



Hawaii Rifle Association

State Affiliate of the National Rifle Association
Founded in 1857

March 2, 2009

Testimony IN SUPPORT WITH SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS on **SB 532**
In the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 9:30 am, Rm 016

Honorable Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Members,

We are very grateful that the Committee has chosen to hear this issue.

SB 532 has several serious flaws from our point of view. Another version of the bill, SB1175, introduced by Senator Gabbard, has our preferred language.

SB 532 gives immunity only to the owner of the property while SB1175 includes immunity for a renter, household member, or essentially anyone lawfully on the property.

SB532 language indicates the intruder actually has to start killing, kidnapping, raping, etc., the occupant(s) before the immunity exists. HRA's preferred bill, SB 1175, says immunity starts when a reasonable person would believe that such crimes are imminent.

SB532 provides that the protection from lawsuit doesn't happen if the homeowner fails to warn against a dangerous condition. We think that means that the homeowner is required to post signs or verbally warn that the homeowner may be armed. SB1175 deletes that requirement.

We respectfully ask the Committee to use SB 1175 as the vehicle to move this issue forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii Rifle Association.

Dr. Maxwell Cooper,

Director, HRA

225-6944