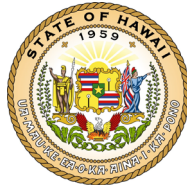


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2923 Relating to Fireworks

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports SB 2923, which increases the maximum fine that may be assessed per fireworks-related violation from \$2,000 to \$5,000, provided that the fireworks violation does not otherwise have a specific penalty enumerated in statute.

There is a general sense that the use of illegal fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. A search of youtube.com using the term "aerial fireworks Hawaii New Years" reveals pervasive use of illegal fireworks in many neighborhoods. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC and we respectfully request your committee's passage of SB 2923.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

STEVEN GOBLE
Chair

SG/GL

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

836 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2923 Relating to Fireworks

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports SB 2923, which increases the maximum fine that may be assessed per fireworks-related violation from \$2,000 to \$5,000, provided the fireworks violation does not otherwise have a specific penalty enumerated in statute.

A search of aerial fireworks in Hawaii via a major video-sharing website reveals pervasive use of illegal aerial fireworks in many neighborhoods thereby confirming the use of illegal fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the HFD, and we respectfully request your committee's passage of SB 2923.

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 808-723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheldon K. Hao".

SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

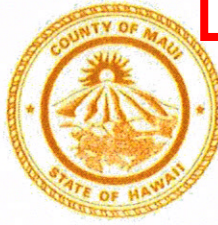
SKH/GL:cn

LATE

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2923 Relating to Fireworks

I am Bradford Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Chief to the Maui Fire Department. The SFC supports SB 2923, which increases the maximum fine that may be assessed per fireworks-related violation from \$2,000 to \$5,000, provided that the fireworks violation does not otherwise have a specific penalty enumerated in statute.

There is a general sense that the use of illegal fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. A search of youtube.com using the term "aerial fireworks Hawaii New Years" reveals pervasive use of illegal fireworks in many neighborhoods. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC and we respectfully request your committee's passage of SB 2923.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA

SB-2923

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 8:22:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT! Higher penalties are needed to deter illegal fireworks use!

Fireworks fired over the water can harm marine life.



LATE

PEARL CITY NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 21 <https://pearlcitynb.com/>

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD, SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

Chair Larry Veray, Vice-Chair Dion Mesta, Secretary Charmaine Doran, Treasurer Guy Inouye, Kuni Agard, Elayne Funakoshi, Jayden Liu, Lawrence Miyazono, Kelsey Poaha, Shanda Delos Reyes, Tony Velasco

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO EMPLOY THEIR RESOURCES TO STOP TONS OF ILLEGAL AERIAL FIREWORKS EXPLOSIVES BEING TRANSPORTED TO HAWAII

WHEREAS, several Hawaii residents have complained about illegal aerial fireworks that are negatively impacting their daily lives with bad actor neighbors and individuals launching low altitude extremely loud aerial bomb firework explosions at all hours of the day, all year around and primarily targeting neighborhoods late evenings while people are resting or at sleep, and

WHEREAS, bad actor individuals have modified illegal fireworks into Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) such as pipe bombs to create a much greater low altitude or ground extremely loud explosions which severely impacted the health and safety of the elderly in care homes, disabled Vets with PTSD, children and family pets with some running away from home and being hit by vehicles, and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature previously took action on illegal aerial fireworks with increasing fines and developing a task force in the year 2010 comprised of the Federal Government representatives from ATF, U.S Customs, U.S. Coast Guard, HPD, HFD and port facilities commercial shipping companies; however, this task force did not produce results or any interdiction of illegal fireworks at our port facilities due to the excuse of inspectors claiming there are too many containers to be inspected and the community perception of possible corruption with inspectors, and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Police Department is overwhelmed with the number of 911 calls that come in all year round and especially for New Years celebrations but the current law requires police officers to actually witness bad actor neighbors and individuals lighting the fuse of illegal fire works before any citation can be initiated or any further City prosecution which is not realistic for arresting the bad actors, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government such as ATF, FBI and Customs and Border Protection have the classified resources, technology and capabilities to identify, track, interdict and prosecute individuals involved in trans-national organized crime rings transporting and selling tons of explosive illegal aerial fireworks between China and the U.S., which support bad actor residents terrorizing Hawaii neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, it is suspected by the community and others that the bulk of illegal fireworks are produced in Liuyang, China, transported to Shanghai where the product is loaded into shipping containers and onto Chinese cargo merchant vessels bound for Los Angeles where the product is suspect to be transited by ground to other destinations where the product is then placed into Trojan Horse non-declared explosive shipping containers disguised as high priority goods which are then shipped to major U.S. mainland cities and Hawaii, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government agencies have the capability to track containers and those suspect containers could be inspected at Honolulu Ports by Federal Agents with trained sniffing dogs or technology devices previously used in the Middle East for detecting explosive material and IEDs, and

WHEREAS, deceptive shipping containers arrive in Hawaii, usually by October each year base on a spike in use of illegal aerial bomb fireworks and this material is temporary stored in commercial warehouses and neighborhood communities and it is only a matter of time where there could be a fireworks accident in this storage area blowing up a city block or residential neighborhood taking many lives of our residents, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Pearl City Neighborhood Board is requesting our State Legislators and Congressional Representatives to request assistance from the Federal Government to employ their resources to stop illegal fireworks from entering Hawaii ports and to collect evidence for prosecution for all involved in the shipping and storage process to

include bad actor local government employees involved in the distribution of illegal fireworks that should be charged with Class “A” felonies and loss of retirement pensions, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Pearl City Neighborhood Board requests the State Legislature to improve current illegal fireworks and explosive laws to increase fines and coordinate with the City and County of Honolulu and Judicial authority to develop a monetary reward amount to solicit information from residents on locations of storage of illegal fireworks in warehouses and residential areas to help mitigate this serious safety situation in our neighborhoods and commercial areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pearl City Neighborhood Board requests that Hawaii District Court improve the timeliness for neighborhood residents to litigate potential law suits against bad actor neighbors and individuals to collect punitive damages for the terroristic loud explosions gravely impacting the health and safety of their families and pets with the use of eye witnesses reports coupled with video evidence, signed affidavits by neighbors and HPD police reports for each terroristic loud explosion event that will support the civil suit and possibly lead to criminal prosecution, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Hawaii Congressional Representatives; Governor David Ige; Senator Clarence Nishihara; Senator Bennette E. Misalucha; Representative Gregg Takayama; Representative Roy Takumi; Mayor Rick Blangiardi Honolulu City Council, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Honolulu Office; Federal Bureau of Investigation Honolulu Office; U.S. Customs and Border Protection Honolulu Office; Joint Interagency Task Force - West USINDOPACOM; and all Neighborhood Board Chairs.

The Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 unanimously approved at its January 25, 2022 Regular Board meeting, by 10-0-0 vote.

Submitted By: Larry Veray, Chair



SB-2923

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 8:15:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I strongly support the passage of SB 2923 to curtail the use of illegal fireworks in the community for the sake of the public health and safety of all Hawaii residents and visitors to Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2923.

SB-2923

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 1:17:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If this happens we will be going afture all politicians and if they do not stand with us they will not be elected. Block Cain Voteing is comeing!!

SB-2923

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:49:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Fireworks should be eradicated from Hawaii. We are in a climate emergency. The urgency of removing any non-essential emitters of greenhouse gasses must be communicated to everyone. Fireworks emit large amounts of greenhouse gasses. Treat them like an invasive species and don't allow them to get into Hawaii!

SB-2923

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:17:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT SB 2923 RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

LATE

SB-2923

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:01:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beverly Heiser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Please support SB2923.

I have joined a forum called STOP All (Illegal) Fireworks that was formed on a social networking service for neighborhoods called NextDoor. The group currently has 94 members.

My family does NOT do fireworks of any kind. Yet every New Year's day DEBRIS from ILLEGAL fireworks from New Year's Eve lay scattered over our entire yard. Some land on our roof and wash down our gutters. I have dogs and these debris contain TOXIC chemicals that can cause illness if ingested. Thus I spend hours cleaning up the mess.

These toxic chemicals that often contain heavy metals are being dispersed in our environment and pollute our air, water, and soil. They cause harm to people, pets, and wildlife.

The problem has increased over the years and is out of control. There is increased noise and life changing injuries. Tradition should not sound or look like a war zone.

I favor a TOTAL BAN on all types of fireworks, but at the least this type of ILLEGAL activity should be stopped.

Thank you for letting me testify. Please support SB2923.

LATE

SB-2923

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:46:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samuel Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB-2923 because it will increase the maximum fine to \$5000. This should help stop some of Hawaii's illegal skyrocket use.

Samuel Mitchell Makiki NB-10 & Nextdoor Pau Fireworks Now