

Gun Laws In Hawaii

In 2002, my cousin was shot and killed by his neighbors in Puna. My cousin was only 20 years old. His roommate was also killed in this useless double murder. Their neighbors, the killers, already had several felonies against them. They were not responsible citizens and should not have had possession of a gun. I do not want to dwell on the past, but I want to protect every other person in Hawai'i.

That is hard to do because the number of guns owned by individuals in Hawai'i is staggering. From 2000 to 2014 over 400,000 guns were purchased and had a license. Only 1% of people who tried to get a license got rejected. From 2000 to 2014 the number of registered guns in Hawai'i skyrocketed by almost 300 percent, according to a report by the Attorney General's Office in 2015 (<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com>).

We need to control the number of guns available for personal use so that the wrong people do not have guns. If the gun problem continues to grow at 300% in 14 years, in 50 years almost every person in Hawaii will have three to four guns. This is frightening because if a robber breaks into just one person's house they will have access to these guns. That will be very terrifying because then the bad people will probably shoot somebody. If the death toll increases, for every 100,000 people in Hawai'i, 15 people will die every year. That makes us have some of the biggest deaths tolls related to guns. (<http://www.cbsnews.com>)

I think a way to fix this gun problem is to make it harder to get a gun or get a gun license. A way to do that is to have an extremely thorough background check in the several days you have to wait to get a gun license. Another way is to limit everyone to

own one gun. A different solution is to require everyone to renew their gun license every three years. It would also work to limit the types of guns you can just have such as a hunting gun or a standard pistol. It is important to educate people so that they are more aware of gun safety and storing your guns in a locked cabinet. This would prevent the from being stolen. One last way is to get those kids to change the laws. Those are some ways I feel that we can fix the gun problem in Hawai'i.

Mr. Ching had a vision to make Hawai'i a safer and better place. If Mr. Ching was here today he would be infuriated about how many guns there are and the gun violence that happens in Hawai'i. He would want gun laws to be stronger. He would give money to his foundation. That way the foundation could give the money to schools so they will have money to educate students about gun laws. Student could also learn what is happening around them and make better choices about gun ownership.

Once people are educated they can vote to change gun laws. If more strict gun ownership laws were in effect, my cousin might not be dead. If we work together on the gun problem now, we can stop the wrong people from having guns to use. We'll make it harder to get a gun and you can only have one gun. That means the gun population will always be less than the people population in Hawai'i because not everybody will have a gun. This will help to end gun violence. If we act now, gun violence will be a thing of the past. That is what Mr. Ching would have wanted. I hope that no one else has to lose their family member to an irresponsible person who gets hold of a gun.