
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF PERMITTING THE SALE OF AERIAL FIREWORKS AND IMPOSING A TAX ON THE SALE OF AERIAL FIREWORKS.

1 WHEREAS, illegal aerial fireworks are prevalent and an
2 ongoing problem throughout the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, the use of illegal aerial fireworks in
5 neighborhoods has substantially increased in recent years,
6 resulting in serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, despite strict penalties, the drastic increase in
10 the illegal use of aerial fireworks continues due to the
11 longstanding traditions and cultural practices in the State of
12 setting off aerial fireworks to mark important occasions; and

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14 WHEREAS, in the *Report of the Illegal Fireworks Task Force*
15 *to the Legislature for the Regular Session of 2011*, submitted by
16 the Illegal Fireworks Task Force (Task Force) established by Act
17 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, the Task Force recommended
18 increasing fines to discourage illicit firework activities,
19 including the illegal import, possession, sale, and use of
20 fireworks; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Task Force additionally recommended
23 decriminalizing firework offenses in favor of civil fines; and

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25 WHEREAS, the recommendations of the Task Force have not
26 seemed to make the positive impact that was expected; and

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28 WHEREAS, the imposition of tax on the sale of consumer
29 fireworks would be a new idea that could potentially serve as a



1 deterrent and raise additional revenue for the State; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2023, that the Department of Commerce and Consumer
7 Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Taxation, is
8 requested to conduct a study on the social and economic impacts
9 of permitting the sale of aerial fireworks and imposing a tax on
10 the sale of aerial fireworks; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the study, the Department of
13 Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Department of Taxation are
14 requested to consider:

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16 (1) The potential revenue that could be raised by imposing
17 a tax on the sale of aerial fireworks;
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19 (2) If permitting the sale and imposing a tax on the sale
20 of aerial fireworks would discourage illegal firework
21 activities;
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23 (3) If the potential revenue raised by imposing a tax
24 could be used to curb the illegal use of fireworks;
25 and
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27 (4) If a mandatory liability insurance policy should be
28 implemented for persons who purchase a permit for
29 aerial fireworks; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
32 Consumer Affairs is further requested to submit a report of its
33 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
34 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
35 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and
39 Consumer Affairs and Director of Taxation.
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H.R. NO. 116

OFFERED BY: Ce At

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