

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO
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February 18, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2737 House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support HB 2737, HD 1, which proposes to increase the display permit fee from \$110 to \$150 and the fine for certain fireworks violations from \$2,000 per violation to \$5,000 per violation. It also clarifies that each aerial device, fireworks display, or articles pyrotechnic having a total weight of 25 pounds or less that is illegally imported, transferred, or sold constitutes a separate violation and increases the penalty for removing or extracting the pyrotechnic contents.

This permit authorizes licensed pyrotechnicians to conduct outdoor aerial and indoor fireworks displays at special events. The permit fee has remained the same for 15 years; however, administrative costs to process, review, and approve have increased. This includes an on-site verification of fireworks inventory before and after the event, inspection of pyrotechnic equipment, evaluation of the firing site and safety precautions, distance to audiences, proximity to adjacent structures, nearby combustible vegetation, and weather conditions. Furthermore, the illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks permit fees and violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

Public safety and property protection are priorities for the HFD's approval of fireworks permits. The SFC and the HFD support any fireworks legislation that strengthens existing enforcement efforts and penalties and urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 2737 HD 1.

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
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February 18, 2020

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MPN', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:gl

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Lance S. Uchida
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
The House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: H.B. 2737, RELATING TO FIREWORKS
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2020
Time/Place of Hearing: 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

I am Darren J. Rosario, Vice Chairman of the Hawai'i State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The SFC and the HCFD support SB 2737, which proposes to increase the display permit fee from \$110 to \$150 and the fine for certain fireworks violations from \$2,000 per violation to \$5,000 per violation. It also clarifies that each aerial device, fireworks display, or articles pyrotechnic having a total weight of 25 pounds or less that is illegally imported, transferred, or sold constitutes a separate violation and increases the penalty for removing or extracting the pyrotechnic contents.

Each year, the abundance of illegal fireworks use is growing despite the measures we currently have in place. Funding to increase our ability to inspect and provide on-site fireworks inventory verification is one key area to deter the illegal use of fireworks.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Fire Department, I support the written testimony being submitted by State Fire Council Chair Manuel Neves in its entirety.

The SFC and the HCFD respectfully request your passage of HB 2737.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or darren.rosario@hawaiiicounty.gov should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Respectfully,

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief



HB-2737-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 11:00:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karin Nomura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this, as I'm hoping it will lessen the after holidays or daily from Oct. to usually March firework popping that goes on.

HB-2737-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 1:16:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

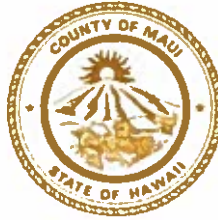
Please support HB2737. Fireworks not only are responsible for personal injuries such as blown off fingers, but they often are responsible for fires as well. Increasing permit fees will help decrease these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

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

February 19, 2020

LATE

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2737 House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am David C. Thyne, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support HB 2737, HD 1, which proposes to increase the display permit fee from \$110 to \$150 and the fine for certain fireworks violations from \$2,000 per violation to \$5,000 per violation. It also clarifies that each aerial device, fireworks display, or articles pyrotechnic having a total weight of 25 pounds or less that is illegally imported, transferred, or sold constitutes a separate violation and increases the penalty for removing or extracting the pyrotechnic contents.

This permit authorizes licensed pyrotechnicians to conduct outdoor aerial and indoor fireworks displays at special events. The permit fee has remained the same for 15 years; however, administrative costs to process, review, and approve have increased. This includes an on-site verification of fireworks inventory before and after the event, inspection of pyrotechnic equipment, evaluation of the firing site and safety precautions, distance to audiences, proximity to adjacent structures, nearby combustible vegetation, and weather conditions are some of the items reviewed. Furthermore, the illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks permit fees and violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

Public safety and property protection are priorities for the MFD's approval of fireworks permits. The SFC and the MFD support any fireworks legislation that strengthens existing enforcement efforts and penalties and urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 2737 HD 1.

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

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of David C. Thyne, written in a cursive style.

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief