

Linda Lingie
Governor



Darwin L.D. Ching
Director

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

February 23, 2010

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 302
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Karamatsu:

Subject: S.B. 1059, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 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. 1059, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 and offer the following comments:

1. We support the statewide ban of consumer fireworks, with the exception of special events and professional public fireworks displays.
2. We believe each county should determine the potential hazards of fireworks and the benefit to their community by further restricting fireworks use based on each county's needs and resources. Chapter 132D-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes states that no county may enact stricter laws or rules relating to the present fireworks law.
3. We support measures that make the arrest and prosecution for illegal purchase, possession, setting off, igniting, or discharging of fireworks easier and increase the penalties and consequences for convictions of fireworks violations.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva".

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:bh

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Danny Clark [dsclark@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 10:06 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: S.B. 1059 - RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Subject:[S.B. 1059—RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Date:Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Time:2 p.m.

From:Danny Clark <dsclark@hawaii.rr.com>

To:JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov.

Dear Committee Members:

The proliferation of aerial fireworks and "bombs" is outrageous. The people shooting off these things are not doing it for religious or cultural reasons; these types of fireworks have never been part of religious or cultural rites. They start shooting them off around Thanksgiving, and since when are fireworks a part of Christmas? It's hard to assist the police in identifying the culprits because the aerals are flying all over the place, and the loud "bombs" echo all around. It's like being in the middle of a battlefield; I don't believe most citizens like having this cacophony imposed on them year in and year out—it ruins the holidays for the majority of residents. If people want to see those kinds of pyrotechnics, they should go to a display conducted by professionals away from residential areas; it would be more sensible and safer. How many fires and injuries will it take to get action? When will there be some aloha for those with respiratory problems? Why should they have to lock themselves in an air-conditioned rooms during the holidays? Both the Fire Department and the Police Department support a total ban on fireworks; we should back them up. Banning fireworks is a no-brainer for those with brains, and the best way to control illegal fireworks is to cut off the supply by inspecting containers coming into the State.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny S. Clark
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