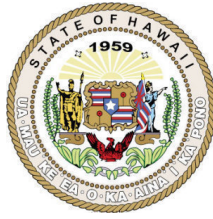


JOSH GREEN  
GOVERNOR



JORDAN LOWE  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT  
Deputy Director  
Administration

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

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

**Vacant**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 821  
RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety  
and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Monday, February 6, 2023; 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

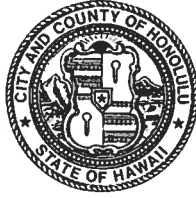
The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) recommends that the Legislature address the funding elements of this bill through Senate Bill 1339 or House Bill 1041, which are the Administration's comprehensive bills to establish an illegal fireworks task force to plan, coordinate, and engage in law enforcement 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.

The Illegal Fireworks Task Force 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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this bill and recommend the passage of one of the administration bills on this subject, Senate Bill 1339, or House Bill 1041.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org



ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
CHIEF

KEITH K. HORIKAWA  
RADE K. VANIC  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE GB-TA

February 6, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Wakai and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 821, Relating to Fireworks

I am Acting Major Brandon Yamamoto of District 8 (Ewa/Kapolei/Waianae) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 821, Relating to Fireworks. This bill would appropriate funds to the State of Hawaii, Department of Law Enforcement, for the purchase of drones to monitor the use of illegal fireworks.

The use of drones operated by the police to monitor and collect evidence against a person illegally deploying fireworks will be problematic without a search warrant. In addition, a drone flying and hovering over homes and people where fireworks are being deployed presents a danger for it to ignite and fall, causing property damage and/or serious injuries to the community below the flight path. Lastly, the Federal Aviation Administration guidelines prohibit people from flying drones near fireworks.

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 821, Relating to Fireworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

  
Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

  
Brandon Yamamoto, Acting Major  
District 8



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: Feb. 3, 2023

To: Chair Sen. Glenn Wakai  
Vice Chair Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante  
and Members of the Committee on  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 821: Relating to the Enforcement of Laws  
Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, 3 p.m., Room 225 & Via Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 821, which appropriates funds to the Department of Law Enforcement for the purchase of drones to monitor the use of illegal fireworks.

Hawaiian Humane supports any attempt to remove fireworks from residential neighborhoods by keeping these dangerous products out of our state entirely and/or enhancing enforcement. At what should be joyous times for local families, illegal fireworks fill our neighborhoods with unexpected explosions that terrorize pets and people alike.

We support the intention to give law enforcement modern tools to aid in collecting the evidence necessary to prosecute those responsible for the bombing of our neighborhoods.

Hawaiian Humane has long educated our community about keeping pets safe from the terror of fireworks around New Years and July 4, but these bombs increasingly go off for months at a time. That makes it impossible for pet owners to prepare and creates sustained stress on people and animals, which can do lasting damage to their emotional and physical health. Neither people nor animals should have to take tranquilizers just to survive the impacts of illegal behavior by their neighbors.

We urge the committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:26:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Testifying for Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Bill SB821.

# CARES

## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY RESEARCH EDUCATION SERVICES

SB 821

Firework  
Drones

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & the PSM Committee,

to.

the Senate  
Committee  
PSM

The Hawaii State  
Legislature

CARES testifies in strong support of SB 821. A drone is a good piece of equipment to catch illegal pyrotechnics. According to KSBY, a new station from California, 3 cities, Grover Beach, Guadalupe and Santa Maria, all utilized drones to manage illegal pyrotechnics. When it comes to fireworks, in order to be able to issue a citation, police have to catch someone in the act. In Guadalupe, officers say 99% of incidents that were caught were thanks to the drone.

from

Zhizi Xiong  
(Angela  
Melody  
Young)  
Creator

In Grover Beach, they got 31 calls and they dispatched the drone it was very helpful in determining who had set off f those fireworks, reported Commander Jim Munro from Grover Beach Police Department. From those 31 calls, Grover Beach Police were able to collect enough evidence to issue four citations. This a community effort of dispatching drugs, extra patrols and community tips. Both Grover Beach and Guadalupe Police Departments say that they had a lot of success with their drones and it will become a gadget they will implement throughout the year to widen their enforcement area, not just for 4th of July fireworks enforcement.

It is wise for Hawaii to adopt this measure to implement drones to investigate illegal pyrotechnics.

Blessings,



808-724-0047

ANGELA MELODY YOUNG

alohadivinedesign@gmail.com





# CARES

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## Works cited

1. Hillo, Taylor. "Law Enforcement Find Drones Successful in Deterring Illegal Fireworks." KSBY News, KSBY News, 6 July 2022, <https://www.ksby.com/news/local-news/law-enforcement-find-drones-successful-in-deterring-illegal-fireworks>.



**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 3:05:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the passage of SB 821 to appropriate funds of \$1 million each to FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025 to purchase drones to monitor the use of illegal fireworks. This is such a waste of tax payer money. I would recommend that we strongly consider banning all fireworks, except by permit for specific activities, e.g., public fireworks display; increase fines and penalties for the illegal use of fireworks and importing of fireworks contraband; and establish a hotline that any resident can call in to report banned fireworks being used in their community.

This past year has been the worse with injuries and deaths from illegal firework use, fires on properties from fireworks that exploded to surrounding homes in the neighborhood, and the booming of illegal fireworks occurring pre and post the New Year's designated playing times. Enough is enough.

Please defer passage of SB 821 and strongly consider banning fireworks for the health and safety of Hawaii's residents and visitors.

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 3:16:50 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael I Rice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand against this bill for the simple reason that the ban on aerial fireworks does not work and will not work. This bill is just throwing money in an attempt to fix a problem that we have made ourselves.

Just legalize fireworks again and hope that things return to some form of Sanity before the ban.



**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 3:20:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Samuel Mitchell and I'm a member of the Makiki Neighborhood Board #10 And I'm also part of the 255-person NextDoor Stop all illegal fireworks group. I support allowing police departments or other state agencies to use drones to collect evidence of illegal fireworks use.

But the City and County of Honolulu will need to change its fireworks ordinances to allow for drones because its law only allows for two-person helicopters for observation. Also, it may be useful to allow civilian drones to report illegal fireworks because I have seen many of them recording fireworks shows.

Because fireworks laws allow the police to ticket illegal skyrocket use based on home ownership. You would not need a photo of each person lighting a fuse to get a prosecution.

Just buy a few drones with inferred telephoto cameras and a GPS tracker with a program that allows for street & property mapping.

We would have a good chance of fixing this problem. But you will also need to make it illegal to shoot down a police drone.

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:01:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joanna p milo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:14:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

It's like a war zone during our holidays. Please support this bill.

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:24:47 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JOHNNY KELLY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a great idea! Whatever we and our Government can do to stop the fireworks madness is a must. Drones will locate the perps, but we must have enforcement after they are identified!

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 1:28:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Luke Nagasako	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

RE: SB821 Relating to Fireworks

In Support

Dear Senator Wakai, Senator Elefante, and members of the committee,

I am an elementary school student living in Honolulu.

The illegal use of fireworks is not only dangerous if used in the wrong area, but also terrorizes pets and people alike. This could cause strays to run around and cause havoc.

These drones could sight fireworks and aid in the prevention of the illegal use of fireworks.

Thank you,

Luke Nagasako

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:09:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill to help animals in Hawaii like my own dog, Donny, and cat, Katie, who suffer every time someone sets off illegal fireworks in my home community of Mililani mauka.

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:23:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support. We must take advantage of the latest technology in fighting illegal fireworks. These drones will be good. The ones that terrorized my apartment building, hovering, jumping around, last May are not.



**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:11:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 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 Wakai and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I'm Jennifer Chiwa, have lived on Oahu my whole life and currently reside in Makiki.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I strongly support SB 821 which would allow appropriation of funds for drones to monitor illegal fireworks. I think this would be a great use for drones. I support a complete ban on fireworks for health and safety reasons, and to be supportive of police, emergency medical technicians, firefighters and hospital workers. Using drones to monitor illegal use of fireworks, I think, would help to get us to a point where people realize community health and safety should override any other justifications for playing fireworks.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting SB 821.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:06:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beverly Heiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

I support SB821 that appropriates funds to the Department of Law Enforcement for the purchase of drones to monitor the use of illegal fireworks.

On New Year's Eve there are so many aerials that I believe the amount needs to first be curtailed from entering our state before other laws can truly be enforced to make a difference.

Please support SB821.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:14:05 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
carole richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Law Enforcement for the purchase of drones to monitor the use of illegal fireworks which I support.

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:39:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Natalie Hanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Although I love fireworks as much as the next person and grew up in a family of pyromaniacs, in a state with ample open space and loose regulation allowing the liberal purchase and use of fireworks, I think the use of fireworks on Oahu has gotten far out of hand. In the 3 years since we moved to our current neighborhood (Kalihi), there have been several fires around the holidays that I can only assume must be related to the over-use of fireworks in densely built/populated neighborhoods. The smoke from fireworks and subsequent fires impacts the health of myself and my family. I would like to see much greater enforcement of current fireworks restrictions, and re-visiting of said laws, so I support SB821. Thanks for your consideration.

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:13:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Fireworks pose environmental, health, and safety risks to community members. There needs to be further action from law enforcement to prevent the use of illegal fireworks in residential neighborhoods.

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 1:02:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Viola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Illegal fireworks use has continue to increase every year, although it is illegal. We all know this. The community has become more and more frustrated at the lack of enforcement and penalties. We all see the illegal aerials that are professional grade pyrotechnics being shot from homes that are densely packed in, we have seen injuries, one fatal this past New Year's Eve, and damages to homes and cars. Yet it is allowed to continue.

We have seen the terror this inflict on animals, veterans with PTSD, and other citizens who are tired of being shaken in the middle of the night from an illegal bomb, or any random time of day for weeks on end before New Year's Eve.

It is next to impossible for a police officer to actually witness someone shooting these illegal pyrotechnics, yet we all see them very clearly all over the island. The use of drones that can pinpoint exact locations, even if only a few, is a step in the right direction towards actually enforcing this law.

Our communities should not have to suffer the nightmare of the relentless fireworks and loud bombs, suffering the loss of a beloved family dog that tears through a screen door in complete terror and ends up dead from being hit by a car or lost and never to return.

Veterans should not have to suffer endless bouts of terror reliving their horrific war experiences.

Law abiding citizens have had enough and all we see is each year it gets worse and nothing is done about it.

This goes on for weeks and weeks before we even reach New Year's Eve.

When someone's idea of fun is illegal and causes stress, suffering, and loss to the majority of others on this island, our lawmakers should see the seriousness in this and put muscle behind this law that far too many just laugh off.





*improving the quality of lives of pets and their people*

**LATE**

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti  
Volunteer Board President, Poi Dogs & Popoki

In Strong Support of SB 821 – Relating to Fireworks  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Monday, Feb. 6, 3 pm, Rm. 225

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We are in strong support of SB 821.

In 2019, the legislature passed a fireworks law that holds the property owner or tenant liable for any illegal fireworks ignited on their property. That law specifically allows drone video to be used in the identification and prosecution of illegal fireworks defendants.

In the past year, I've filed 6 police reports citing the address of the illegal fireworks and committing to testify in the prosecution. Every year previously, I've filed similar reports. To date – none have been prosecuted. And I am aware that only one case was sent to the prosecuting attorney's office. The defendant didn't show up to court so the prosecuting attorney's office threw out the charges.

I know most people do NOT want to report their neighbors. So this bill could provide the public with SOME level of peace of mind that more is being done by the police to investigate and prosecute illegal fireworks users. For many of us – our quality of life has deteriorated because the bombs are blown year round – and especially from October through New Years. Please support SB 821. It really is a small price to pay.



**LATE**

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:37:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Virginia M Lopez	Testifying for Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Maria Virginia Lopez, resident of Oahu for 14 years, support bill SB821 on behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society.

**LATE**

**SB-821**

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 4:43:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB821.