

LATE TESTIMONY

aquino1-Ruffalyne

From: Ann Freed [annfreed@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 2:17 AM
To: PBStestimony
Cc: Rep. Marilyn Lee

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY Rep. Faye P. Hanohano, Chair COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

I am in support of HB2068 RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

In the past five years Oahu has become a war zone for the months of December and January and to a certain extent July. Illegal fireworks are set off early in December and Continue past New Year's. In July the same thing happens.

Pyrotechnics are dangerous, produce horrendous noise and toxic smoke. They should be left to the experts and confined to public displays sanctioned by the counties.

The consequences of lax policies with respect to fireworks are grave. Those with allergies must stay indoors. Pets are terrified. Children are burned and/or killed. Houses burn down and property is damaged every year that this goes on. Not to mention the fact that most people can't even enjoy the peace of their own homes and are kept awake for many days before and after the holiday in question. The police can't seem to stop illegal displays that occur under the current law.

This past New Year's Eve I traveled to a party that was only a mile away and I couldn't read the street signs it was so smoky. There were numerous large types of fireworks in the middle of the roads, all the more dangerous because I couldn't see them to avoid running over them.

I don't agree with those who believe that their "culture" demands a fireworks free-for-all at certain times of the year. Those who are proponents of this point of view should have compassion for the majority of the people who are tired of suffering from this selfish practice. The fire department is sick of having to deal with the consequences and we should help by putting a stop to it.

I would like a total ban on all non-professional pyrotechnics. This bill represents a good start.

Please pass this bill out of committee.

Regards,

Ann S. Freed
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Maureen Andrade

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 7:49 AM
To: PBStestimony
Cc: reiziss@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2068 on 2/4/2010 8:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for PBS 2/4/2010 8:30:00 AM HB2068

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stann W. Reiziss, Ph.D.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: reiziss@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Justification for supporting HB2068:

- Between December 31 through January 2, 2010, one hundred and twelve persons were injured by fireworks; seven admitted a hospital. These numbers only account for reported injuries.
- The ages of those injured by fireworks ranged from two years old to eighty two.
- More children under sixteen years old were hurt from fireworks during this time frame than the entire month of injuries from auto accidents, poisonings, and assaults combined.
- No accurate account was even attempted to account for pets and wildlife emotionally traumatized or injured as a result of fireworks.
- Forty million, two hundred fifty thousand (8050 permits X 5000 firecrackers) were discharged. This number only accounts for fireworks requiring a permit. It obviously excludes all illegal discharges.
- According to the American Lung Association, there are at least 175,000 people in Hawaii with some type of lung disease.
- On a typical day in Honolulu, particulate matter ranges from 4 to 15 micrograms per cubic meter.
- On January 1st, 2010 the particulate matter from the fireworks explosions was measured by the Health Department as high as 632 micrograms per cubic meter. Far in excess of Federal standards.
- Surely even those living beings with healthy lungs were in jeopardy.
- Add to all this, the property damage from fireworks caused fires, the compression impact damage to property, and hearing damage caused by the numerous bottle bomb devices that punctuated the night.

- The Secret Service was put on alert in order to protect our vacationing President Obama and his family in case they were in danger of harm from fireworks, intentionally or inadvertently .

* If this isn't terrorism, a clear State security risk, please explain to me what is.

Plainly, all the ingredients and opportunities are omnipresent under the guise of "celebrating" the New Year and scaring away "evil" spirits through fireworks.

What could be more "evil" than the devastating effects of fireworks as outlined above?

- In my opinion, and in the opinion of the majority of the Hawaiian Island residents, fireworks must be banned for use by amateurs, and stringent laws of enforcement must be implemented.

- I implore you to immediately take every action you are empowered to use in order to mitigate, and preferably eradicate this clear, present, and continuing dangerous problem.