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House Minority Leader
January 7, 2016

Fact Sheet: President Obama's Executive Order on Firearms and its Impact on Hawaii

On January 4, 2016 President Obama announced executive actions related to firearms, which will have little-to-no impact on Hawaii, where gun laws are already strict.

Here are the actions that would impact some states, and why they won't make it harder to get a firearm in Hawaii:

- Require licensing of firearms dealers even if they only do business at gun shows or online. **(Hawaii only allows people to browse, not buy, at gun shows due to permitting requirements, HRS §134-2.)**
- Apply the same background check requirements that individuals must meet to individuals attempting to purchase firearms as a trust, corporation or other legal entity. **(Hawaii's permitting requirements apply to an individual attempting to purchase firearms as another type of legal entity, HRS §134-2.)**

Here are the actions to enforce the laws that are already in place:

- Hire more staff to establish 24/7 processing capabilities for federal background checks. **(Hawaii requires a federal background check for a firearms purchase, HRS §134-2.)**
- Provide resources to identify persons who are prohibited from possessing a firearm due to mental health reasons. **(Hawaii bars individuals diagnosed with "a significant behavioral, emotional, or mental disorder" from possessing a firearm, HRS §134-7.)**
- Provide funding to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms for agents and investigators.

Here are other actions that don't directly relate to enforcement or purchases:

- Renew efforts for U.S. Attorneys to work with domestic violence victim advocacy groups.
- Provide resources to increase access to mental health care.
- Require the Departments of Defense, Justice, and Homeland Security to research, develop, and use "smart gun technology" and report on their use of such technology.
- Require sellers to notify law enforcement if their firearms are lost or stolen in transit.