

LATE TESTIMONY



Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs

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Re: SB 171

Dear Members:

We oppose SB 171 in its current state. This bill attempts to paint the entire industry with a single brush that our product known as the Hawaii Sky Lantern is unsafe and should be banned.

There is not one scintilla of evidence anywhere this product has caused any injury, or property damage with over 300,000 units sold nationwide. In Hawaii alone 10,000 were sold. Not one complaint received from any Island.

The Hawaii Sky Lantern a private brand, which is mention in SB 171 in an attempt to Ban a perfectly safe product made with the best Fire-retardant materials. This lantern is used in Birthday celebrations, Weddings, Ceremonies, Parties etc.

The Hawaii Sky Lanterns has no concerns with the FAA and is allowed with carryon luggage on passenger aircrafts. It is that safe. You can't even bring sparklers on a passenger aircraft.

Hawaii Sky Lanterns are not a fireworks device. As I testified today I appeared before the Fire Chiefs annual meeting to discuss SB 171. I left the meeting knowing 3 out of 4 Fire Chiefs have never seen this device, however wrote a letter in support of SB 171. Not one Fire Chief was aware the Hawaii Sky Lantern is made of Fire-retardant paper.

Legislating and banning someone's product without having all the facts I believe would be wrong and anti business.

Similar devices are sold on Amazon.com so turning customers to the internet does regulate the product. In fact it makes regulating the product impossible.

When I spoke with the Sponsor of SB 171 he was unaware of the facts that I testified too this morning.

SB 171 needs further consideration and a rush to pass this legislation in our opinion is not fair. What would your constituents think of banning any item when many members don't have accurate facts, to support that type of position?

Please look at those four letters written by the Fire Chiefs. Those form letters reference Hawaii Sky Lanterns. They stated in those letters our products are dangerous. The same Chiefs stated on the record they have never seen our product? How could anyone come up with that type of conclusion?

It would be an honor to work with this committee on a sensible amendment.

I would welcome member's feedback via email, or phone.

It was an Honor appearing today and thank you for your time.

Best Regards

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