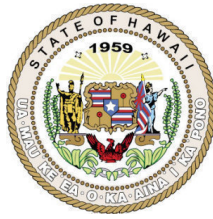


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**JORDAN LOWE**  
DIRECTOR

**MICHAEL S. VINCENT**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT GOVERNOR  
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*

1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 587-2562

VACANT  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 821, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO FIREWORKS.**

Before the House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 3, 2023; 2:30 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

Testifiers: Jordan Lowe or Michael Vincent

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports Senate Bill 821, SD1, HD1.

This bill establishes an illegal fireworks task force to plan, coordinate, and engage in law enforcement operations to interdict illegal fireworks, develop a comprehensive strategic plan to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and explosives into Hawaii, promote compliance with the state fireworks control laws, and ensure the safety and security of airports, harbors, and other facilities and institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives.

This bill is intended to bring together the Department of Law Enforcement, Attorney General, Harbors division of the Department of Transportation, county chiefs of police, county prosecutors, and various federal law enforcement agencies to attack the illegal fireworks problem collectively and cooperatively through joint agency law enforcement operations and investigations and the development of a comprehensive plan with findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation for the Legislature.

The Illegal Fireworks Task Force contemplated in this bill is focused on concerted multi-jurisdictional law enforcement efforts to investigate, interdict, arrest, and prosecute those violating county, State, and federal fireworks laws. The DLE has

DLE Testimony on Senate Bill 821, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

April 1, 2023

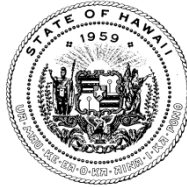
Page 2

already initiated cooperative dialog with appropriate law enforcement agencies and will continue to develop the law enforcement relationships needed to for successful operations and the development of an appropriate strategic plan and recommendations to the Legislature as contemplated by this bill.

Finally, an appropriation is needed for the Illegal Fireworks Task Force to successfully engage in the contemplated multi-jurisdictional law enforcement operations. At this time, we believe the amount of \$1,800,000 should be sufficient for fiscal year 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for the operation of the task force, reimbursement of funds to law enforcement agencies for task-force-related law enforcement operations, and storage and disposal of confiscated fireworks. However, we recognize that the specific amount will be included at an appropriate time during the session.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR  
  
Deputy Directors  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO  
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 3, 2023  
2:30 PM  
State Capitol, Room 308

**S.B. 821 S.D.1 H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

House Committee on Finance

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) is in **support** of this measure that establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force that aims, among other objectives, to ensure the safety and security of airports, harbors, and other state facilities against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives.

DOT acknowledges the need to control and mitigate the use and spread of illegal fireworks, and considers this task force a balanced and reasonable approach to create solutions to achieve this end.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Testimony of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.  
Comments on SB821, SD1, HD1  
Before the Committee on Finance  
April 3, 2023

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (“Matson”) appreciates the intent of SB821, SD1, HD1, Relating to Fireworks and respectfully offers amendments. This measure establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force and appropriates funds.

As an island state, Hawaii is very dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo in and out of our State. It is estimated that over 90 percent Hawaii’s imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the State support safe, dependable, and efficient cargo transportation and logistics to timely service our residents and businesses who depend on these goods, vehicles, materials, and fuel on all major islands.

Matson respectfully requests this measure be amended to include a representative of the Hawaii Harbor Users Group, of which Matson is a member. Matson is opposed to the illegal importation of fireworks. The need to control illegal fireworks in Hawaii must be balanced with the need to ensure goods are on shelves available for Hawaii residents. Further, HHUG is best situated to explain the flow of cargo and current procedures for a variety of inspections.

Thank you for considering the requested amendment.

Testimony of the Hawaii Harbor Users Group  
Comments on SB821  
Before the Committee on Finance  
April 3, 2023

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Harbor Users Group (HHUG) is a non-profit maritime transportation industry group comprised of key commercial harbor users statewide. HHUG appreciates the intent of SB821, SD1, HD1, Relating to Fireworks and respectfully offers amendments. This measure establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force and appropriates funds.

As an island state, Hawaii is very dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo in and out of our State. It is estimated that over 90 percent Hawaii's imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the State support safe, dependable, and efficient cargo transportation and logistics to timely service our residents and businesses who depend on these goods, vehicles, materials, and fuel on all major islands.

HHUG respectfully requests this measure be amended to include a representative of our organization. HHUG members are opposed to the illegal importation of fireworks. The need to control illegal fireworks in Hawaii must be balanced with the need to ensure goods are on shelves available for Hawaii residents. Further, HHUG is best situated to explain the flow of cargo and current procedures for a variety of inspections.

Thank you for considering our requested amendment.

**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 7:12:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Twice a year, when my wife and I would like to be celebrating the beginning of a new calendar year and the birth of our nation with friends, we are instead subjected to a day and night of terror, during which we are confined to our house in order to keep our pets inside, safe, and comforted as best we can while they cower and tremble in fear. Even after shutting all doors and windows the noise and vibrations of the illegal fireworks are jarring and deafening and the acrid smoke penetrates the closed house to irritate and damage our lungs. We would like to accept party invitations and/or to go out and view the legal public fireworks displays, but instead we are prisoners for the holiday, and denied even the right to sleep. Any measure that may reduce to any degree the flow of these weapons of terror into our state is welcome. I support SB821.

**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 7:27:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Heiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB821 SD1 HD1** that establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force within the Department of Law Enforcement.

This year will be 12 years since a ban was enacted to stop illegal fireworks. The current laws are not working because it is out of control and overwhelming for enforcement. Another big concern are cases NOT being PROSECUTED.

The 13,449 pounds of illegal fireworks confiscated in August 2022 by Coast Guard inspectors is evidence of the amount entering our Honolulu ports. The Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation that included several Federal and State agencies, shows this can work to increase port security and eventually curtail the amount of illegal fireworks entering our state. Inspections at ports could provide leads to those illegally importing and selling.

Recently a veteran with PTSD shared the traumatic experience he had, when unexpectedly, a loud firework that sounded like a bomb exploded. His heart went into atrial fibrillation, and his wife had to rush to medicate him and try to calm him down. This can be a serious problem, and even cause a heart attack if the heart cannot return to a normal rhythm. It took this person about a week after the incident to feel better.

It is April, and fireworks can still be heard every now and then. People think it is OK to celebrate funerals with illegal types of fireworks and no permit. On February 12th, Super Bowl Sunday, there was quite a bit of fireworks, and a man in Kaneohe sustained serious injuries when a firework exploded in a cinder block causing serious injuries to his body and knee. More recently on March 7th, three individuals were shot in Ewa. A man holding a get-together to introduce his 2-month old infant to family, heard his neighbor set off a couple of fireworks. He told the neighbor that he can't be doing that here, and the neighbor entered the property and shot him, a friend, and his father-in-law. With fireworks going off anytime it is difficult to determine if it is shots from a weapon or fireworks.

Every year complaints are growing. Injuries, fatalities, pollution, health concerns, property damage, noise pollution, harm to animals and pets. The aeriels and the bombs are the worst. I have pictures of the debris that I've collected that land and scatter all over my yard and roof. No sense saving it to turn-in because they are spent fireworks, and because they exploded in the sky

from a street over, I can't use it as evidence. Am I supposed to walk around the block to get video and risk getting hit by fireworks, receive threats, or possible retaliation? People are not the same. Many of the tubes have chemical hunks still stuck in them. They are toxic to animals. One year it tore one of our screens. Remember the incident in Ewa that shattered multiple car windows and damaged two cars, one so bad it could no longer be driven? I wonder who has to pay for all this damage? What about solar panels? What about the fatalities and serious injuries? Are they so soon forgotten?

The community needs to be better protected. The amount of illegal fireworks entering the state needs to be reduced so effective enforcement and prosecution can take place.

Please **SUPPORT SB821 SD1 HD1**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 8:44:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Samuel M Mitchell	Makiki Neighborhood Board 10	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree that the Fireworks Control Laws and their associated penalties have proven to be an inadequate deterrent for the illegal use of fireworks in the State. So we need to pass SB821 SD1 HD1 and also include new members in the fireworks task force.

Samuel Mitchell

Member Makiki NB-10

**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 10:15:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not some thing the State or County should be wasting our Tax Payer Moneys on.

Fire Works is Tradition in Hawaii. You all should Know, this By Now. We will not Vote for any one that Pushes this!!!!

**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 4:38:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good start. For those of us disabled with Respiratory and Chemical Sensitivities fireworks can hospitalized us and in worse case scenarios kill us. They really need to be banned. Please support this bill. Mahalo.

**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 9:53:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 8:00:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 10:24:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Yamashita, Vice Chairperson Kitagawa and Members of the Committee on Finance.

I am Jennifer Chiwa, born in Honolulu, raised in Aiea and currently residing in Makiki.

Please support SB 821 SD 1 HD 1 relating to fireworks. I strongly feel that establishing the Illegal Fireworks Task Force would strengthen enforcement of the laws against fireworks. Furthermore, supporting this bill is to support the police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and hospital workers who are so important to health and safety, and who have to deal with injuries and deaths associated with illegal fireworks.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration in supporting SB 841 SD 1 HD 1.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 8:04:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB821

**SB-821-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 8:05:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2023 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB821