) of the denials in 2015 were due to applicants' prior criminal convictions, while 11.3% (24) 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 (Hawaii Revised Statutes section 134-17). In 2015, falsified criminal or mental health information or both were provided in 67.5% (143) of the 212 denial cases; falsified information pertaining to anything other than criminal or mental health histories was provided in 0.9% (2) of the cases; and no falsified information was provided in 31.6% (67) 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, 2015

	#	%*
"Other" Offense	85	40.1
Mental Health Issues/Treatment**	71	33.5
Drug Offense	29	13.7
Domestic Violence Offense	24	11.3
Restraining/Protective Order	15	7.1
Other (e.g., non-U.S. citizen, dishonorable discharge from military)	15	7.1
Disqualifying Juvenile Offense	3	1.4

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

** Denials for mental health issues or 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. It is unknown how many applicants who are initially denied for mental health reasons successfully reapply for permits.

Table 3 (next page) provides a breakdown of information entered into a description field for each denial.

Table 3: Descriptions of Firearm Permit Application Denials, State of Hawaii, 2015

	[N = 212]	#	%*
abuse of family/household member		10	4.7
abuse of family/household member + harassment + alcohol treatment		1	0.5
alcohol abuse treatment		5	2.4
alcohol addiction		1	0.5
assault		27	12.7
assault + abuse of family/household member		1	0.5
assault + abuse of family/household member + mental health treatment		1	0.5
assault + burglary + motor vehicle theft + harassment		1	0.5
assault + mental health issue/treatment		1	0.5
assault/battery on police + abuse of family/household member		2	0.9
battery		6	2.8
criminal property damage		3	1.4
deferred acceptance plea (current)		2	0.9
disorderly conduct		7	3.3
disqualifying juvenile offense(s)		2	0.9
disqualifying juvenile offense(s) + mental health issue/treatment		1	0.5
domestic battery		1	0.5
drug addiction		1	0.5
drug offense(s)		3	1.4
drug offense(s) + mental health issue/treatment		2	0.9
felony conviction (unspecified)		1	0.5
felony disposition info needed + substance abuse treatment		1	0.5
harassment		6	2.8
harassment + alcohol abuse treatment		2	0.9
insane suspect case		1	0.5
interference with a flight crew		1	0.5
medical clearance needed		5	2.4
medical marijuana patient		17	8.0
mental health issue/treatment		40	18.9
mental health issue/treatment + substance abuse treatment		1	0.5
motor vehicle theft		2	0.9
motor vehicle theft + substance abuse treatment		1	0.5
murder + mental health issue/treatment		1	0.5
no response from Florida re criminal property damage		1	0.5
no response from Arizona re drug offense		1	0.5
no response from California re battery, resisting arrest, drug offense(s), disorderly conduct		2	0.9
no response from California re fight/challenge case		1	0.5
no response from Colorado re assault, domestic violence, and harassment charges		1	0.5
no response from Guam re assault + family violence		1	0.5
no response from Indiana re theft case		1	0.5
no response from Kansas re motor vehicle theft		1	0.5
positive field test for drug(s)		2	0.9
refused to sign mental health check authorization		1	0.5
resisting arrest + disorderly conduct		1	0.5
restraining order		10	4.7
restraining order + battery & domestic violence (mainland)		1	0.5
restraining order + domestic violence (mainland) + mental health issue/treatment		1	0.5
restraining order + drug offense(s) + weapon offense + alcohol abuse treatment		1	0.5
restraining order + medical clearance needed		1	0.5
restraining order + warrant (unspecified)		1	0.5
robbery		2	0.9
sex with a minor (felony)		1	0.5
sexual assault		1	0.5
substance abuse treatment		1	0.5
suicide attempt		1	0.5
terroristic threatening		1	0.5
terroristic threatening + resisting arrest + domestic violence (mainland)		1	0.5
theft		6	2.8
theft + drug & alcohol abuse treatment		1	0.5
theft + provided false DOB and SSN		1	0.5
warrant (California)		1	0.5
warrant (DUI)		1	0.5
warrant (traffic)		3	1.4
warrant (unspecified)		4	1.9
warrant (unspecified) + alcohol abuse treatment		1	0.5
weapon offense		1	0.5

* 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 2015, 221 employees of private security firms were issued carry licenses, and eight (3.5%) were denied. A statewide total of 44 private citizens applied for a concealed carry license in 2015, including 27 in the City & County of Honolulu, 12 in Hawaii County, three in Kauai County, and two in Maui County; all applicants were denied by the respective county's chief of police.

In early-2015, it was learned that the Hawaii County Police Department had previously (2000-2014) not correctly reported its processing of private citizen-type concealed carry license applications. Their reporting procedures have since been corrected, and their historical data are presented below.

Table 4: Private Citizen-type Concealed Carry License Applications and Approvals, Hawaii County Police Department, 2000-2014

Year	Applications	Approvals
2000	11	0
2001	1	0
2002	2	0
2003	3	0
2004	1	0
2005	2	0
2006	1	0
2007	1	0
2008	2	0
2009	2	0
2010	4	0
2011	9	0
2012	8	0
2013	7	0
2014	14	0

Confiscations

One legally prohibited weapon—an inoperable automatic rifle in Maui County—was confiscated by registration personnel statewide in 2015.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with input and assistance from the county police departments' firearm registration personnel: **Jeaneth Panoy**, Records Clerk, Kauai County Police Department; **Melanie Wong**, Records Clerk, Maui County Police Department; the Firearm Registration Section, in particular **Suzy Yamasaki**, Records Clerk, City & County of Honolulu Police Department; and **Arlene Young**, Records Clerk, Hawaii County 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 (December 2014). *Background checks for firearms transfers, 2012*. <<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/bcft12st.pdf>>. U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs. NCJ 247815.