

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- SUBJECT:** Mandatory Expulsion Policy for Possession of a Firearm
School Year 2003-04
- REFERENCE:** Act 148, Section 2 (1995 Legislature- S.B. 647), Mandatory Expulsion
Policy for Possession of a Firearm
- §302A--1134, Hawaii Revised Statutes
- Chapter 19, Hawaii Administrative Rules (amended and compiled
5/19/97)
- ACTION REQUESTED:** Report on number of students excluded, types of firearms found in their
possession and the schools from which they were excluded.
- DOE REPORT:** November 19, 2004
- With the revision of Chapter 19, Hawaii Administrative Rules, in May
1997, the definition of "firearm" was expanded beyond the federal and
state laws to include air guns (which include BB guns or pistols, pellet
guns, and CO2 or paint guns).
- FINDINGS:** Year 2003-04 Summary Statistics
- During the 2003-2004 school year there were:
- Total of 49 incidents (Range = 1 to 14 incidents per district)
 - Involving 24 different schools (Range = 1 to 7 schools per district)
 - Involving 4 different individuals (Range = 3 to 15 individuals per
district)
- Types of Firearms:
- Total number of Firearms = 6
 - Total number of Air guns = 35
 - Total number of Explosives = 2
 - Other = 1
- Attached is the listing of incidents by individual schools.

OBSERVED TRENDS: For school years 2001-02, 2000-02 and 2003-04.

Between school years 2001-02 and 2002-03, there are no significant increases in the total number of incidents, types of firearms, total number of individuals and schools.

Between school year 2002-03 and 2003-04, there are observed increased trends with total number of incidents, total number of different schools and individuals involved.

The rates of increase from 2001-02 to 2003-04 are:

- Total number of incidents = 24 to 44 incidents (82%)
- Total number of different schools = 18 to 25 (42%)
- Total number of different individuals = 29 to 49 (68%)

For school year 2003-04:

- 30% of the total number of incidents is reported from Hawaii district.
- 50% of the total number of individuals is reported from Hawaii district.
- 84% increase in the number of air gun types of firearms reported of which 26% are from Hawaii district.

RECOMMENDATIONS: To ensure the safety of school campuses and to prevent further escalations of violent incidents it is being recommended that:

1. The data be shared with Complex Area Superintendents.
2. School administrators and their positive behavior support cadres continue to routinely examine and analyze their school discipline data to design effective preventative schoolwide and individual student interventions.
3. Schools routinely review with students the Hawaii's definition and consequence of "firearms" which includes paintball, pellet and BB guns.
4. Schools collaborate with families and community agencies to problem solve and provide supports and resources in addressing disciplinary and firearm issues.