

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0508 HD 1
RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 3/16/2021

Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this measure which proposes to
3 increase the fines in the Fireworks Control Law, Chapter 132D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).
4 If the Legislature determines that raising monetary penalties will help improve compliance
5 enforcement and deter illegal fireworks use, then increasing penalties through the existing
6 Fireworks Control Law is the most direct and efficient method. Elevating the fines in HRS 132D
7 will enable higher penalties to be levied against violators. In addition, as stated in the bill and
8 required by the Fireworks Control Law, eighty percent of the additional penalties collected will
9 be allocated to the counties to further support law enforcement.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

LATE

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 508, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am Steven Goble, Vice Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 508, HD1, which proposes to increase the fines associated with the illegal use of consumer fireworks and display fireworks outside of the times permitted by law.

The SFC fully supports increased fines on the use of fireworks by the general public. The widespread use of fireworks endangers the public, not only when it is being used, but also when it is transported throughout the state. Deaths and serious injuries have occurred along with property damage. Communities are impacted by noise and pollution preceding these holiday celebrations. For New Year's Eve 2020, media reported one adult male fatality on Kauai and at least seven people, including juveniles, were injured from fireworks misuse.

The increase in fines may deter individuals from the illegal use of fireworks and aid law enforcement in their efforts to curtail this growing problem. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC, and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 508, HD 1.

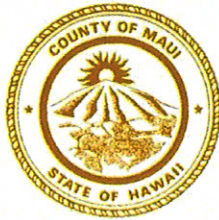
Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

Steven Goble
Vice Chair

SG:GL:st

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor
DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief
BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

March 16, 2021

LATE

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 508, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am David C. Thyne, member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports HB 508, HD 1, which proposes to increase the fines associated with the illegal use of consumer fireworks and display fireworks outside of the times permitted by law.

The SFC fully supports increased fines on the use of fireworks by the general public. The widespread use of fireworks endangers the public, not only when it is being used, but also when it is transported throughout the state. Deaths and serious injuries have occurred along with property damage. Neighborhoods are impacted by noise and pollution for months preceding these holiday celebrations. For New Year's Eve 2020, Hawaii news media organizations reported one adult male fatality on Kauai and at least seven people, including juveniles, were injured from fireworks misuse.

The increase in fines may deter individuals from the illegal use of fireworks and aid law enforcement in their efforts to curtail this growing problem. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC, and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 508, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Thyne".

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: March 12, 2021

To: Chair Senator Clarence Nishihara
Vice Chair Senator J. Kalani English
and Members of the Committee on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 508, HD1: Relating to Fireworks
Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 1 p.m., Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 508 HD1, which increases the fines associated with the illegal use of consumer fireworks and display fireworks, articles pyrotechnic, and aerial devices outside of the times permitted by law.

Hawaiian Humane supports any attempt to remove fireworks from residential neighborhoods, to increase penalties, and to enhance enforcement. At what should be joyous times for local families, illegal fireworks fill our neighborhoods with unexpected explosions that terrorize pets and people alike. Making matters worse, these bombs increasingly go off for weeks at a time.

Animals who flee their homes in fear are at enormous risk of injury and death. Good Samaritans often bring deceased pets to the Hawaiian Humane Society with the goal of providing closure to their owners. That number averages 1-2 a day. Between New Year's Day and Jan. 2 the number spikes. This year we received 13 deceased animals within that timeframe, last year 14 and in 2019 seven. Even when families keep their pets safely indoors, the loud noises fireworks produce cause fear, anxiety and stress in animals. This anxiety can do lasting damage to a pet's emotional and physical health. Neither people nor animals should have to take tranquilizers just to survive the impacts of illegal behavior by their neighbors.

We urge the committee to restore peace and safety to our neighborhoods and leave fireworks displays to the professionals. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-508-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 3:37:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Fire works has bin tradition longer then you people have bin here.

We the people say there is nothing wrong with Fire works and you work for US so leave it alone or yor are expandable.

HB-508-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 3:52:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB 508, HD 1 to increase the fines associated with the illegal use of consumer fireworks and display fireworks, articles pyrotechnic, and aerial devices outside of the times permitted by law.

This past year's New Year consumer fireworks was the worst in air quality and noise level pollution that occurred before the holiday, during and after the holiday's allowable time periods. I shudder to think that the upcoming July 4th and New Year's Day 2021 will be another air quality and noise level pollution that will have to be endured without the passage of this bill. It is a safety and health issue for human beings and animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support the passage of HB 508, HD 1.

HB-508-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 5:38:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB508, so we can have more effective penalties to deter use of illegal fireworks. Our currentn enforcement scheme seems to not be detrming illegal fireworks, which are used all around our islands. Every year, we have tragic (but not unforeseeable) injuries caused by illegal fireworks, along with unnecessary psychological stress and trauma to people and pets who find the explosions very diffiult to tolerate.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

HB-508-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 9:11:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

in full support. amazing how in the pandemic with people hurting they still had kala to buy and use fireworks, often illegally

HB-508-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 9:04:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/16/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Regardless if it has already been illegal and that there have been fines and arrest people continue to break the law and pop them at random times of the day. With a greater incentive for law enforcement, hopefully it would motivate them to pursue finding those popping them.