

CASE NO. 20-15948

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

ANDREW TETER and JAMES GRELL,
Plaintiffs and Appellants,

v.

CLARE E. CONNERS, et al.,
Defendants and Appellees.

***AMICI CURIAE* BRIEF OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY GUN
OWNERS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, FIREARMS
POLICY COALITION, AND KNIFE RIGHTS FOUNDATION,
INC. IN SUPPORT OF APPELLANTS AND REVERSAL**

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the District of Hawaii
Civ. No. 19-cv-00183-ACK-WRP
United States District Court, Hon. Alan C. Kay, Judge Presiding

John W. Dillon (SBN 296788)
jdillon@Dillonlawgp.com
DILLON LAW GROUP APC
2647 Gateway Road
Suite 105, No. 255
Carlsbad, California 92009
Telephone: (760) 642-7150
Facsimile: (760) 642-7151

*Attorney for San Diego County
Gun Owners Political Action Committee, Firearms Policy Coalition, and Knife
Rights Foundation Inc.*

CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 26.1, *Amici Curiae* make the following statements:

San Diego County Gun Owners is a political action committee and not incorporated. San Diego County Gun Owners Political Action Committee has no parent corporations. It has no stock, and hence, no publically held company owns 10% or more of its stock.

Firearms Policy Coalition has no parent corporation, nor is there any publicly held corporation that owns more than 10% of its stock.

Knife Rights Foundation Inc. has no parent corporation, nor is there any publicly held corporation that owns more than 10% of its stock.

August 28, 2020

Dillon Law Group APC
Attorney for *Amicus Curiae*

By: /s/ John W. Dillon
John W. Dillon

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STATEMENT OF INTEREST¹

The **San Diego County Gun Owners Political Action Committee (SDCGO)** is a diverse and inclusive 1,300+ member political organization. SDCGO is dedicated to preserving and restoring citizens' Second Amendment rights. It has developed a strong, permanent foundation that focuses on changing the face of firearm ownership and use by working with volunteers on state and local activities and outreach. Since its beginning in 2015, SDCGO has profoundly influenced and advanced policies protecting the Second Amendment. SDCGO's primary focus is on expanding and restoring Second Amendment rights within San Diego County and in California due to an aggressive and largely successful legislative and regulatory effort to significantly limit or eliminate the firearms industry and the ownership and use of various arms at the state, county, and municipal levels.

SDCGO has advocated for Second Amendment rights in various federal cases. SDCGO advocated for the right to carry a *concealed* firearm in public in San Diego during the pendency of the *Peruta* decision (*Peruta v. County of San Diego*, 824 F.3d 919 (9th Cir. 2016) (en banc) (*Peruta II*)), which overturned a three-judge panel's decision striking down a *concealed* carry licensing statute (*Peruta v. County*

¹ All parties consent to the filing of this brief. No counsel for any party authored this brief in whole or in part. No person, other than *amici curiae*, contributed money intended to fund the brief's preparation and submission.

of *San Diego*, 742 F.3d 1144 (9th Cir. 2014) (*Peruta I*). SDCGO also submitted *amicus curie* briefing in *Young v. Hawaii* supporting the right of lawful individuals to openly carry firearms in public for self-defense. Most recently, SDCGO is a plaintiff in *Miller v. Becerra*, a Second Amendment challenge regarding the constitutionality of California’s “assault weapon” ban. Although much of SDCGO’s advocacy has centered on firearms, there is no question that knives and other bearable arms are also protected by the Second Amendment, including butterfly knives. However, in the State of Hawaii, under Hawaii Revised Statute (H.R.S.) section 134-53, butterfly knives (also known as “balisongs”) are categorically banned, which means it is illegal to manufacture, sell, transfer, possess, or transport butterfly knives in the state of Hawaii. This complete prohibition prevents lawful individuals from obtaining and using commonly owned arms for self-defense and other lawful purposes.

Firearms Policy Coalition (“FPC”) is a nonprofit organization that defends and advances freedom and individual liberties — including the fundamental right to keep and bear arms — and promotes sound, principled, and constitutionally based public policy. FPC accomplishes its mission through research, education, and legal programs, among others. Since its founding, FPC has emerged as a leading advocate for individual liberty in state and federal courts, regularly participating as a party or *amicus*. FPC is party to several cases before this Court and within its jurisdiction

and has filed *amicus* briefs in many recent Second Amendment cases, including *Rhode v. Becerra*, *Duncan v. Becerra*, *Rupp v. Becerra*, *United States v. Torres*, and *Young v. Hawaii*. FPC respectfully believe that its substantial experience and expertise in the Second Amendment field would aid this Court.

Knife Rights Foundation Inc. (Knife Rights) is a non-profit organization that serves its supporters and the public by protecting the rights of knife owners to keep and carry knives and edged tools. Knife Rights includes the promotion of education regarding state and federal knife laws and regulations, and the defense and protection of the civil rights of knife owners nationwide.

This case concerns *amici* because it directly impacts their members' ability to acquire butterfly knives and exercise their right to keep and bear arms in states that fall under the Ninth Circuit's jurisdiction.

I. INTRODUCTION

Amici curiae (SDCGO, FPC, and Knife Rights) submit this *amicus* brief in support of Appellants’ appeal of the District Court’s order granting Appellees’ motion for summary judgment. On January 14, 2020, Plaintiffs filed their Motion for Summary Judgment and entering judgment in favor of Appellees. *See* ER160-ER170, ER004-ER045.

At issue is Hawaii’s categorical ban on butterfly knives, or “balisongs.” Specifically, H.R.S. section 134-53 provides that: “(a) [w]hoever knowingly manufactures, sells, transfers, possesses, or transports in the State any butterfly knife, being a knife having a blade encased in a split handle that manually unfolds with hand or wrist action with the assistance of inertia, gravity or both, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.” Enacted in 1999, H.R.S. section 134-53 was enacted after the Hawaii Supreme Court clarified that butterfly knives *were not switchblades*, and thus, were legal to possess. *See In re Interest of Doe*, 73 Haw. 89, 91, 828 P.2d 272, 274 (1992 Haw.). Accordingly, from 1959 (statehood) until enactment of H.R.S. section 134-53 in 1999, butterfly knives were legal to manufacture, sell, transfer, posses, and transport in Hawaii.

Nonetheless, the District Court applied intermediate scrutiny to Hawaii’s butterfly knife ban, incorrectly holding that the ban “does not severely burden” the Second Amendment, and survives intermediate scrutiny because it “further[ed] the

State’s important interest to promote public safety by reducing access to butterfly knives, which leads to gang related crime.” See ERO42-ER045. The District Court’s decision applied the wrong standard of scrutiny to the State’s categorical ban. Appellees also failed to make the necessary showing that butterfly knives are *both* “dangerous and unusual,” or that the State’s categorical prohibition served an important governmental interest. For these reasons, the District Court decision should be reversed.

II. ARGUMENT

This brief responds to Appellees’ groundless claims that butterfly knives fall outside the Second Amendment’s protections. Not so. Butterfly knives are protected by the Second Amendment precisely because the Second Amendment “guarantees the right to carry weapons ‘typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes.’” *Caetano v. Massachusetts*, 136 S. Ct. 1027, 1030 (2016) (Alito, J., concurring) (per curiam) (quoting *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 599 (2008) (*Heller*)). Further, a “weapon may not be banned unless it is *both* dangerous and unusual.” *Id.* at 1031(emphasis in original). To determine whether an arm is unusual, courts look to an arm’s commonality or whether it is typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for purposes of self-defense. *Silvester v. Harris*, 843 F.3d 816, 821 (9th Cir. 2016). The “commonality” and “possession for lawful purposes” are both shown below. Further, this brief shows Hawaii’s butterfly knife

ban burdens protected conduct and, therefore, strict scrutiny is the appropriate standard. Under that standard, the ban fails.

A. History of the Butterfly Knife or “Balisong”

Butterfly knives, also known as “balisongs,” “are one of the most popular knife styles today.” *See* Declaration of John W. Dillon (“Dillon Decl.”) at ¶3, **Exhibit A**, ¶4, **Exhibit B**. The origin of the butterfly knife is often attributed to the Philippines, but another theory is that the first butterfly knife came from France.

Under the first theory, the butterfly knife originated in the Philippines as early as 800 AD. In fact, the “balisong” terminology appears to originate from the Filipino language itself, consisting of two Tagalog words: “baling” and “sungay” or “broken” and “horn.” *See* Dillon Decl. ¶ 5, **Ex. C**.² The second theory is the butterfly knife was actually invented in France sometime between 1500 and 1700 because the “Pied Du Roi” or “Foot of the King” is a French measurement tool that greatly resembles a modern butterfly knife. Proponents of the French theory believe that Spain, allied with France at the time, adopted the butterfly knife in their tasks and eventually took it to the Philippines during sailing excursions. Dillon Decl. ¶3, **Ex. A**.

² Some of the earliest butterfly knives from Batangas consisted of karabaw (water buffalo) horn inserts and brass handles, and the blades were made of recycled steel, often from vehicle leaf springs. *See* Dillon Decl. ¶5, **Ex. C**.

Regardless of where originated, the butterfly knife was and is used by the Filipino people, especially those in the Tagalog region, as a self-defense *and* pocket utility knife. Dillon Decl. ¶6, **Ex. D**. In fact, beyond its most traditional uses as a self-defense and general purpose knife, “hollow ground balisongs were also used as straight razors before conventional razors were available in the Philippines” and manipulations called “flipping” or “fanning” are widely performed for art or amusement. *Id.* In fact, balisongs were far more common than straight razors prior to the Second World War. Dillon Decl. ¶5, **Ex. C**.

The butterfly knife became less popular in Europe in the latter part of the 19th Century, but in the early 20th Century, the *pandays* of Batangas (metal craftsman) began producing the butterfly knife to meet local demand. Dillon Decl. ¶5, **Ex. C**. Although the Batangas’ butterfly knives that were produced in the early 20th century were similar to German designs around the same time, what is certain is that the “popularity and ubiquity of the Filipino balisong surpassed that of any European butterfly knife design.” *Id.* The butterfly knife design became synonymous with the Batangas in the Philippines, so much so that it was soon thought of by many as the home of the balisong. *Id.* Indeed, many towns and barrios still have families that make the distinctively “Batangueno knife” with varying degrees of quality and success. *Id.*

“Many believe the butterfly knife first came to American shores in the early part of the 20th Century with Filipino immigrants, but its popularity and infamy in the United States only really began after the U.S. Soldiers returned with balisongs from the Philippines after World War II.” Dillon Decl. ¶5, **Ex. C**. These knives were so popular they were mass produced around Asia in the latter part of the 20th Century to meeting growing US demand. *Id.* In the late 1970s, U.S. knife manufactures also began to produce their own butterfly knives. Balisong USA was one of these manufacturers, which changed its name in the early 1980s to Pacific Cutlery before finally becoming Benchmade — one of the most popular and largest knife manufacturers in the U.S. today. Dillon Decl. ¶6, **Ex. D**. During this time, then Balisong USA made butterfly knives with a wide variety of custom blade designs and exotic handle inlays. These early American butterfly knives are highly sought after by collectors, who frequently purchase them as investments. *Id.* Butterfly knives are still made by Benchmade and many other U.S. knife manufacturers today.³

³ A non-exclusive list of U.S. manufacturers of butterfly knives consist of: Bear & Son Cultery, Inc., Benchmark Knife Co., Benchmade Knife Co., Bladerunners Systems, Bradley Cutlery, Elite Outfitting Solutions, Emerson Knives, Inc., KAI USA LTD (branded as Kerchaw), Microtech Knives, Inc., Piranha Knife, Rick Hinderer Knives, Terrain 365 LLC, and approximately 25 other custom knife makers who regularly produce custom or mid-tech butterfly knives.

From 1981 to 1984, hundreds of thousands of butterfly knives were imported into the United States from a variety of countries, primarily the Philippines, Japan, China, and Korea — although some were imported from France, Germany, and Spain. Dillon Decl. ¶6, **Ex. D**.

The point of the above historical analysis is to show that butterfly knives have been readily available in Hawaii and the United States generally since the early part of the 20th Century.⁴ Their prevalence underscores the use and popularity of butterfly knives in our country’s history; and likewise, shows that they are not “unusual” arms, falling outside Second Amendment protections.

B. Butterfly Knives are Commonly Owned for Lawful Purposes

The Second Amendment “guarantees the right to carry weapons ‘typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes.’” *Caetano*, 136 S. Ct. at 1030. “A weapon may not be banned unless it is *both* dangerous *and* unusual.” *Id.* at 1031. When analyzing whether an arm or weapon is “unusual,” the Supreme Court held that “the Second Amendment extends, *prima facie*, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, *even those that were not in existence at the time of the founding.*” *Id.* at 1030 (quoting *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 582). Thus, even if a weapon was not in existence during the Founding era, it does not mean the weapon is “unusual.”

⁴ See David B. Kopel, Clayton E. Cramer & Joseph E. Olson, *Knives and the Second Amendment*, 47 U. Mich. J. L. REFORM 167 (2013).

Most importantly, where a “weapon belongs to a class of arms commonly used for lawful purposes,” “the relative dangerousness of a weapon is *irrelevant*.” *Id.* at 1031 (citing *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 627, emphasis added).

There are two ways to determine whether an arm is unusual. Courts look to an arm’s numerical commonality or whether it is typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes. See, e.g., *Silvester v. Harris*, 843 F.3d 816, 830 (9th Cir. 2016) (Thomas, CJ., concurring) (finding that the “right to keep and bear arms is limited to ‘the sorts of weapons’ that are ‘in common use’” (quoting *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 627-28)); see *Ass’n of N.J. Rifle & Pistol Clubs v. AG N.J.*, 910 F.3d 106, 116 (3d. Cir. 2018) (*ANJRPC*) (holding that for the first prong inquiry, courts “consider whether the type of arm at issue is commonly owned,” citing *United States v. Marzzarella*, 614 F.3d 85, 90-91) (3d. Cir. 2010). Courts can also apply a jurisdictional analysis considering the legality of the arm in question throughout the United States. *Caetano*, 136 S. Ct. at 1032 (2016) (Alito, J., concurring) (per curiam). In other words, courts ask whether the arm in question is legal to buy, sell, transfer, possess, and/or carry in a majority of the United States.

“Numerical commonality” is largely determined by statistics. However, this kind of statistical analysis is only helpful if the statistics exist. For example, firearms sales are heavily regulated across the Country; therefore, it is possible to determine approximate numbers of firearms bought and sold. However, in the case of knives,

which are not regulated items and can generally be bought and sold online or in person absent any kind of regulation or background check, statistical analyses are far less common. Thus, “a pure statistical inquiry may hide as much as it reveals. In the Second Amendment context, protected arms may not be numerically common by virtue of an unchallenged, unconstitutional regulation.” *Duncan v. Becerra*, No. 19-55376, 2020 U.S. App. LEXIS 25836, at *23 (9th Cir. Aug. 14, 2020). “[I]t would be absurd to say that the reason why a particular weapon can be banned is that there is a statute banning it, so that it isn’t commonly owned. A law’s existence can’t be the source of its own constitutional validity.”) *Friedman v. City of Highland Park*, 784 F. 3d 406, 409 (7th Cir. 2015). Therefore, “[w]hile common use is an objective and largely statistical inquiry, typical possession requires [the court] to look into both broad patterns of use and the subjective motives of gun owners.” *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n v. Cuomo*, 804 F.3d 242, 256 (2d Cir. 2015) (“*NYSRPA*”) (internal alterations and quotation marked omitted). Thus, this Court should consider the broad patterns of use and the number of jurisdictions that allow for the lawful possession and carrying of such knives.

i. Numerical Analysis

As stated above, knife sales are generally not regulated in the United States. Thus, it is difficult to quantify the actual numbers of butterfly knives (or even knives in general) that are in circulation in the United States or specifically in Hawaii.

However, prior to the State's ban on butterfly knives, the legislative history, House Bill 1496, 1999, sheds light on the popularity of butterfly knives. In fact, most of the testimony in favor of House Bill 1496 admits that butterfly knives were commonly owned, widely sold, and offered for sale at flea markets and open-air markets all over Hawaii. *See* ER083-ER087.

For example, in his testimony in support of the passage of House Bill 1496, George Mckeague, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu, admitted that an “increasing trend in minors and gang members armed with knives and daggers. Butterfly knives are preferred as they are easy to conceal and are more intimidating when brandished.” ER085-ER086. Captain McKeague's testimony also states that “[c]urrently, these items are fairly easy for minors to obtain at swap meets and open-air markets.” *Id.*

Notably, at the time of this testimony, butterfly knives were *legal to own and possess*. In other words, the testimony identifies that, at the time, minors and gang members possessed *legal knives*.⁵ The testimony proves only that butterfly knives were commonly owned and easily obtained or purchased all over Hawaii. Indeed, in this case, no actual evidence of *criminal misuse of butterfly knives* was ever offered.

⁵ The fact that certain knives are found on “gang members” *does not establish* that the knives in question were actually *being used for criminal purposes*. Nor does it establish that butterfly knives are associated with “gang activity.”

None of the legislative history provides any such evidence, such as police reports or case studies, showing that butterfly knives were *used in the commission of crimes*. In short, Appellees failed to make any showing that butterfly knives are associated with crime or gang activity.

Additionally, the testimony of the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, establishes that before House Bill 1496 was passed, “venders at local flea markets and in Waikiki have been selling butterfly knives to very young minors. Given that the knives are being *sold openly*, the sales are apparently [legal] since section 134-51 prohibits the *concealed carrying* of such knives.” ER096-ER087 (emphasis added). Moreover, the testimony of the Deputy Public Defender of the State of Hawaii established that “[m]any of the enumerated prohibited items in this bill are *widely available*.” ER083-ER084.

Thus, the legislative history alone establishes that butterfly knives were common arms, widely available and legally transferred, purchased, and possessed in the State of Hawaii prior to the passage of House Bill 1496. As established above, “it would be absurd to say that the reason why a particular weapon can be banned is that there is a statute banning it, so that it isn’t commonly owned. A law’s existence can’t be the source of its own constitutional validity.”) *Friedman v. City of Highland Park*, 784 F. 3d 406, 409 (7th Cir. 2015). In sum, the fact that butterfly knives are

now illegal to purchase, possess, or carry cannot be considered when determining if the knives in question are commonly owned for lawful purposes.

Looking beyond that Appellees’ own evidence establishes that butterfly knives were commonly owned arms in Hawaii before this categorical ban went into effect, “broad patterns of use and the subjective motives” of knife owners also need to be taken into account. *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n v. Cuomo*, 804 F.3d 242, 256 (2d Cir. 2015) (“*NYSRPA*”). Analogizing to Tasers and stun guns, the Supreme Court in *Caetano*, 136 S. Ct. at 1032-1033 (2016), used data from other states to show they are widely owned, accepted, and used for lawful purposes:

The more relevant statistic is that “[h]undreds of thousands of Tasers and stun guns have been sold to private citizens,” who it appears may lawfully possess them in 45 States. *People v. Yanna*, 297 Mich. App. 137, 144, 824 N. W. 2d 241, 245 (2012) (holding Michigan stun gun ban unconstitutional); see Volokh, Nonlethal Self-Defense, (Almost Entirely) Nonlethal [***14] [*1033] Weapons, and the Rights To Keep and Bear Arms and Defend Life, 62 Stan. L. Rev. 199, 244 (2009) (citing stun gun bans in seven States); Wis. Stat. §941.295 (Supp. 2015) (amended Wisconsin law permitting stun gun possession); see also Brief in Opposition 11 (acknowledging that “approximately 200,000 civilians owned stun guns” as of 2009). While less popular than handguns, stun guns are widely owned and accepted as a legitimate means of self-defense across the country. Massachusetts’ categorical ban of such weapons therefore violates the Second Amendment.

Id.

Similarly, after World War II, the butterfly knife became extremely popular in the United States. So much so, “from 1981 to 1984, hundreds of thousands of [butterfly] knives were imported into the United States from a variety of countries,

primarily: the Philippines, Japan, China, and Korea — although some were imported from France, Germany, and Spain.” Dillon Decl. ¶6, **Ex. D**. This demand also caused many U.S. knife manufacturers to produce their own designs of butterfly knives.⁶

The demand for butterfly knives has grown since they first arrived in the United States and their lawful use goes beyond self-defense. For instance, although the use of butterfly knives originated primarily in the context of self-defense and general utility, their popularity in the modern era has significantly grown due to butterfly knife “flipping” or “fanning.” Dillon Decl. ¶4, **Ex. B**. “Flipping” consists of the user manipulating the knife and spinning or flipping it in increasing difficult movements for display purposes. The art of “flipping” has become so popular that there are now annual competitions in which participants compete to determine who is the best at flipping. Dillon Decl. ¶7, **Ex. E**; ¶8, **Ex. F**; and ¶9, **Ex. G**.

Moreover, the popularity of butterfly knife “flipping” can easily be seen by a simple Google video search of “butterfly knife flipping” which will yield approximately 67,300 video results. Dillon Decl. ¶10, **Ex. H**. In fact, “the popularity of the butterfly knife may be on the decline in the Philippines where it originated, but it is on the rise in the U.S.” Dillon Decl. ¶11, **Ex. I**. The popularity of butterfly

⁶ Today, there are at least 23 different knife manufacturers in the U.S. that produce butterfly knives. See <https://www.knifecenter.com/departments/american-made/american-made-butterfly-knives>.

knives can most easily be seen through various social media platforms like YouTube and Instagram. *Id.* “Kids as young as 11 years old are now majorly competitive in the sport, it’s attracting Americans — and especially Filipino Americans to the sport.” *Id.* While Appellees attempt to classify butterfly knives as unusually dangerous and concealable weapons, a more apt description of butterfly knives in their most common use is “a giant fidget spinner, juggling act, and dance all rolled into one — that’s the vibe of these kids who call themselves balisong flippers” — or more simply “one of the most popular knife styles today.” *Id.*; *see also* Dillon Decl. ¶3, Ex. A.

Still today, butterfly knives “are an integral part of the Filipino martial art called Escrima.” ER083. “Escrima schools here in Hawaii teach Balisong as a legitimate martial art. Martial arts instructors and enthusiasts should be allowed to continue the teaching of a cultural heritage. *Id.* Moreover, considering the number of manufacturers in the U.S. that have produced butterfly knives for a significant period of time, no doubt exists that the number of butterfly knives lawfully owned and possessed in the United States is in the millions.

ii. Jurisdictional Analysis

Surveying the law of the various states also sheds light into the commonality of butterfly knives and their use for lawful purposes. Presently, based on this jurisdictional analysis, only *three states* enforce a complete ban on the possession

and carry (both openly and concealed) of butterfly knives.⁷ Twenty-Nine (29) states allow for the possession and the open carrying of butterfly knives. *See* Declaration of Doug Ritter ¶10 (Ritter Decl.) Another five (5) states allow for possession, open carry, and concealed carry of butterfly knives if the blade of the knife is under a certain length or as long as there is an “explainable lawful purpose” for carrying the knife. Ritter Decl. at ¶11. Nine (9) other states allow for the lawful possession and open carrying of butterfly knives but restrict or prohibit concealed carrying of butterfly knives. *Id.* at ¶12. Thus, in forty-three (43) states it is lawful to possess and carry butterfly knives either openly or concealed. *Id.* at ¶13; *see also Caetano*, 136 S. Ct. at 1032 (“The more relevant statistic is that ‘[h]undreds of thousands of Tasers and stun guns have been sold to private citizens,’ who it appears may lawfully possess them in 45 States.”). Therefore, Hawaii’s categorical ban on butterfly knives is an extreme outlier in the United States based on a jurisdictional analysis.

C. Butterfly Knives Are Not “Dangerous and Unusual” Arms

As established above, butterfly knives are unquestionably commonly owned for lawful purposes such as self-defense, collecting, “flipping,” and utility. Thus, as commonly owned arms, their relative “dangerousness” is irrelevant. *Caetano*, 136 S. Ct. at 1031 (noting that the “relative dangerousness of a weapon is irrelevant

⁷ These states are Hawaii, Washington, and New Mexico. Declaration of Doug Ritter, ¶9.

when the weapon belongs to a class of arms commonly used for lawful purposes.”). The analysis stops here. Because butterfly knives are commonly owned for lawful purposes, they are not “dangerous and unusual” arms.

Nevertheless, the District Court “decline[d] to decide one way or another whether butterfly knives are “dangerous and unusual” weapons not within the scope of the Second Amendment.” ER025. Additionally, Appellees have attempted to classify butterfly knives as “dangerous and unusual” because: (i) they are “concealable;” (ii) are “able to be hidden in clothing;” (iii) “can be deployed quickly,” and “are popular with criminals and gang members because of these features.” Dkt. No. 36, Defendants Motion for Summary Judgment, at p. 9. According to Appellees, because of these four factors, “butterfly knives, like switchblades, are ‘unusual’ in that they are not ‘typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes.’” *Id.* The District Court and Appellees have both failed to sufficiently distinguish butterfly knives from other unrestricted knives.

i. Butterfly Knives are Indistinguishable from Unregulated Knives

First, common sense dictates that all folding knives and most knives in general are concealable. Except for large-fixed blade knives, axes, machetes, and unusually large folding knives, any folding knife can be concealed without effort in an individual’s pocket. Dkt. No. 36, Defendants Motion for Summary Judgment, at p. 9. Thus, a butterfly knife is no more concealable than any other folding knife. Second,

like all folding knives, the blade of a butterfly knife is stored within the handle of the knife and can be “hidden in clothing.”

Third, although Appellees continue to make claims that butterfly knives “can be deployed quickly,” the evidence in the record reflects the opposite. When compared to other modern knife designs, the butterfly knife is not unique or even fast in its deployment. In fact, when compared to other knife designs, which included common unregulated folding knives, the butterfly knife was the slowest in deployment by a trained expert. ER088-ER099; ER130-ER136; see also Appellants’ Opening Brief (AOB) at p. 20, fn. 6. This was wholly undisputed by Appellees.

Finally, the District Court held, and Appellees improperly claim, that butterfly knives are “popular with criminals and gang members. Dkt. No. 36, Defendants Motion for Summary Judgment, at p. 9-12; see also ER039. However, as stated above, the testimony offered in the legislative history fails to show that butterfly knives are used in crimes. The testimony offered by the Honolulu Police Department *does not* provide any evidence of criminal misuse of butterfly knives. It merely states that prior to the ban on butterfly knives, these knives were commonly found on individuals. ER083-ER087. Moreover, the record is entirely devoid of any showing *that butterfly knives have ever been used in a crime*. Thus, Appellees have failed to make any showing that butterfly knives were or are associated with criminal or gang activity.

Though Appellees allege that butterfly knives are more easily concealable, able to be hidden in clothing, deployed quickly, associated with gang and criminal activity, and thus, are “dangerous and unusual,” none of these claims are supported by the evidence and Appellees have failed to distinguish butterfly knives from any other unregulated knives. In fact, the butterfly knife is considered not only the strongest, but the safest *folding knife* according to most experts because the blade cannot fold closed inadvertently on the operator so long as the operator has a firm grasp on the handles. Dillon Decl. ¶4, **Ex. B** (“The modern balisong knife has plenty of uses.... Today, it is one of the knives with massive fanbase. It has been transformed into a multipurpose knife. Because its blade can be concealed inside the two handles, it has become the easiest to carry knife. So, people prefer carrying it in the pocket as their primary self-defense weapon.”); see also ER088-ER099; ER130-ER136.

The fact that a butterfly knife can be opened in a flashy manner does not make it any more dangerous than a standard folding knife. Moreover, regardless of the way in which it is opened, once the knife is opened, it is a standard blade with a single sharp edge and pointed tip. In other words, once opened, a butterfly knife is used in the *exact same manner as any other standard knife* which is not subject to any sort of prohibition.

D. The District Court Incorrectly Held that Intermediate Scrutiny Applied

The record shows that butterfly knives are protected arms, in common use for lawful purposes, and not dangerous and unusual. Thus, H.R.S. section 134-53 burdens protected conduct. Because H.R.S. section 134-53 strikes at the core right of law-abiding citizens to defend hearth and home, and the burden imposed on the core right is substantial, strict scrutiny is the appropriate standard of review. See *Silvester*, 843 F.3d at 821. The District Court’s application of intermediate scrutiny was incorrect.

i. H.R.S. §134-53 Strikes at the Core Right of Law-Abiding Citizens to Self -Defend

Heller held that the “core” Second Amendment right is for law-abiding citizens to defense hearth and home. 554 U.S. at 635; see also *Kachalsky v. Cty. of Westchester*, 701 F.3d 81, 89 (2d Cir. 2012) (“Second Amendment guarantees are at their zenith within the home.”). This is a simple inquiry: If a law regulating arms adversely affects a law-abiding citizen’s right of defense of hearth and home, that law strikes at the core Second Amendment right.

Duncan v. Becerra, No. 19-55376, 2020 U.S. App. LEXIS 25836, at *34 (9th Cir. Aug. 14, 2020) (*Duncan*) (citing *Jackson v. City & Cty. Of S.F.*, 746 F.3d 953, 963 (9th Cir. 2014).

Much like California’s unconstitutional ban on “large capacity magazines,” by banning butterfly knives everywhere for everyone, including within the home where protections are “at their zenith,” H.R.S. section 134-53 strikes at core Second Amendment rights. *Duncan*, at 32; see also *Fyock*, 779 F.3d at 999, *NYSRPA*

804 F.3d at 258 (citing *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 628). Thus, Hawaii’s categorical ban on butterfly knives burdens core Second Amendment rights in a substantial way, because “any law that comes close to categorically banning the possession of arms that are commonly used for self-defense imposes a substantial burden on the Second Amendment. *Duncan*, at *33. Moreover, not only does Hawaii’s ban apply everywhere to everyone, it offers no meaningful exceptions for law abiding citizens. “These features are the hallmark of substantial burden.” *Id.*, at *40.

Appellees argue that the ban does not impose a substantial burden on the Second Amendment because citizens still can defend themselves with other kinds of knives. However, the Supreme Court in *Heller* rejected that type of policy argument when applied to a fundamental constitutional right; and this Court’s recent decision in *Duncan* has declined to accept such a policy argument.⁸ *Duncan*, at *40. Appellees conclusory claim that butterfly knives do not qualify as a separate class of arms and are just a “subset of a class of knives” is contradicted by the State’s own prohibition. The State created a separate class of knife by its definition of what constitutes a butterfly knife under H.R.S. §134-53. And such an argument would never be accepted in the First Amendment context, as “no court would uphold a

⁸ “A regulation may impose a substantial burden on the Second Amendment, even though the restriction does not foreclose the right to self-defense. *Duncan*, at *40 (citing *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 574).

state's ban on half of all parks and sidewalks for public protest because the other half remained available for use." *Id.*, at *41. Appellees' policy arguments were flatly rejected by *Heller* – "A constitutional guarantee subject to future judges' assessment of its usefulness is no constitutional guarantee at all. Constitutional rights are enshrined with the scope they were understood to have when the people adopted them, whether or not future legislatures or (yes) even future judges think that scope too broad." *Heller*, at 634-35. Appellees' position that they may arbitrarily ban a class of arms based on assumptions and policy preference misses the mark "because the Second Amendment limits that state's ability to second-guess the people's choice of arms if it imposes a substantial burden on the right to self-defense.... '[S]ubstantial burden' cannot be a policy-balancing inquiry because it implicates a fundamental constitutional right." *Duncan*, at *50.

Here, Appellees effectively intrude into the homes of law-abiding citizens to forcibly prohibit arms that are commonly used for lawful purposes, including self-defense,⁹ and offers no meaningful exceptions or grandfather clause. Thus, it invites strict scrutiny. *Id.*, at *46.

⁹ This reasoning is consistent with other Ninth Circuit Precedent. *Jackson*, 746 F.3d at 968 (implying strict scrutiny likely applies if a law completely bans the possession of certain class of ammunition (there, hollow-point bullets)). See also *Silvester*, 843 F.3d at 827 (implying a complete ban on possession likely merits a more stringent review than intermediate scrutiny). See also, *Pena v. Lindley*, 898 F.3d 969,

ii. H.R.S. §134-53 Does Not Survive Strict Scrutiny Review

Strict scrutiny is the “most rigorous and exacting standard of constitutional review.” It requires that a law be “narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling interest.” *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 920 (1995); see also *Kolbe v. Hogan*, 849 F.3d 114, 133 (4th Cir. 2017). “[I]f there are other, reasonable ways to achieve [a compelling state purpose] with a lesser burden on constitutionally protected activity, a State may not choose the way of greater interference. If it acts at all, it must choose ‘less dramatic means’” *Attorney General of New York v. Soto-Lopez*, 476 U.S. 898, 909-10 (1986) (citing *Dunn v. Blumstein*, 405 U.S. 330, 343 (1972)) (alterations original).

Further, Appellees have failed to make any showing there is a legitimate state interest in protecting the public from butterfly knife crime or preventing crimes committed with butterfly knives. “We remind future litigants that it is still necessary to show that the stated interest is compelling and may not simply be presumed.” *Duncan*, at *57, fn. 27. Here, the record is entirely devoid of any showing that butterfly knives are used, or ever have been used, in any criminal activity. There cannot be a compelling governmental interest in preventing butterfly knife crime if not such crimes have ever been established. Additionally, Appellees cannot claim

977 (9th Cir. 2018) (Court reaffirmed that possession bans on arms are strong medicine likely requiring strict scrutiny).

that banning butterfly knives would even reduce crime involving knives in general as other knives are still freely available. Thus, the District Court incorrectly found there is a sufficient compelling governmental interest, where none exist.

Unquestionably, H.R.S. section 134-53 fails strict scrutiny analysis because Appellees' method of achieving its goals is a statewide blanket ban on possession everywhere, for everyone. Unquestionably, this is not the least restrictive means of achieving a compelling state interest. As stated above, the ban applies to possession in the home; it applies to everyone, everywhere; and it has no exceptions or grandfathering provisions. "These are not features of a statute upheld by courts under the least restrictive means standard." *Duncan*, at *58.

E. Even if Intermediate Scrutiny were to Apply, H.R.S. §134-53 Would Still Fail

For the same reasons H.R.S. section 134-53 fails strict scrutiny, it also fails intermediate scrutiny. To survive intermediate scrutiny a statute "must be substantially related to an important governmental objective." *Clark v. Jeter*, 486 U.S. 456, 461 (1988). The "law must be 'narrowly tailored to serve a significant governmental interest.'" *Packingham v. North Carolina*, 137 S. Ct. 1730, 1736 (2017) (quoting *McCullen v. Coakley*, 573 U.S. 464, 486 (2014)). Unquestionably, the intermediate scrutiny test "still requires a reviewing court to scrutinize a challenged law with a healthy dose of skepticism. Indeed, the law must address

“harms” that “are real” in a “material” way. *Edenfield v. Fane*, 507 U.S. 761, 771 (1993).

Appellees alleged “significant” government interest is to protect public safety by reducing access to such weapons by criminal gang members.” Appellees simply assume a “significant” governmental interest without making the required evidentiary showing. Further, when reviewing H.R.S. §134-53’s fit to Appellee’s stated interest, it is excessive and sloppy. The prohibition is a blanket ban on all butterfly knives everywhere in Hawaii for everyone, without exception or grandfathering provisions. Appellees’ claim that a complete ban is necessary to prevent butterfly knives from being acquired by gang members lacks any evidentiary showing. Under this reasoning, “[t]he State could ban virtually anything if the test is merely whether something causes social ills when someone other than its lawful owner misuses it.” *Duncan*, at *64. Even if this Court’s considers Appellees’ stated interests as significant, the butterfly knife ban does not address them in a “material” way. *Edenfield*, 507 U.S. at 770-71. Appellees’ data (or lack thereof) is “remarkably thin.” Appellees offer no evidence that butterfly knives are used in crimes whatsoever, no any evidence that banning certain knives would have any impact on knife crime at all. Thus, if this Court were to apply intermediate scrutiny, H.R.S. §134-53 would still fail.

III. CONCLUSION

For the above stated reasons, the District Court wrongly held that Hawaii's categorical ban on butterfly knives is constitutional and should be reversed.

August 28, 2020

Dillon Law Group APC
Attorney for *Amicus Curiae*

By: /s/ John W. Dillon
John W. Dillon

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 29-2(c)(2)

I hereby certify this brief complies with the type-volume limitation of Ninth Circuit Rule 29-2(c)(2) because this brief contains 6,221 words, excluding parts of the brief exempted by Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(f). This brief also complies with the requirements of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(a)(5) and type style requirements of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(a)(6) because this brief has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word 2013 in 14-point Times New Roman font.

August 28, 2020

Dillon Law Group APC
Attorney for *Amicus Curiae*

By: /s/ John W. Dillon
John W. Dillon

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 28, 2020 I electronically filed the foregoing Amicus Curiae Brief of San Diego County Gun Owners Political Action Committee, Firearms Policy Coalition, and Knife Rights Foundation Inc., in Support of Appellants and reversal with the Clerk of the Court by using the CM/ECF system. I certify that the participants of this case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the appellate CM/ECF system.

August 28, 2020

Dillon Law Group APC
Attorney for *Amicus Curiae*

By: /s/ John W. Dillon
John W. Dillon

CASE NO. 20-15948

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

ANDREW TETER and JAMES GRELL,
Plaintiffs and Appellants,

v.

CLARE E. CONNERS, et al.,
Defendants and Appellees.

**DECLARATION OF JOHN W. DILLON IN SUPPORT OF
AMICI CURIAE BRIEF OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY GUN
OWNERS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, FIREARMS
POLICY COALITION, AND KNIFE RIGHTS FOUNDATION,
INC. IN SUPPORT OF APPELLANTS AND REVERSAL**

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the District of Hawaii
Civ. No. 19-cv-00183-ACK-WRP
United States District Court, Hon. Alan C. Key, Judge Presiding

John W. Dillon (SBN 296788)
Jdillon@Dillonlawgp.com
DILLON LAW GROUP APC
2647 Gateway Road
Suite 105, No. 255
Carlsbad, California 92009
Telephone: (760) 642-7150
Facsimile: (760) 642-7151

*Attorney for San Diego County
Gun Owners Political Action Committee, Firearms Policy Coalition, and Knife
Rights Foundation Inc.*

DECLARATION OF JOHN W. DILLON


I, John W. Dillon, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in State of California and admitted to the 9th Circuit. I am the attorney representing the *amici* parties in support of Appellants.
2. I am not a party to the captioned action, am over the age of 18, have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and am competent to testify as to the matters stated and the opinions rendered below except where facts are alleged upon information and belief.
3. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a true and correct copy of a *Blade Magazine*, “History: The Disputed Origins of the Butterfly Knife,” available at <https://blademag.com/knife-history/history-the-disputed-origins-of-the-butterfly-knife#:~:text=Another%20claim%20is%20that%20the,France%20between%201500%20and%201700.&text=Proponents%20of%20the%20French%20origin,sailors%20sailed%20to%20different%20countries>.
4. Attached hereto as **Exhibit B** is a true and correct copy of Knives Deal, “Balisong Knife: Everything You Need to Know,” <https://www.knivesdeal.com/the-balisong-knife-here-is-everything-you-need-to-know#:~:text=The%20balisong%20knife%2C%20sometimes%20called,the%20perfect%20concealed%20carry%20knife>.
5. Attached hereto as **Exhibit C** is a true and correct copy of *Pinoy Steel*, “Balisong History,” available at http://pinoysteel.com/index.php?route=information/information&information_id=10
6. Attached hereto as **Exhibit D** is a true and correct copy of Military Wiki, “Butterfly Knife,” available at https://military.wikia.org/wiki/Butterfly_knife.

7. Attached hereto as **Exhibit E** is a true and correct copy of a screenshot from “Blade Show West 2019 Bali Comp,” available at <https://bladeshowwest.com/west-coast-flipping-championship-2019/>.
8. Attached hereto as **Exhibit F** is a true and correct copy of a screenshot from “2019 Blade HQ Bali Comp,” available at <https://www.bladehq.com/cat--butterfly-knife-competition--3121>.
9. Attached hereto as **Exhibit G** is a true and correct copy of a screenshot from “2017 BRS Blade HQ Bali Royal Showdown,” available at <https://www.bladerunnerssystems.com/blogs/news/its-on-bali-royale-showdown>.
10. Attached hereto as **Exhibit H** is a true and correct copy of a screenshot from a Google video search “Butterfly Knife Flipping,” available at https://www.google.com/search?biw=1745&bih=881&tbm=vid&sxsrf=ALeKk01ATqv24-OVYXKk6YrA77y2beakpg%3A1597179643894&ei=-wYzX7iBNoCS0PEPpsWgkA8&q=butterfly+knife+flipping&oq=butterfly+knife+flipping&gs_l=psy-ab.3..0i395k1l5j0i30i395k1j0i7i5i30i395k1j0i5i30i395k1j0i8i30i395k1.36253.38411.0.38985.15.15.0.0.0.0.146.1362.12j3.15.0..3..0...1.1.64.psy-ab..3.12.1094...0i7i30i395k1j0i7i30k1j0i13k1j0i13i395k1j0i8i7i30i395k1.0.Bunl1shm6Ag.

11. Attached hereto as **Exhibit I** is a true and correct copy of a screenshot from *Balitang America*, “Balisong Enthusiasts Flipping Their Way to Fame,” available at <https://balitangamerica.tv/balisong-enthusiasts-flipping-their-way-to-fame/>.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed within the United States on August 28, 2020



John W. Dillon

EXHIBIT LIST

Exhibit	Document	Bates No.
A	<i>Blade Magazine</i> , “History: The Disputed Origins of the Butterfly Knife”	0001 – 0005
B	<i>Knives Deal</i> , “Balisong Knife: Everything You Need to Know”	0006 - 0009
C	<i>Pinoy Steel</i> , “Balisong History”	0010 - 0012
D	Military Wiki, “Butterfly Knife”	0013 – 0019
E	Website Screen Capture “Blade Show West 2019 Bali Comp”	0020 – 0021
F	Website Screen Capture “2019 Blade HQ Bali Comp”	0022 – 0025
G	Website Screen Capture “2017 BRS Blade HQ Bali Royal Showdown”	0026 – 0029
H	Website Screen Capture “Butterfly Knife Flipping”	0030 – 0032
I	<i>Balitang America</i> , “Balisong Enthusiasts Flipping Their Way to Fame”	0033 - 0034

EXHIBIT "A"

History: The Disputed Origins of the Butterfly Knife

By **Trevor Brown** - October 22, 2018





Authentic Filipino balisongs (Image from Balislinger on bladeforums.com)



Butterfly Knife History

Butterfly knives, also known as **balisongs**, are one of the most popular knife styles today. They consist of a blade with two handles that rotate around a pivot and wrap around the blade in the closed position. That much is agreed upon. The origin of butterfly knives is still up for debate.

Where Were Butterfly Knives Invented?

Butterfly knives have a rich history, though much of it has been left up to speculation. Walk up to a knife enthusiast and ask, "Where did butterfly knives originate?" and you may get two very different answers.

Fuzzy historical records and well worn legends are to blame. The two main countries of focus are France and the Philippines. Each has evidence and supporters.

One Version: Butterfly Knives Came from the Philippines





Authentic Filipino balisongs (Image from Balislinger on bladeforums.com)

The Philippines is often cited as the birthplace of [butterfly knives](#), where “balisong” is a more appropriate term. Legend has it that the balisong knife has roots that go back to around 800 AD. This style of knife could be opened quickly with one hand and easily used as a weapon. It proved a common choice for self-defense and utility uses.

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century. Countless stands and stores [Find Out More >](#) butterfly knives today, 16,143 and Filipino province of Batangas and the area of Balisong in Taal are known for the blades.

A rich balisong tradition has been present in the Philippines for more than a

At the very least, the word “balisong” is widely recognized to have come from there. That said, the lack of physical evidence to support a Filipino origin fuels the argument.

Another Version: Butterfly Knives Came from France



A vintage example of the Pied Du Roi. (Image from balisong.net)

Another claim is that the butterfly knife was invented in France between 1500 and 1700. The reason for this is the “Pied Du Roi,” which means “foot of the king” and is a French measurement tool that dates to the 1700s. The “Pied Du Roi” greatly resembles a butterfly knife. This tool has been pictured with measurement handles and a blade that folds out on one end. It looks like a butterfly knife, but could it be considered the first one ever made?

Proponents of the French origin argue that Spain, allied with France at the time, adopted the butterfly knife in their tasks and eventually took it to the Philippines as sailors sailed to different countries.

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Sounds reasonable, but hasn't been proven.

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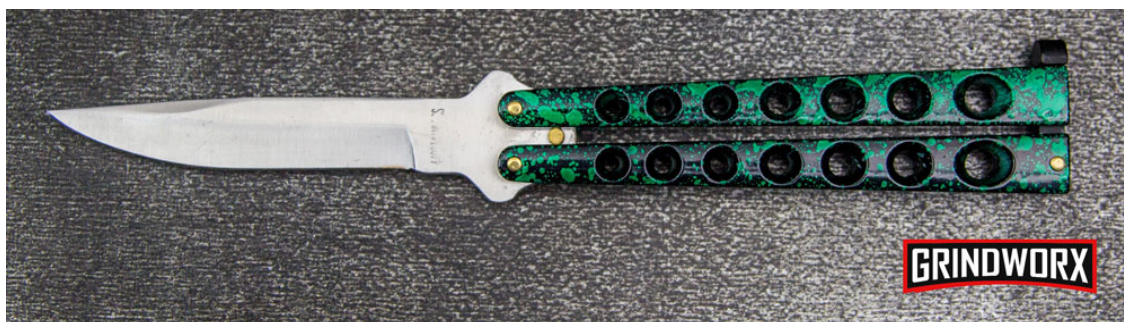
[Knife Sharpeners from \\$2.99](#)



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Another supporting argument for the French is that these knives comes from Germany and England, where some butterflies can trace back to prior to 1900. I recently came across a collector's piece online made in England with markings dating to 1873. This rules out the butterfly knife originating in the early 1900s in the Philippines, but like I said earlier, it has also been claimed to be influenced from similar Filipino knife models as early as 800 AD.

So Where Did Butterfly Knives Actually Come From?



Due to the popularity of balisongs in the Philippines, it isn't surprising to suspect it started there. The lore passed down from generation to generation also support this idea.

On the other hand, France has pictures and documentation of a measurement device that resembles a butterfly knife and dates back hundreds of years. However, that measurement device likely wasn't

used for self-defense, flipping, or other tasks common to butterfly knives today. Could it be considered the same thing? Hard to tell.

Both sides have great arguments. More information is needed to finally determine this unsolved piece of butterfly knife history.

Butterfly Knives Today

Regardless of history, butterfly knives are rising in popularity due to the fun of "flipping." Flipping involves tossing butterfly knives open to perform all kinds of tricks. Whether it's the danger of it, the community, the collectible appeal, or anything else, there's no doubt flippers are mesmerizing to watch.

Take this Butterfly Knife Showdown from [Blade Show 2018](#) for example.

Keep Reading:

- [4 Surprising Superstitions About Knives](#)

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EXHIBIT "B"

BALISONG KNIFE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

The balisong knife, sometimes called a butterfly knife, makes an excellent pocket knife. This is a unique knife that comprises two handles which can rotate in such a way which enables them to hide the blade of the knife; thus, making it the perfect concealed carry knife.

Since balisong is a common name, butterfly knife is getting more popular as the name of this knife.



Traditionally, this amazing knife hails from the Philippines; it also holds a crucial position in some martial arts methods.

This spectacular blade is well known for catching the attention of everyone due to its unique built and design. Not to mention the fact that the wielder of this knife can conduct a variety of amazing tricks. Since this is one of the ancient knives, there is a lot to debate regarding its history.

If you are unaware of this knife, you will get to know everything about this knife that is essential to your knowledge. Also, we shall disclose some key [butterfly knife tips](#). So, here is everything you need to know about the balisong knife:

The Fascinating History Behind the Balisong Knife

The Balisong knife is without a doubt one of the most popular knives today. With that being said, much of this is contributed to its amazing and unique design. Not to mention the fact that one can do some amazing tricks with this knife and draw loads of attention and admiration from family and friends.

Many historical analysts agree to the aspect of the origin of the knife which is believed to be the Philippines. Nonetheless, the origin of this amazing knife is still up for debate even today. Nothing can be stated for sure in this regard; however, the two countries to be focused at are France and the Philippines.

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The Filipino Origin of Balisong Knife

Many people cite the Philippines as being the origin and birthplace of the worldwide famous balisong knife. Legend says that it dates back to the ancient 800 AD. However, much can be debated about this as well. It is stated that the purpose of the earliest butterfly knife was utility as well as self defense.

The style and features of this knife allowed a quick knife deployment; whereas, it could be used single-handedly and with efficacy as well. The rich tradition of the this knife can be witnessed in the Philippines even today; particularly, in the province of Batangas where they sell a huge variety at different prices.

Most importantly, the terminology of the "balisong" originates from the Filipino language itself; therefore, the majority of the historians and analysts hold the viewpoint that it originated from the Philippines.

The Balisong Knife and its French Origin

As mentioned earlier, there are two schools of thoughts associated with the origin of the Balisong knife; one of them favors France as being the birthplace of this knife. It is claimed by some people that it was invented in the French territory during the 15th and 18th century.

The reason for this claim stems from the tool named "Pied Du Roi", which is a French term and originally translates as "Foot of the King". The "Foot of the King", or "Pied Du Roi" resembled this knife in its style and form. Therefore, many consider that the first butterfly knife was invented in France instead of the Philippines.

It is also argued that it was adopted by the Spanish merchants and sailors who then introduced it to other countries whilst bringing it to the Philippines as well.

This version of the origin of the Balisong knife might sound true; however, nothing has been proven so far in this regard. More interestingly, it has also been argued that the origin of the this knife in Germany as well as the United Kingdom. In fact, it has been traced back to these countries in the years that preceded the 20th century.

However, nothing can be stated with full conviction while keeping in mind that the earliest form dates back to the 800 AD in the Philippines which leaves us with the question about the true origin, also known as the balisong knife. The lore of this knife being originally from the Philippines has been passed down from the older generations to the newer ones for a long time.

On the contrary, the French territory has even images along with documents with the measurements of a tool that resembles the form and style of today's balisong knife. The French pictures and documentation date indicate that it dates at least a hundred years back leading to France.

The documentation of the French version of the balisong knife, however, indicates that the tool was more likely a measurement tool instead of a hidden knife. In this regard, it is somewhat hard to tell whether that version of the "supposed" balisong knife could have been used for personal defense, and other normal tasks, such as flipping.

Therefore, the history of the origin of this knife is to a great extent still a mystery which needs to be solved.

The Modern Balisong Knife

Regardless of its vague history, the balisong knife is in great demand today. Much of the credit goes to the amazing "flipping" tricks that one can maneuver while wielding this knife. The "flipping" trick includes acts, such as spinning and tossing it while performing a variety of cool tricks and wooing the mesmerized audience.

The best way to start flipping is to use a balisong knife trainer for this purpose. The trainer version of this knife is made of dulled blades; therefore, these cannot cause accidental injuries to the wielder as well as bystanders. Another benefit of training with the [trainer butterfly knife](#) is that it is relatively cheap as compared to the original knife.

Furthermore, if you are looking for such a knife which will last longer along with making sure that you don't get impacted by accidental injuries and cuts; it is recommended to get the trainer version of the balisong knife.

The modern balisong knife has plenty of uses unlike the ancient ones. Today, it is one of the knives with massive fanbase. It has been transformed into a multipurpose knife. Because its blade can be concealed inside the two handles, it has become the easiest to carry knife. So, people prefer carrying it in the pocket as their primary self defense weapon.

It works brilliantly as the defense weapon. Since it is quick, the blade can be deployed at once. Hence, the user has every chance to survive against the attacker. The safety of carrying this knife is another factor that has made this knife popular. The blade is concealed and locked inside the two handles.

There is no chance that blade accidentally opens in your pocket. Therefore, you can comfortably carry the knife. The modern butterfly knife is lightweight and small, but is sturdy enough.

The Structure of Balisong Knife

Typically, there are two structures which are common for the balisong knife; the sandwich build, and the channel build. The "channel" structure of the knife is considered to be the stronger version. It is considered to be stronger due to the fact that the basic parts of the knife handle are manufactured while using one piece of the material.

The handle of the knife comprises a groove as a result of the carving which is also the point where the blade of the the knife is located in its folded position. On the other hand, the sandwich version is more typical for the beginner knife version as well as the balisong trainer knife.

This version is made up of different layers that have been unified one-by-one. The many pieces of the knife are held together via screws or pins. Most interestingly, it is manufactured from the recycled parts of the cars as well as the railroad. If you are a beginner, it is recommended to get the sandwich style.

Final Thoughts!

If you are the kind of person who loves to impress his/her family and friends with some amazing tricks with the balisong knife, you can find a great knife for the best price. However, it is recommended to start your training on a [balisong knife trainer](#) before getting your hands on the real version.

The balisong knife can provide unlimited entertainment and fun for any user. While exploring the top knives from the history, it comes up as the foremost one. Even today, it is the most fabulous knife available in the market!

Read More: [The Essential Guide to the Best Balisong Trainers](#)

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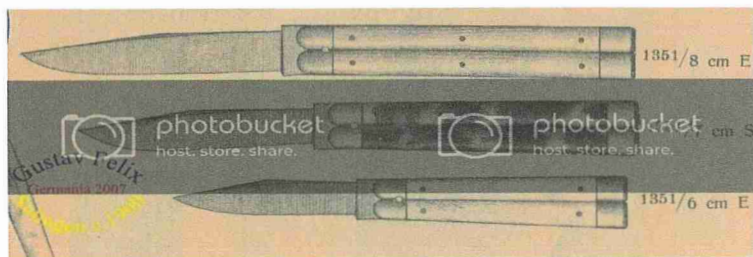
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Balisong History

Many believe the butterfly knife first came to American shores in the early part of the 20th century with Filipino immigrants, but its popularity and infamy in the United States only really began after US soldiers returned with *balisongs* from the Philippines after World War II. The *balisong* is believed to be much older than this, however. Patents for knives that look very much like the butterfly knives produced in Batangas in the Philippines in the early 20th century existed in France as early as the 18th century, and similar knives were also produced in Germany, Italy and Spain in the 19th century.

http://www.pbase.com/balisong/historic_patents



It is plausible that the arrival of the first *balisong* in the United States was in the 18th or 19th century and that the fan knife was of European origin. It may have been a European immigrant or returning American citizen who brought a European butterfly knife to the US first, rather than a Filipino immigrant bringing a Batangas-made *balisong* to the US.

Some even believe the butterfly knife made it to the Philippines when Jose Rizal, one of the Philippines' national heroes, returned to Spain from his travels with a European-made butterfly knife among his possessions. Such a statement would be considered blasphemy by many in the Philippines, who believe the design of the *balisong* is ancient and purely Filipino.

Without proof, however, it is impossible to discount any of these theories, as they have not been proven. Balisongs got their hands on even older Filipino *balisongs*. The definitive truth, as is often the case with history, is obscured by the sands of time. Rizal may even have introduced the Filipino *balisong* to Europe!

The *balisong* became less popular in Europe in the latter part of the 19th century, but in the early 20th century, the *pandays* (metal craftsmen) of Batangas began producing the fan knife to meet local demand. These *balisongs* had *karabaw* (water buffalo) horn inserts and brass handles, and the blades were made of recycled steel, often from vehicle leaf springs. This perhaps lends credence to the theory the term "*balisong*" comes from two Tagalog words: "*baling*" and "*sungay*," or "broken" and "horn." The horn inserts were "broken" pieces of *karabaw* horn, but the handles could also be rotated apart or "broken."

The Batangas *balisongs* produced in the early 20th century strongly resembled the designs of the *balisongs* produced in Germany at around the same time (or vice versa). What we do know, however, is the popularity and ubiquity of the Filipino *balisong* surpassed that of any European butterfly knife design in the decades (and centuries) to come, and that the design became synonymous with the Philippines: Batangas in particular, although similarly designed knives known as *mais-mais* (corn-corn) also became popular in and around the island of Cebu in the 20th century. *Balisongs* were used for many everyday tasks, including shaving! *Balisongs* were far more common than straight razors prior to the Second World War.

Batangas in the Philippines was soon thought of by many, particularly in the Philippines, as the home of the *balisong*. Many of the towns and barrios around the province still have families that make the distinctively *Batangueño* knife with varying degrees of quality and success. These knives were so popular that they were mass produced around Asia in the latter part of the 20th century to meet growing US demand. Unfortunately, the small size, concealability and opening mechanism of butterfly knives (as they came to be known) led to their popularity with American criminals, much like the Italian stiletto, and the US Government introduced the Switchblade Act in 1958, which was later interpreted to also include the butterfly knife. Imports of butterfly knives and automatics were subsequently made illegal, but both continue to be commonly available on the US market today due to domestic production and continued importation from Asia and Europe.

Today, the butterfly knife continues to be maligned and connected with crime around the world and it has been made illegal in several countries, including in the Philippines, where it is considered a deadly weapon with no other use but in crime, according to law enforcement agencies. Sadly, the butterfly knife is no more dangerous than any other knife and is slower into operation than modern folders of legal design made by prominent manufacturers such as Benchmade and Spyderco, both of which continue to domestically produce butterfly knives to meet US demand. In Batangas, efforts have been made to promote the *balisong* as the quality working knife that it is—some have even stated that it is commonly used for circumcision there! Unfortunately, due to their relatively low cost and ubiquity in the Philippines compared to imported knives (the Philippines puts a hefty duty on virtually all imports), *balisongs* continue to be popular with Filipino criminals. Their image and unique opening mechanism is another factor that leads to their continued prominence, and modern *balisongs* are being made with increasingly better quality every day. Even in the Philippines, where *balisongs* were traditionally made with recycled brass and steel, aluminum and stainless steel is becoming more common in *balisong* manufacture.



Continue

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Butterfly knife

For the Chinese weapon, see [Butterfly sword](#), a Chinese short-sword with a broad blade associated with the martial arts Hung Ga and Wing Chun.

A **balisong**, also known as a **fan knife** or **butterfly knife**, is a folding **pocket knife** with two handles counter-rotating around the **tang** such that, when closed, the blade is concealed within grooves in the handles. It is sometimes called a **Batangas knife**, after the Tagalog province of Batangas in the Philippines, where it is traditionally made.

The balisong was commonly used by Filipino people, especially those in the Tagalog region, as a self-defense and pocket utility knife. A common stereotype is that a Batangueño carries one everywhere he or she goes.^[1] Hollow ground balisongs were also used as straight razors before conventional razors were available in the Philippines. In the hands of a trained user, the knife blade can be brought to bear quickly using one hand. Manipulations, called "flipping" or "fanning", are performed for art or amusement.

The knife is now illegal or restricted in many countries, often under the same laws and for the same reasons that **switchblades** are restricted, and in their country of origin they are no longer as common in urban areas as they were.

Contents [\[show\]](#)

Etymology [✎ Edit](#)

While the meaning of the term *balisong* is not entirely clear, a popular belief is that it is derived from the Tagalog words *baling sungay* (literally, "broken/folding horn") as they were originally made from carved carabao and stag horn.^[2]

Balisong is also the name of a **barangay** in the town of Taal, Batangas province, which became famous for crafting these knives.

The traditional balisong is said to be called the *veinte y nueve* because they are 29 centimeters long when opened, while another story goes that it is named after a lone Batangueño who fought off 29 assailants using one.

File:Filipinobalisong.jpg

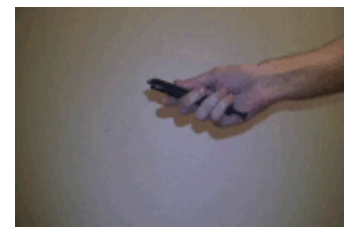
These knives are also referred to as "fan knives" and "butterfly knives" from the motion and "click clacks" from the sound they make when they are opened and closed.

Construction [✎ Edit](#)

There are two main types of balisong construction: "sandwich construction" and "channel construction".



A butterfly knife in open and closed position.



Animation of a butterfly knife being opened and closed.

Sandwich constructed balisong knives are assembled in layers that are generally pinned or screwed together. They allow the pivot pins to be adjusted tighter without binding. When the knife is closed, the blade rests between the layers.

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being stronger than sandwich construction.

Some of the blades of traditional butterflyknife in the Philippines were made from steel taken from railroad tracks thus giving them durability and hardness, while others are made from the recycled **leaf springs** of vehicles.

Parts [Edit](#)

Bite handle

The handle that closes on the sharp edge of the blade.

Choil

The unsharpened portion of the blade just above the kicker, that makes it easier to sharpen the blade.

Kicker (or Kick)

Area on the blade that prevents the sharp edge from touching the inside of the handle and suffering damage. This is sometimes supplanted by an additional tang pin above the pivots.

Latch

The standard locking system, which holds the knife closed. Magnets are occasionally used instead.

Latch, Batangas

A latch that is attached to the bite handle.

Latch, Manila

A latch that is attached to the safe handle.

Latch, Spring

A latch that utilizes a spring to propel the latch open when the handles are squeezed.

Latch gate

A block inside the channel of the handles stopping the latch from impacting the blade

pivot joint

A pin about which the Tang/Blade/Handle assemblies pivot.

Safe Handle

The handle that closes on the non-sharpened edge of the blade.(Generally the handle without the latch)

Swedge

Unsharpened spine of the blade. Some balisongs are also sharpened here or on both sides with either a more traditional look or wavy edges similar to a [Kris sword](#).

Tang

The base of the blade where the handles are attached with pivot pins.

Tang Pin(s)

Pin meant to hold the blade away from the handle when closed to prevent dulling; and, in some cases, a second pin to keep the handles from excessively banging together while the butterfly knife is being manipulated.

Blade

The blade is the piece of steel that runs down the center of the knife that is secured by both handles when closed, one of the sides of the knife is sharp and has a high chance of cutting you, the other side has no potential chance of cutting you.



A diagram of common butterfly knife parts.

In the United States Edit

File:Ten balisong knives.jpg

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many becoming **Benchmade**. The earliest knives featured a wide variety of custom blade designs (many of which were hand ground by master knifemaker **Jody Samson**, well known for making the swords in the movie *Conan the Barbarian*), as well as a number of exotic inlays for the handles (ivory, prehistoric ivory, scrimshawed ivory, mother-of-pearl, ebony, tropical woods, etc.).^[3] In mint condition, some of these early balisongs are worth thousands of dollars. Used, with skeletonized or **micarta** handles and the standard "weehawk" or "**Imada** high hollow" grind, they typically start at around \$300 and go up from there. Unusual grinds, like the "scimitar", "cutlass", "kris", "weehawk tanto", "Spanish Bowie", or rare "mariner" cause the value to increase significantly. These early American balisongs are highly sought after by collectors, who frequently purchase them as investments and store them in airtight safes. Benchmade stopped producing custom balisongs in the late 1990s to early 2000s, but regularly offers "Limited Editions" with special features. Other American makers of commercial balisongs include Bradley Cutlery (*Mayhem* and *Kimura*), BRS (*Alpha Beast*, *Replicant* and *Mutant*), Bear and Son Cutlery (*114*, *517* and *Song* series), **Spyderco** (*Spyderfly*, *Szabofly* and *Smallfly*), Roton (*Monarch*), Protech (*FlyFather*), **Microtech Knives** (*Tachyon*, *Designed by Mike Turber* and *Metalmark* series), and SWAT (*Tiger*).

From 1981 to 1984, hundreds of thousands of balisongs were imported into the **United States** from a variety of countries, primarily: the Philippines, **Japan**, China, and Korea - although a few were also imported from France, Germany, and Spain. The best were primarily from the metalsmiths of **Seki City**, Japan, who manufactured balisongs for Taylor (*Manila Folder*), Parker (*Gypsy*), Valor (*Golden Dragon*), and Frost (a variety of very inexpensive balisongs). Guttman Cutlery in the Philippines exported a high quality sandwich-style balisongs marketed as the "*Original Balisong*", which featured a variety of scale materials and high carbon steel blades.

Despite prohibitions on the import of balisongs, beginning in the 1980s, a variety of Asian manufacturers continued to export low-cost balisong knives to the United States. These products are low quality due to their usage of cast handles made of brittle zamak alloy and blades made of low-quality steel.

Legal status Edit

Further information: **Switchblade: Legality**

Because of its potential use as a weapon, and mostly due to its intimidating nature and rapid deployment compared to other 50+ year old folding knife designs, the balisong has been outlawed in several countries.

- In the Philippines, it is now generally illegal to carry one without identification or a proper permit in the streets of the capital because of their prevalent use in crimes and altercations. One now needs to demonstrate the need in professional livelihood or utilitarian purpose (such as cutting grass, preparing fruits and meats, being a vendor of knives, being **martial arts instructors**, etc.) to be able walk around with bladed implements in the urban areas. Another rule of thumb is that the blade of pocket knives must not exceed the length of the palm and must not be openable by one hand in order to be considered as a utility knife as opposed to a weapon (thus, **Swiss Army Knives** are legal).
- In Australia, balisongs are generally classified as a prohibited weapon, which requires a special legitimate excuse to possess it. Australian Legal Definition: A flick knife (or other similar device) that has a blade which opens automatically by gravity or centrifugal force or by any pressure applied to a button, spring or device in or attached to the handle of the knife.
- In Canada, although not specified by name as a prohibited weapon, the balisong knife is often considered by courts to fall under the "**gravity knife**" or a centrifugal classification and is, therefore, prohibited, unless **grandfathered** in before prohibition.
- In the **UK**, the balisong has been legally classified as an offensive weapon since January 1989.^[4] Whilst they are legal to possess, carrying one in public is an offence under the **Prevention of Crime Act 1953**. Sale, lending, hiring, giving or importing is prohibited by the **Criminal Justice Act 1988**, as amended by the **Offensive Weapons Act 1996**. Any imported are liable to be

seized and prosecution may follow. The exception to this are knives of this type over 100 years old which are classed as antiques.

- In [Switzerland](#), balisongs are illegal to carry, give, lend, buy, trade.

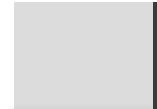
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punishable by up to five years imprisonment, confiscation of the knife and a **fine** of up to €10,000. Using a butterfly knife for crime of any kind - as is any illegal weapon - is punishable by from 1 to 10 years imprisonment.

- In Lithuania, balisongs among other knives are legal to possess and carry as they are not considered weapons. This excludes switchblades.^{[5][6]}
- In Poland, balisongs, switchblades and gravity knives are treated like normal knives. There are no restrictions on possession and carry.
- In some [U.S.](#) states it is illegal to possess or carry such a knife in public. In certain jurisdictions, balisongs are categorized as a "**gravity knife**", "**switchblade**", or "**dagger**". Spyderco admitted that from June 2005 through January 2007, it had mailed balisongs, after importing the knife components from Taipei, Taiwan, through the Port of San Francisco and the Port of Oakland, to Golden, Colorado.^[7]
 - The knife is illegal to carry in California, but some are legal to own if kept at home.^[8]
 - In Florida, it is legal to open and conceal carry a balisong that is 4 inches or under.
 - In Hawaii, it is illegal to possess, manufacture, sell, transfer, or transport any balisong/Butterfly-type knife.^[9]
 - There were once legal restrictions on butterfly knives in Kansas,^[10] however as of July 2013, the Kansas Comprehensive Knife Rights Act decriminalized the carrying of all types of bladed weapons.^[11]
 - In Kentucky, the balisong is legal for concealed and open carrying anywhere one is not otherwise prohibited from carrying a concealed deadly weapon. Kentucky's constitution and revised statutes prohibit cities and counties from enacting weapons laws and restrictions.
 - In Michigan, the balisong is legal because it is classified as a "folding knife"
 - In New Jersey the criminal law, NJSA 2C:39-1, suggest balisongs are illegal but the question of legality or illegality is an open question.
 - In New York, the balisong has been determined not to be a gravity knife, allowing legal ownership. Nothing more is said in the New York State Code of Law, technically leaving individual circumstances open to interpretation.
 - In Ohio, it is legal to own a balisong and carry it openly, however they are illegal to carry concealed, as they are considered to be **deadly weapons**.
 - In Oregon, it is illegal to carry a concealed balisong.^[12]
 - In Texas, As of September 1, 2013 Switchblades are now legal in Texas.^[13]
 - In Utah, balisongs are legal as long as they are not concealed.^[citation needed]
 - In Virginia, the balisong is legal for conceal and open carrying according to state law, although localities can have additional knife laws and restrictions.
- Balisong trainers feature a special blunt and unsharpened "blade" and are legal in areas where balisongs are not.

See also  [Edit](#)

- **Filipino Martial Arts**
- [Eskrima](#)
- [Jacob's ladder \(knife\)](#)
- [Balisword](#)
- **Hackman butterfly knife**
- **Pantographic knife**



- [Pinutí](#)
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EXHIBIT 'E'

(<https://bladeshowwest.com/>)

2019 BALI COMP (2020 INFORMATION TBA)

The West Coast Flipping Championship 2019 was the first flipping tournament to be held at Blade Show West. The competition featured 32 flippers in a head to head showdown for wicked sick prizes and massive bragging rights. It was hosted by **Squid Industries**.

SEE 2019 WINNERS
([HTTPS://BLADESHOWWEST.COM/BALI-FLIPPING-COMP-2019-TOP-FINISHERS/](https://bladeshowwest.com/bali-flipping-comp-2019-top-finishers/))

Competitor Information	+
Rules	+
Structure & Rounds	+
Prizes	+
Sponsors	+

EXHIBIT 'F'



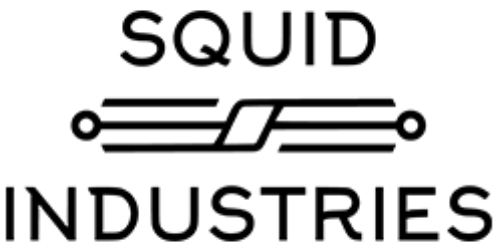
2019 Balicomp Winners: 1st: Corbin Lovins (@Lovinsbalis), 2nd: Stu Hopson (@feenxfire), 3rd: Jeffrey Durr (@joff_brian_dolan)

Due to Covid-19 Blade Show has been moved to August 7-9. Blade HQ and Bali Comp Sponsors will keep competitors updated on when and if signups will open. We hope you are all safe and look forward to getting everyone together again soon!

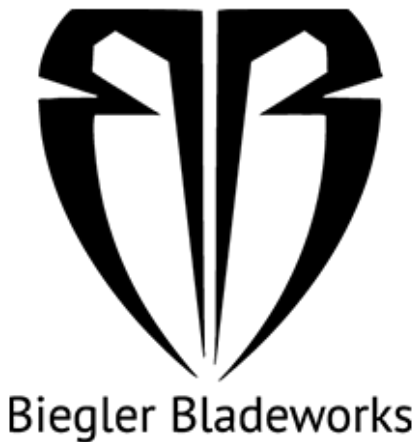
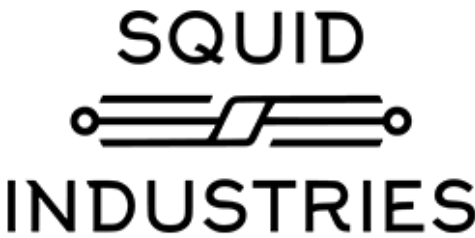
Important dates times for competitors on event day:

- 11 a.m.: **Competitor Check-in** near the exterior demonstration tent
- 11:15 a.m.: **Final Competitor sign-in.** We will give away your spot if you haven't checked in by this time.
- 11:20 a.m.: **Rules and Questions.** This will be a review of rules and expectations during the event.
- 12:15 a.m.: **Arrival in Bull Pen** All competitors must be in the bull pen, ready for the competition to begin.
- 12:30 p.m.: **Competition Starts.** You are expected to be in the Bull Pen area of the venue until you are eliminated from the competition. If you are not present, you will be automatically eliminated. This will make the transition between competitors easy for staff and the crew. When you are eliminated, please exit the Bull Pen.
- 1:30 p.m. **Competition Ends:** We need to clear the arena quickly for the next group's event. Please plan to clear out promptly.

GOLD SPONSORS:



SILVER SPONSORS:



TOURNAMENT RULES & STRUCTURE:

The competition is a head-to-head format. Two competitors step up. One does a timed routine, then the other does a timed routine. A panel of three experienced judges pick the winner between the two. The winner advances to the next round. The loser is eliminated.

ROUND	TIME
QUALIFIER	ONE 5 SECOND ROUND
2ND ROUND	ONE 10 SECOND ROUND
PRELIM	ONE 10 SECOND ROUND
QUARTER FINAL	TWO 10 SECOND ROUNDS
SEMI FINAL	TWO 10 SECOND ROUNDS
	0024

3RD PLACE	TWO 10 SECOND ROUNDS
FINAL	THREE 10 SECOND ROUNDS

- Competitors must check in at 11 a.m. or they will bedisqualified.

CHECK OUT LAST YEAR'S COMPETITION:

The Greatest Butterfly Knife Competition Ever! | Bali Comp 2018



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PRE-REGISTRATION IS OPEN [CLICK HERE!](#)

BALI ROYALE SHOWDOWN!

Why everyone comes away a winner at this years Blade Show balisong competition!

Competition is the medium to which the ultimate performances are achieved. Through competition records are set, history is made, and champions are born. This year the **Bali Royal Showdown (B.R.S.)** hosted by Blade Magazine and organized and co-sponsored by BRS and BladeHQ will set one of the biggest stages of live competition in the balisong manipulation world.

Being competitive is certainly not unfamiliar for those who are mastering the art of the balisong (butterfly knife). Battles have long been part of this niche part of the knife community with individual flippers earning reputation for superior skills and technique, execution, and/or inventing new tricks. Though there have been other live events, most contests are held tightly within the community through online mediums such as forums, Facebook, or Instagram. The Bali Royale Showdown aims to make the biggest live stage for balisong competition in arguably the biggest knife event of the year in Blade Show. Being able to compete in person will bring out the best from each competitor challenging them to execute tricks live with fewer attempts and time than they may have if only performing in front of a camera. Live performances are always more intense and engaging since they are done so in front of an audience and your mistakes count for more than just a retake.

In addition to bringing out the best in each competitor, Bali Royale will also let a fresh set of eyes engage in the artform and sport of balisong flipping. The aim is to expose and educate the general knife community and public at large about the balisong, its competitive side, and the flippers who engage in the sport. BladeHQ plans to also have live video coverage of the event through Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube, while BRS will host a brief intro to balisong flipping as well as a Q & A session. BRS and BladeHQ not only aim to put on an awesome show, but also leave the audience with some new knowledge and perspective on balisongs and the sport and art of flipping.

How does the competition work? Unlike most sports where there are points, runs, goals scored, flipping is a little different. But the format of the competition has been made so the audience can easily follow along. The first part of the competition is a trick for trick showdown where two flippers are on stage and one must match the same trick as his opponent. They have a limited amount of failed attempts at each trick that once exhausted would eliminate him from that round with the winner advancing to the next round. Then when the competitors have narrowed down, a timed, freestyle format will be used with each flipper's performance being scored by a panel of judges. The winners will advance in a preset tournament bracket until ultimately two flippers will face off in a grand finale. The winner crowned the Bali Royale Showdown Champion!

What's at stake? Bali Royale has brought on a great amount of sponsors who will be supplying prizes for the tournament participants as well as the audience. BRS will award the Ultimate Champ with a limited Alpha Beast Infinity. The Champ will also take home a custom made plaque crowning him or her the Ultimate Champion for B.R.S. 2017. BladeHQ will be giving away hundreds of dollars worth of gift cards, knives, and other merchandise. Other potential sponsors will also be awarding knives and gear. There is a lot of support shown by the industry and it's a great way for knife brands/manufacturers and the community to come together!

When all is said and done everyone can come away a winner. The audience will learn more about a part of the knife community that is growing in the balisong community while the competitors will achieve a higher level of performance. Plus lots of prizes and support merchandise to help spread the great atmosphere and vibes found each year at Blade Show.

We hope to see you there!

0028

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FLASH FILMING IN JERSEY CITY (FLIPPING MY BALIS OFF) BALISONG SHORT FILM

November 12, 2017



BRS short film. The **#flashfilm** format of filming is awesome. **It spontaneous. It requires no planning. It calls for freestyle flipping and filming.**

Sometimes you get your best moments within this mind frame.

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EXHIBIT "H"



butterfly knife flipping



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What is a **butterfly**? What is **flipping** all about? HonorHer explains why he **flips** and what it means to him ...
Jan 2, 2013 - Uploaded by Blade HQ

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✓ Incredible Butterfly Knife Tricks (Balisong) - YouTube



Curtis is incredibly talented with **butterfly knives** and can do some impressively dangerous ... WARNING ...
Jan 11, 2017 - Uploaded by Kuma Films

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✓ Butterfly Knife 101 - How to Get Into BALISONG Flipping ...



Learn about the **Butterfly Knife** (aka Balisong) and where to get started with them! I've got the info on what ...
Apr 27, 2020 - Uploaded by Will Hirsch

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✓ BALISONG TUTORIAL - Awesome Basic Flips - Butterfly Knife ...



... Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/thekalicenter> The Bali-Song is a super fun **knife** that is a great pass ...
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✓ Flip Open a Butterfly Knife Like a Gentleman Bastard - YouTube



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✓ INSANE Balisong Flip Twirl Tricks How to Butterfly Knife Go Pro



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Mar 28, 2016 - Uploaded by Galaxy Views

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✓ Butterfly Knife Tricks for Beginners #1 (Basic Opens) - YouTube



I BUY MY **BUTTERFLY KNIVES** AT BLADE HQ: <http://shrsi.com/swvk> ...
Balisong MERCH: teespring.com ...
Sep 21, 2016 - Uploaded by Big Flips

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✓ Butterfly knife flipping Why would you do that? - YouTube



Someone asked me recently why **flipping** a **balisong** is fun I just wanted to answer with a video.
Nov 15, 2015 - Uploaded by Lugermonger

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✓ Balisong Tutorial - (CS:GO Flip) - Beginner #11.6 - YouTube



GREAT **BUTTERFLY KNIVES**: <http://shrsi.com/swvk> (BLADE HQ) GREAT TRAINERS: <https://goo.gl/puYZbq> ...
Feb 16, 2018 - Uploaded by Big Flips

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✓ **Butterfly Knife Tricks for Beginners #4.2 (Sidekick) - YouTube**



I BUY MY **BUTTERFLY KNIVES** AT BLADE HQ: <http://shrsi.com/swvk> ...
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EXHIBIT "I"

Butterfly Knife Enthusiasts Flip Their Way to Fame | Balitang America



Home > featured news

by TJ Manotoc - Oct 11, 2019

BALISONG ENTHUSIASTS FLIPPING THEIR WAY TO FAME

It's like a giant fidget spinner, juggling act, and dance all rolled into one — that's the vibe of these kids who call themselves balisong flippers.

The popularity of the butterfly knife may be on the decline in the Philippines where it originated, but it is on the rise in the U.S.

Some brands are now making hip and modern designs that are appealing to the younger market and even make trainers without sharp blades to make it easier to flip and do tricks.

Instagram as well has been the hub of growth and camaraderie of the flippers.

In the middle of an Asian martial arts event in Los Angeles was the 2019 version of **Balifornia** — a balisong flipping competition.

The founder, Paul Factora, said he's simply amazed with how the sport of balisong flipping has quickly evolved in recent years.

Kids as young as 11 years old are now majorly competitive in the sport, it's attracting Americans – and especially Filipino Americans to the sport.

Factora sais he is struggling to find the funds to finish the documentary and now he's turning to the community for help.

"We are currently seeking funding to complete our film. I shot about 240 hours of footage just on my own...We might do another crowdfunding project so so please keep an eye on that."

As he gears up for more balisong events in California, Factora and some friends are also organizing a trip home to Batangas called Cultura ng Balisong.

They invite anybody interested to see where it all began and learn about the craft and culture of the original balisong.



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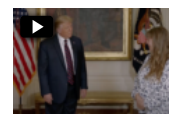
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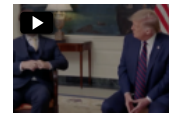
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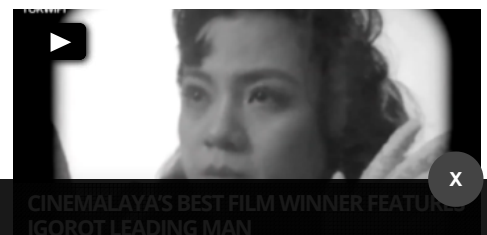


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CASE NO. 20-15948

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

ANDREW TETER and JAMES GRELL,
Plaintiffs and Appellants,

v.

CLARE E. CONNERS, et al.,
Defendants and Appellees.

**DECLARATION OF DOUG RITTER IN SUPPORT OF
AMICI CURIAE BRIEF OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY GUN
OWNERS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, FIREARMS
POLICY COALITION, AND KNIFE RIGHTS FOUNDATION,
INC. IN SUPPORT OF APPELLANTS AND REVERSAL**

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the District of Hawaii
Civ. No. 19-cv-00183-ACK-WRP
United States District, Hon. Alan C. Key, Judge Presiding

John W. Dillon (SBN 296788)
jdillon@Dillonlawgp.com
DILLON LAW GROUP APC
2647 Gateway Road
Suite 105, No. 255
Carlsbad, California 92009
Telephone: (760) 642-7150
Facsimile: (760) 642-7151

*Attorney for San Diego County
Gun Owners Political Action Committee, Firearms Policy Coalition, and Knife
Rights Foundation Inc.*

DECLARATION OF DOUG RITTER

I, Doug Ritter, declare as follows:

1. I am not a party to the captioned action, am over the age of 18, have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and am competent to testify as to the matters stated and the opinions rendered below.
2. I am the Chairman and Executive Director of Knife Rights Foundation, Inc. (Knife Rights).
3. Knife Rights is a non-profit organization that serves its supporters and the public, through direct and grassroots advocacy, focused on protecting the rights of knife owners to keep and carry knives and edged tools. Knife Rights also includes the promotion of education regarding state and federal knife laws, and the defense and protection of civil rights of knife owners.
4. As a part of Knife Rights' efforts to educate knife owners, Knife Rights compiles and reviews the various knife laws and regulations in each state in this Country. This compendium helps to ensure that knife owners remain in compliance with each state's laws with regard to possessing and carrying various types of knives.
5. Knife Rights has published a downloadable app, "LegalBlade," which summarizes each states' knife laws by "Knife Type" and provides the user with information on whether specific knives are legal for "Possession" "Open Carry" and "Concealed Carry" in each state.
6. In addition to providing users with summaries of each state's knife laws, Legal Blade provides direct links to each state's relevant knife/weapon statutes.

7. As Chairman and Executive Director of Knife Rights, and my work with various state legislatures, I am familiar with the current status of the knife laws and regulations in the United States.
8. I have reviewed the relevant statutes that pertain to butterfly knives or “balisongs” in each state and provide the summary set forth below.
9. First, only three (3) states in the United States explicitly prohibit the possession, open carrying, and concealed carrying of butterfly knives. These states consist of Hawaii, Washington, and New Mexico. In other words, butterfly knives are categorically banned in only 6% of the Country.
10. Twenty-Nine (29) states allow for possession of butterfly knives as well as the open and concealed carrying of butterfly knives.¹
11. Another five (5) states allow for possession of butterfly knives. These states allow open carry and concealed carry of butterfly knives if the blade of the knife is under a certain length or as long as there is an “explainable lawful purpose” for carrying the knife.²
12. Nine (9) other states allow for the lawful possession and open carrying of butterfly knives but restrict and/or prohibit concealed carrying of butterfly knives.³

¹ These states include: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming. Note Texas has blade length restrictions for certain locations.

² These states include California, Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, and New Jersey.

³ These states include Utah, Florida, West Virginia, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, and Oregon.

13. Thus, in forty-three (43) states, it is lawful to possess and carry butterfly knives either openly or concealed.
14. A large majority of states in this country consider butterfly knives standard folding knives.
15. Unquestionably, butterfly knives are commonly and lawfully owned and carried in Hawaii and throughout the United States.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed within the United States on August 28, 2020

**Douglas S.
Ritter**

Doug Ritter
Chairman and Executive Director of
Knife Rights Foundation, Inc.

Digitally signed by Douglas S. Ritter
DN: cn=Douglas S. Ritter, o=Knife
Rights Foundation, Inc., ou=Chairman,
email=dritter@kniferrights.org, c=US
Date: 2020.08.28 14:04:04 -07'00'