
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF HARBOR INSPECTION
PROCEDURES OF STATE DEPARTMENTS FOR SHIPPING CONTAINERS TO
PREVENT THE IMPORTATION OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS INTO THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, in 2011, the City and County of Honolulu imposed a
2 partial fireworks ban on pyrotechnics use, making the possession
3 and use of aerial fireworks and certain other consumer fireworks
4 illegal; and
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6 WHEREAS, despite the ban, there continue to be numerous
7 instances of illegal firework use, which have caused physical
8 injuries and property damage; and
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10 WHEREAS, Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, established
11 the Illegal Fireworks Task Force to develop strategies and make
12 recommendations to the Legislature to address the illegal
13 importation and use of fireworks in the State; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Illegal Fireworks Task Force recommended in
16 its January 2011 report an increase in random inspections for
17 illegal fireworks by expanding the inspection authority for
18 state departments and focusing cargo inspections to make the
19 inspections more manageable; and
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21 WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 184, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,
22 the Legislative Reference Bureau updated the findings and
23 recommendations of the January 2011 report; and
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25 WHEREAS, the 2019 Legislative Reference Bureau report,
26 *Blast From the Past: An Update to the Report of the Illegal*
27 *Fireworks Task Force to the Legislature for the Regular Session*
28 *of 2011*, indicated that the "majority of respondents to the
29 [Legislative Reference] Bureau's Survey appeared to agree that
30 the issues and challenges presented by the Task Force in its
31 2011 report remain relevant today."; and



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2 WHEREAS, the state harbors system consists of ten
3 commercial harbors, all of which are under the authority of the
4 State; and
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6 WHEREAS, over ninety-nine percent of the more than two
7 hundred thousand shipping cargo containers that arrive in Hawaii
8 each year come through the State's commercial harbors, and only
9 a small fraction of these shipping containers are inspected by
10 government agencies; and
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12 WHEREAS, the lack of sufficient cargo inspections increases
13 the opportunity for illegal fireworks to enter the State; and
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15 WHEREAS, an audit of current harbor inspection procedures
16 of state departments for out-of-state and interisland arrivals
17 of shipping containers would:
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- 19 (1) Outline current inspection procedures at state
20 harbors;
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- 22 (2) Identify any shortcomings in the current procedures;
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- 24 (3) Determine whether the recommendations of the January
25 2011 Illegal Fireworks Task Force report and the 2019
26 Legislative Reference Bureau update to the Task
27 Force's report relating to harbor inspections have
28 been implemented and to what extent; and
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- 30 (4) Determine any necessary changes that would reduce the
31 volume of illegal fireworks being imported into the
32 State; now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
36 of 2022, that the Auditor is requested to conduct an audit of
37 current harbor inspection procedures of state departments for
38 shipping containers to prevent the importation of illegal
39 fireworks into the State; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
42 include in its audit:



- 1
2 (1) A review and description of current harbor inspection
3 procedures for illegal fireworks, including
4 inspections of out-of-state and interisland cargo;
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6 (2) A description of whether and to what extent
7 recommendations made in the January 2011 report of the
8 Illegal Fireworks Task Force and the Legislative
9 Reference Bureau's 2019 update to the report are being
10 implemented; and
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12 (3) Any recommendations, including any proposed
13 legislation, to reduce the importation of illegal
14 fireworks into the State; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
17 submit a report, including any findings, recommendations, and
18 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
19 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of
23 Transportation, Director of Agriculture, Director of Public
24 Safety, and Police Chiefs of the City and County of Honolulu,
25 County of Hawaii, County of Kauai, and County of Maui.

