SB 2

Measure Title:

RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Report Title:

Fireworks; Ban; Cultural and Religious Exceptions

Description:

Bans consumer fireworks except for religious and cultural purposes; requires counties to regulate the hours of sales of fireworks for religious or cultural purposes.



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS State Fire Council 830 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs The State Senate State Capitol, Room 207 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs The State Senate State Capitol, Room 205 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and English:

Subject: S.B. 2 Relating to Fireworks

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support S.B. 2, which proposes a statewide ban on the use of consumer fireworks, except for religious cultural purposes as allowed with a permit, and requires counties to regulate the hours of sales of fireworks.

- S.B. 2 would prevent deaths, injuries, health-related problems, property damage, and air and noise pollution due to consumer fireworks. Fireworks-related injuries and fireworks incidents for fire and police departments have steadily increased during the past three years. A high percentage of these injuries are to children ages 2-16 years. Consumer fireworks, including sparklers, reach temperatures of 1000 °F.
- S.B. 2 will also reduce the number of incidents for the HFD, the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, and Honolulu Police Department, thus resulting in a savings of funds and resources. More importantly, unnecessary delays due to resources being

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair Page 2 February 11, 2009

spread thinly during Fourth of July (Independence Day) and New Year's Eve will be reduced for individuals desperately needing emergency services.

The SFC and the HFD request your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2.

Should you have any questions, please call HFD Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

Sincerely,

KENNETH G. SILVA

Thurls sil

Chair

KGS/LR:bh

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE 1060 RICHARDS STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 AREA CODE 808 • 527-6494

PETER B. CARLISLE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



DOUGLAS S. CHIN FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS THE HONORABLE J. KALANI ENGLISH, CHAIR SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Twenty-Fifth State Legislature Regular Session of 2009 State of Hawaii

February 12, 2009

RE: S.B. 2; RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

Chair Espero and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, Chair English and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following comments in support of the intent of Senate Bill 2.

The purpose of S.B. 2 is to ban the use of consumer fireworks in the state except for religious or cultural purposes as allowed by permit issued by a county or its designee. In addition, fireworks used for cultural or religious purposes may only be used from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Although we understand that it has been customary in Hawaii to play fireworks at certain times of the year, notably on New Year's Eve, we believe that the public health and safety concerns surrounding consumer fireworks use, make a public discussion about some kind of ban on the use of firework timely.

Each new year, heavy smoke from consumer fireworks has caused health and respiratory issues for many Hawaii residents. Fires caused by fireworks have frequently been a major problem for county fire departments. Emergency service personnel also have an additional workload each new year with firework related injuries. We believe the enjoyment fireworks bring some residents has to be balanced with the risk of injury and property damage fireworks use brings each year. We would support some kind of ban on

fireworks use, but believe that a full discussion should be had to determine whether there should be a complete statewide ban or a ban in certain counties.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET - HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 TELEPHONE (808) 529-3111 - INTERNET www.honolulupd.org

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DUR REFERENCE MM-MK

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair and Members
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair and Members
Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and English and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2, Relating to Fireworks

I am Major Michael Moses of the District 8, Kapolei Station, of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2, which bans consumer fireworks except for religious and cultural purposes.

The HPD, Honolulu Fire Department, and Emergency Medical Services respond to numerous calls for service involving fireworks-related incidents. These calls for service put a tremendous strain on the resources of all emergency service providers. Injuries and or deaths due to fireworks-related incidents are a concern along with the hazards they present to individuals with respiratory problems. The use of fireworks also presents a problem with brushfires along the Leeward Coast and other areas with dry vegetation.

The HPD urges your support in passing Senate Bill No. 2. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL MOSES, Major

District 8

APPROVED BY:

BOISSE P. CORRE
Chief of Police

Serving and Protecting With Aloha



LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES OF HAWAII

820 Mililani St., Ste. 810 Honolulu, HI 96813

PH: 533-6750 FAX: 599-2606 www.lish.info Email: lishawaii@aol.com

February 12, 2009

Testimony to: Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Transportation, International & Intergovernmental Affairs

Senator J. Kalani English, Chair Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

By:

Richard C. Botti

Lauren Zirbel

LISH Represents both retailers and wholesalers of fireworks in Hawaii

Re:

SB 0002 RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Chairs & Committee Members:

We oppose the passage of SB 0002. With that said, we would like to provide some history on fireworks in Hawaii.

Prior to 1995 each county had their own regulations on fireworks, with each being different. Because of variances in ordinances, fireworks would find their way from one island to another, creating an impossibility to control the situation. The situation was completely unacceptable for safety purposes. It was agreed that there must be one law statewide, that banned aerial fireworks, which was the major safety issue, since they can go over property lines, thereby creating unintended damage.

We asked a key council member in the Honolulu City Council if this would cause a problem, and the answer was that the Honolulu Council has no pride of ownership on the fireworks issue. A working group had been established with stakeholders to address the issue, and a state law was put together that would make it illegal for any consumer fireworks to be set off that traveled higher or wider than twelve feet. The purpose was to keep fireworks within the property of the user. Further, in 2000, the law was amended to make it a Class C Felony as a means to show the seriousness of the crime.

Fast forward to today. While the law has worked well, the flaw now is enforcement from those that are not satisfied with consumer fireworks that are approved by the U.S. Products Safety Council because of the following reasons:

- By importing and selling illegal aerials, the black marketing of fireworks is very
 profitable. No laws to comply with, so long as you don't get caught, no taxes to pay, and
 you are selling excitement;
- Enforcement is minimal with law enforcement saying they can't enforce the law because they can't catch the user in the act, or with the illegal product.

In summation, excluding those individuals that want to ban everything, the issue is not the legal fireworks that are causing the problem, but rather illegal aerials. If they are already illegal, banning them will create a situation that:

- Will promote the sale of all fireworks underground, where:
 - Government will have no control;
 - Government will receive no fees or taxes; and
 - Current jobs that are related to fireworks sales will be eliminated creating a higher unemployment.
- Create a legal issue of banning freedom of religion and/or culture events;
- · Costs of law enforcement will increase, and
- · Consumers will still have fireworks.

How can we predict the above? Simply put, look at what is happening with illegal drugs, liquor and tobacco use by minors, and illegal aerial fireworks.

So, what's the solution?

- Enforce the laws that we have; and
- Enhance existence laws with better enforcement tools.

How?

- Amend forfeiture laws to include the forfeiture of personal property involved in the importation, storage, and/or sale of illegal fireworks;
- Create a method for anonymous calls to government of violations where the person reporting will receive a reward; and
- Provide a means for law enforcement to issue citations to violators of any of the fireworks laws.

The law is not broken. It is enforcement of the law that is broke. A ban will create another set of problems that are sure to be far worse. Lets fix what's broken.

Oahu

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 575 Honolulu, HI 96817 Tel: (808) 537-5966 Fax: (808) 537-5971 lung@ala-hawaii.org

Kauai

2992 Umi Street Lihue, HI 96766 Tel: (808) 245-4142 Fax: (808) 245-8488 alahkauai@ala-hawaii.org

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95 Mahalani Street, Suite # 28-1A Wailuku, HI 96793 Tel: (808) 244-5110 Fax: (808) 242-9041 alahmaui@ala-hawaii.org

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39 Ululani Street Hilo, HI 96720 Tel: (808) 935-1206 Fax: (808) 935-7474 alahbi@ala-hawaii.org

Website: www.ala-hawaii.org

E-mail: lung@ala-hawaii.org

Lung HelpLine 1-800- LUNG-USA (586-4872)

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Improving Life One Breath at a Time

Founded in 1904, the American Lung Association includes affiliated associations throughout the U.S.



TO: Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

FOR: Hearing Scheduled for 1:00 pm, Thursday, February 12, 2009

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2 RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Bunda and Committee Members:

The American Lung Association in Hawaii strongly supports SB 2 that bans consumer fireworks in Hawaii.

Over 154,000 people in Hawaii, or nearly 13 percent of our population suffer from some type of lung disease, which is made worse by exposure to the particulate smoke from fireworks. Hawaii has the second highest rate in the nation for childhood asthma and many adults, especially the elderly, suffer from chronic lung disease including emphysema and COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). Even people who do not have lung problems often report eye, throat and lung irritation on New Year's Eve.

With so many people experiencing breathing problems directly related to fireworks, the American Lung Association in Hawaii strongly supports any measure that will clear the air. Every year the American Lung Association publishes the State of the Air report for the nation and each state. Hawaii, with its generally clean air, receives high marks with the exception of a "D" for short-term air pollution as a result of one night – New Year's Eve.

We receive many calls for assistance related to fireworks. All we are able to do is suggest that those with lung problems stay indoors with the windows and doors closed, avoid physical exertion, get plenty of rest, keep medications available should they need them and seek immediate medical help should their condition worsen. Some people find that a particle mask helps, while for others a mask makes it harder to breathe. We hear that some people flee to remote parts of the Neighbor Islands, or rent an airconditioned hotel room for the duration. However, for most of the 154,000 people none of these options is practical or affordable.

We strongly support this measure to protect the health of everyone in Hawaii and assure us the clearest air possible. This is especially important as people are facing more breathing problems as a result of increasing volcanic activity and vog.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Evans, MPH, Executive Director The American Lung Association in Hawaii February 10, 2009

RE: SB2, FIREWORKS BILL

Aloha Committee Members:

We support this bill to ban consumer fireworks, except for religious or cultural purposes. In fact, our preference would be to ban them entirely, but it's doubtful that such a bill would ever pass. Please support the many island residents, police and fire departments that are in support of this bill.

Illegal fireworks has been a problem for years, so much so we have previously elected to go neighbor island to escape the proliferation of noise and smoke during the 4th of July, and on New Year's Eve. We felt safe this year and stayed home due to the poor economy, expecting that with so many residents out of work and struggling to get by, they wouldn't foolishly waste their money on fireworks. Boy were we mistaken.

In our Kailua neighborhood, illegal bombs and fireworks have terrorized residents since well before Thanksgiving by childish, inconsiderate, reckless morons and they continue to be set off every weekend. Like the rest of us, the Obama family must have been miserable hearing bombs going off day and night throughout the holidays.

We're fed up and see no reason that some kind of control isn't in place. We hear from others that it's an ongoing problem throughout the islands and the many letters to the newspapers support these claims.

Unfortunately, the immediate neighbors are too scared of retribution to call the police. We've called, but without an exact location they won't even investigate.

Why are lawbreakers not prosecuted? Enough excuses! When two employees of a fireworks operation were caught selling illegals, why wasn't the entire business shut down? One was the owner's son. How many other companies could continue to operate without consequence with confirmed illegal activity taking place on the premises?

With the passage of this bill more vigorous action can finally be taken to crack down on these criminals and protect the public. Where is the concern and support for law abiding citizens? How many veterans and their families suffer when they hear these bombs, not to mention young children and the elderly? Enough is enough already!

Please support SB2.

Sincerely,

Richard and Isabel Figel Kailua, HI To: Senate Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

SENATOR WILL ESPERO, Chair

SENATOR ROBERT BUNDA, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, Chair SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, Vice Chair

From: Colleen Y. Aina, Owner

PINKY'S 5 EIGHT (retail, convenience store)

Papaikou, HI 96781 (808) 640-4745

Hearing Date: February 12, 2009

Hearing Time: 1:00pm

Hearing Place: Conference Room 229

Subject: SB2 (Ban consumer fireworks except for religious & cultural purposes)

Position: OPPOSITION TO SB2

We are opposed to SB2 which will ban all consumer fireworks except for religious and cultural purposes. Although sympathetic to those whose cultural heritage is closely tied to fireworks, several pivotal points of clarification need to be addressed:

Concern #1: <u>TIME OF DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS</u>: As currently written in SB2, the consumer is allowed a 12-hour period (9am to 9pm) to discharge fireworks. Under current law, discharging of New Year's fireworks is a FOUR hour window (9pm to 1am) and 4th of July fireworks is an EIGHT hour window (1pm to 9pm). SB2 is increasing the time of discharge by at least 8 hours during New Year's.

Concern #2: <u>CRITERIA DEFINITION OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS EVENTS</u>: What is defined as a cultural and religious event? The assumption is New Year's, Chinese New Year and 4th of July. But SB2 does not designate the criteria. Is SB2 allowing through default, cultural and religious events to occur 365 days a year?

Concern #3: <u>RETAILER INVENTORY PURCHASE & SALE</u>: Under current law, the criteria for purchase of consumer fireworks is stipulated as "...unlawful to purchase consumer fireworks more than five calendar days before the time periods for permissible use under section 132D-3". Retailers use this as a determining point when inventory needs to ordered, received and readied for sale. Currently, there is a minimum of a six month span between placing an order and receipt of inventory to store door.

SB2 eliminates the purchase criteria. It is left up to the Counties to adopt ordinances to regulate the purchase periods. But before the Counties can create this ordinance, they need a guideline that clearly defines acceptable Cultural and Religious Events.

Retailers need to be informed about these Events since inventory needs to be available for sale during these periods.

Concern #4: <u>INCREASE ILLEGAL FIREWORKS SALE</u>: If creating all the roadblocks to discharge of fireworks frustrates the consumer, would it make it more palatable for him to purchase illegal fireworks---No permit required; no restrictions, no hassle?

In summation, SB2 leaves many details that need clarification. Clarification is integral to creation of a law that is realistic and enforceable. Clarification is important to define parameters and guidelines for the issuing departments for effective implementation and enforcement. SB2 leaves many questions unanswered. Therefore, we oppose SB2.

----Original Message----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 1:26 PM

To: PSM Testimony Cc: jteleia@yahoo.com

Subject: Testimony for SB2 on 2/12/2009 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for PSM-TIA 2/12/2009 1:00:00 PM SB2

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Jeanne Teleia Organization: Individual

Address: 47-669 Melekula Rd., #10 Kaneohe

Phone: 808-224-5008

E-mail: jteleia@yahoo.com Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of SB2. Me, my family members and my neighbors have had enough of the public nuisance and public health threats of fireworks that have become out of control over the years. Please consider the following points:

1). Cruelty to Animals: Most important is for you to understand how hurtful fireworks are to animals and pets to the point that we have to send our animals away to a quieter place (if we can find one and have to pay an unnecessary expense) or drug them. When they are too old to be drugged, they all suffer uncontrollable shaking or bark out of terror and pain. This is animal abuse plain and simple.

2) Social and Neighborhood Impact: We are driven from our homes because of the smoke and noise from the illegal fireworks that are set off for up to a month before or after July 4 and New Year's. Because so many people obtain too many fireworks without permits or are illegally compounding fireworks for bigger blasts, it is not possible to remain at home—even to protect it from fire that has caused property damage. No only is the noise from the fireworks too startling and upsetting but the big blasts set off car alarms constantly. The police will not come to the area to patrol unless they have an exact address of an offender.

People don't care who they are bothering and what they blow up or set on fire. Adolescents and kids have been seen lighting others' property on fire for amusement and blowing up glass bottles. Adults are not adequately supervising minors or are participating in it themselves.

- 3) Environmental Impact: People set off fireworks in the road which is illegal. They create and then leave rubbish everywhere which then flows into streams and waterways polluting the oceans and rivers, which is hurting sea and fresh water animals. That kind of litter everywhere contributes to the poor landscape here that is strewn with litter already.
- 4) Health Impact: The smoke is dangerous in many communities and especially affects children and adults with asthma. The smoke and chemicals for making fireworks is toxic to our air, water and 'aina.

Every year there are reports of injuries and fires. I even know of deaths and serious permanent injuries related to firework use. It is not worth the cost to our already overtaxed public safety and health providers. Every year the police and fire departments ask for lawmakers to put an end to this unnecessary practice. People are being sent to jail for the injuries they have caused innocents, causing even further pain to all connected friends and families. For what??!

- 5) Financial Impact: Having to go to a hotel for some days before and after fireworks days is cost prohibitive, if you could even find one that takes animals. Our friends found a hotel for their animals this past New Year's and it was 80% full with local people with their animals.
- In addition, people are paying thousands of dollars for fireworks that they clearly cannot afford to participate in 'contests' with others in the area for the biggest displays or loudest booms. Some people cannot be trusted to behave maturely and with an eye toward the good of their own families and the community. Unfortunately, even if they are few, they are having a tremendous negative impact on the whole community. I would rather see a state lotto for people to waste their money on for 'fun' than fireworks since at least a lotto would see some benefit to the state.
- 6) Community Mental Health Impact: As a mental health professional working with many active duty military and others who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I am very concerned about their reactivity during fireworks season. One solider reported after a loud blast having a flashback and running for cover. This is dangerous to them and to our own community members on many levels. It is also incredibly disrespectful to those who we say we honor for their service but then cause them a lot of unnecessary pain and stress.

Saying fireworks is a religious or cultural tradition is really not a valid argument anymore since no one is really doing it for those reasons. It comes from the Chinese tradition which doesn't celebrate July 4th or the same New Year's everyone is blowing off fireworks for. I totally support having controlled fireworks by professionals for cultural display on July 4th, Chinese New Year and even traditional New Year's but that is all that is necessary. I hope you will seriously consider this testimony and I know I speak for many in my community.

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair, the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and other members of the Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

DATE:

Thursday, February 12, 2009

1:00 p.m., Room 229

RE:

SB 2 Relating to Fireworks

POSITION:

STRONG SUPPORT

As a resident of the downtown Honolulu area, fireworks are an unnecessary source of nuisance. Although I understand the cultural significance of fireworks in Hawaii, the use of fireworks has gotten out of control.

During the holiday seasons, many people disregard the law and use illegal fireworks at all times. Because fireworks are placed on sale five days before New Year's Day and July 4th, people continue to play fireworks days before and after the permissible times.

Because people have continued to abuse the law, we suffer the repercussions: sleepless nights and aggravated breathing due to excessive smoke.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. Please pass SB 2, as it will greatly improve the atmosphere of our community.

Fetu Kolio 1235 Pua Lane, 34-D Honolulu, HI 96817

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair, the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and other members of the Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

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Eleanor Kolio 1235 Pua Lane, 34-D Honolulu, HI 96817

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Keoondorie Thakhambor 649 N. Vineyard, 35-B Honolulu, HI 96817 450-9493

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Genevive Cadnette 649 N. Vineyard, 35-A Honolulu, HI 96817

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Joanna Thakhambor 649 N. Vineyard, 35-B Honolulu, HI 96817

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Rose 650 Kukui St., 32-A Honolulu, HI 96817

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Awleen Paul 1235 Pua Lane, 34-M Honolulu, HI 96817 953-4036

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Randy Nicky 1330 Liliha St., 20-G Honolulu, HI 96817

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Aosy Helly 1330 Liliha St., 20-G Honolulu, HI 96817

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Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. Please pass SB 2, as it will greatly improve the atmosphere of our community.

Francis Kerat 1235 Pua Lane, 34-M Honolulu, HI 96817 953-4036

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair, the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and other members of the Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

DATE:

Thursday, February 12, 2009

1:00 p.m., Room 229

RE:

SB 2 Relating to Fireworks

POSITION:

STRONG SUPPORT

As a resident of the downtown Honolulu area, fireworks are an unnecessary source of nuisance. Although I understand the cultural significance of fireworks in Hawaii, the use of fireworks has gotten out of control.

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Marino Ricky 1235 Pua Lane, 34-L Honolulu, HI 96817

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Judy Ricky 1235 Pua Lane, 34-L Honolulu, HI 96817

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Leonard Lester 1235 Pua Lane, 34-J Honolulu, HI 96817

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Fiailoa Muliaga 1211 Pua Lane, 34-J Honolulu, HI 96817

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Binasita Eram 566 Kukui St., 25-E Honolulu, HI 96817

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair, the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and other members of the Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

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Augafa Ene 1120 Desha Lane, 6-B Honolulu, HI 96817

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Shirleen Cordiero 1118 Pua Lane, #305 Honolulu, HI 96817

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair, the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and other members of the Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

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Rina Perbera 1202 Pua Lane, #1 Honolulu, HI 96817

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Nancy Antonio 1202 Pua Lane, #2 Honolulu, HI 96817

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Ceimomi Cho 1202 Pua Lane, #5 Honolulu, HI 96817

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Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. Please pass SB 2, as it will greatly improve the atmosphere of our community.

Daniel L. Dudden 1120 Pua Lane, #302 Honolulu, HI 96817 262-8282

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair, the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and other members of the Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

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Cardy Fang 1119 Banyan St., Honolulu, HI 96817

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Precy Valenzuela 814 Kanoa St. Honolulu, HI 96817

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David Sorress 3669 N. Vineyard Blvd. Honolulu, HI 96817 306-3729

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair, the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and other members of the Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

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Darren Seto 1230 Pua Lane Honolulu, HI 96817 221-3368

The Honorable J. Kalani English, Chair, the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and other members of the Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

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Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. Please pass SB 2, as it will greatly improve the atmosphere of our community.

Dayna Kane 1230 Pua Lane Honolulu, HI 96817 349-9750 ----Original Message----

From: bpbh oo [mailto:bpbhoo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 3:40 PM

To: PSM Testimony

Subject: SB2 - Ban relating to fireworks - TESTIMONY

Dear State Legislators:

I am submitting my testimony re--

Bill SB2: RELATING TO FIREWORKS. Bans consumer fireworks except for religious and cultural purposes; requires counties to regulate the hours of sales of fireworks for religious or cultural purposes.

Hearing date and time: Thursday, January 12, 2009 - 1pm

I am in favor of this ban. Every New Year's Eve, I, and my fellow animal lovers, dread the noise from the fireworks as it terrifies the animals. We all hunker down and worry about the well-being of our pets. I even feel sorry for the stray animals who have no one to look out for them. Not all animals can be tranquilized. I have heard of someone's pet bunny dying of fright in its cage. Do try to put yourselves in their place.

There is also the potential for stray embers to ignite fires that could cause harm to humans or property. Let us not wait for someone to be killed in a fireworks-related incident before change is made. I know the fireworks are supposed to be a tradition but just because something has always been done a certain way does not mean that that is the right thing to do. I am from Hong Kong. Consumer fireworks was banned there decades ago, and the Chinese invented fireworks! As a compromise, perhaps an aerial display could be the new "tradition"?

I thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely, Sharon Young

Written Statement of Yvonne Isobe

Before the
Senate Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs
And
Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs
Thursday, February 12, 2009
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of SB 2 RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Chairs Espero and English, Vice Chairs Bunda and Gabbard and members of the committees.

I am truly whole heartedly in full support of SB 2.

I am a Makiki condo dweller with two pet dogs. We are being exposed to the noise pollution of fire crackers and aerials being set off throughout the whole year. It happens when you do not expect it. These load noises causes undue stress to my pets and also causes them to bark. Their barking in turn disrupts my condo neighbors which is not good!

I prefer a full ban on all fireworks but understand your consideration given for religious or cultural purposes.

Thank you very much for hearing my opinion on this matter.

----Original Message----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 7:40 PM

To: PSM Testimony

Cc: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com

Subject: Testimony for SB2 on 2/12/2009 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for PSM-TIA 2/12/2009 1:00:00 PM SB2

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Jeannine Johnson

Organization: Individual

Address: 5648 Pia Street Honolulu, HI

Phone: 373-2874

E-mail: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

I fully support a total ban of fireworks. I humbly ask for your support.