

10 rounds for all Rifles

As President of the Club and with the approval of the Board of Directors, Effective immediately, all rifle magazines (used in competition) will be limited to 10 rounds of ammunition. Competitors will be responsible to insure that their magazines are loaded with only 10 rounds.

Recently, a deputy sheriff, on his own accord, contacted the State Attorney General for a legal opinion regarding high capacity AR-15 magazines. On January 7, 2010 a legal opinion from Deputy Attorney General Michael Vincent stated that high capacity AR-15 magazines are considered pistol magazines. Mr. Vincent stated that all high capacity magazines for the AR-15 platforms are also illegal. Because of this information and the attention this letter may have generated, MPPL will enforce a 10 round limit on all rifles used in competition. Magazines that are originally designed to accept more than ten rounds of ammunition, which have been modified to accept no more than ten rounds, and are not capable of being readily restored to a capacity of more than ten rounds are legal.

I know that some of you will insist that your firearm is exempt from the magazine law because of some... special property of your weapon system. The vagaries of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) seem to kick the air out of most arguments. The HRS considers a handgun to be "any firearm, of any shape with a barrel less than sixteen inches in length and capable of discharging loaded ammunition or any noxious gas." Mr. Vincent's opinion implies that short-barreled rifles are considered handguns and thus their magazines are illegal. Which can be interpreted as meaning "if" your magazine fits any firearm with a barrel length less than 16" it is illegal to possess in Hawaii.

That means that because the Ruger AC556F (a military weapon with 3 shot and full auto capability) has a 13" barrel, all Mini-14 magazines are also illegal. Because Sten magazines fit into a full automatic World War II era Sten with a 7.8" barrel... it too is illegal. The same can be said of the AK, HK and most if not all versions of submachine guns in the world. Have a Steyr AUG... think that you're in the clear? Nope, illegal because Steyr made a 14" barrel.

It sickens me to have to place a limit on what can be used in competition, but current circumstances have forced change. For years we have sailed under the radar... that luxury has been taken from us, Mr. Vincent states that he is aware of the pistol clubs at Kokohead. A Franklin quote comes to mind and I pray that it isn't foreshadowing; "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."