

MAR - 7 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS OF EACH COUNTY, HUMANE SOCIETIES IN EACH COUNTY, AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO COLLABORATE TO CREATE AND DISSEMINATE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO HIGHLIGHT THE DANGERS OF, AND ADVOCATE AGAINST THE USE OF, ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY, PETS, AND WILDLIFE.

1 WHEREAS, illegal fireworks in Hawaii pose a significant
2 safety, environmental, and health issue and this body finds it
3 necessary for agencies across the islands to place a public
4 service announcement (PSA) concerning fireworks safety; and
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6 WHEREAS, past PSAs have been effective in changing
7 attitudes and behaviors regarding tobacco, and this body seeks
8 to do likewise with a fireworks PSA; and
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10 WHEREAS, fireworks are viewed in many communities in Hawaii
11 as merely harmless fun; and
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13 WHEREAS, in just one day, from December 31, 2023, to
14 January 1, 2024, the Honolulu Fire Department responded to
15 twenty-three fireworks-related fires; and
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17 WHEREAS, during this period, Honolulu Emergency Medical
18 Services also responded to seven fireworks-related injuries,
19 including to keiki and kupuna, that were disfiguring and will
20 have life-long consequences for the injured individuals; and
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22 WHEREAS, during December 2023 alone, the Department of Law
23 Enforcement confiscated sixteen tons of illegal fireworks and
24 since its inception, the Department has seized 35,000 pounds of
25 fireworks; and
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1 WHEREAS, fireworks can also trigger a military veteran's
2 post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as seven percent of all
3 veterans on average will suffer from PTSD during their
4 lifetimes; and

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6 WHEREAS, however, of the more recent veterans of the
7 Persian Gulf war, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation
8 Enduring Freedom, thirty percent will experience PTSD during
9 their lifetimes; and

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11 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
12 Veterans Affairs, fireworks may cue memories of combat or
13 explosions and may be reminders of intense fires or gun
14 violence; and

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16 WHEREAS, according to The Humane Society of the United
17 States, during holidays involving fireworks, pet animals are
18 often frightened from the noise and commotion of fireworks,
19 causing them to flee from familiar environments, often becoming
20 lost; and

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22 WHEREAS, the bright lights from fireworks frequently cause
23 animals to run into the streets, and wildlife rehabilitation
24 centers are often flooded with all sorts of wildlife affected by
25 fireworks; and

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27 WHEREAS, during the 2022 New Year Celebration, the Hawaiian
28 Humane Society indicated that twenty percent of pets are lost
29 during celebrations involving fireworks and that during that
30 time, it received seventy to eighty animals after the New Year;
31 and

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33 WHEREAS, as an isolated archipelago, Hawaii is home to many
34 unique and endemic species of wildlife, including twenty-six
35 forest bird species, and most of these species are considered
36 vulnerable, near-threatened, threatened, endangered, or
37 critically endangered; and

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39 WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
40 Administration has stated that the trash from fireworks poses
41 major risks to animals, because sea birds and marine animals can
42 mistake this debris for food, resulting in malnutrition,



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1 internal injuries, intestinal blockage, starvation, and even
2 death; and

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4 WHEREAS, the effects of illegal fireworks are significant
5 and wide-ranging, including the physical injuries to and
6 psychological effects on individuals, to the displacement of
7 pets, and the negative impact on wildlife; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Law
12 Enforcement, fire departments and police departments of each
13 county, humane societies in each county, and media organizations
14 throughout the State are urged to collaborate to create and
15 disseminate public service announcements to highlight the
16 dangers of, and advocate against the use of, illegal fireworks
17 in order to protect the health and safety of the community,
18 pets, and wildlife; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Law
22 Enforcement; Fire Chiefs of the Honolulu Fire Department, Hawaii
23 Fire Department, Maui Fire Department, and Kauai Fire
24 Department; Police Chiefs of the Honolulu Police Department,
25 Hawaii Police Department, Maui Police Department, and Kauai Fire
26 Department; President and CEO of the Hawaiian Humane Society;
27 President of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Island Humane
28 Society; CEO of Maui Humane Society; Executive Director of Kauai
29 Humane Society; President and General Manager of Hawaii News
30 Now; General Manager of KHON2; President & General Manager of
31 KITV; President & General Manager of Hawaii Public Radio; head
32 of iHeartMedia in Honolulu; President & Publisher of the
33 *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*; Editor and General Manager of Honolulu
34 *Civil Beat*; editor of the *Hawaii Tribune Herald*; editor of *West*
35 *Hawaii Today*; Publisher of *The Maui News*; and Editor of *The*
36 *Garden Island*.

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