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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF HARBOR INSPECTION  
PROCEDURES OF STATE DEPARTMENTS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES 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 and in other areas of the State,  
7 there continue to be numerous instances of illegal firework use,  
8 which have caused physical 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



1  
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  
11

12 WHEREAS, the lack of sufficient cargo inspections increases  
13 the opportunity for illegal fireworks to enter the State; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, an audit of current harbor inspection procedures  
16 of state departments and federal agencies for out-of-state and  
17 interisland arrivals of shipping containers would:  
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- 19 (1) Outline current inspection procedures at state  
20 harbors;  
21  
22 (2) Identify any shortcomings in the current procedures;  
23  
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  
29  
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 and  
38 federal agencies for out-of-state and interisland arrivals of  
39 shipping containers to prevent the importation of illegal  
40 fireworks into the State; and  
41



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
2 include in its audit:

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

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