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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS OF EACH COUNTY, HUMANE SOCIETIES IN EACH COUNTY, AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO COLLABORATE TO CREATE AND DISSEMINATE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO HIGHLIGHT THE DANGERS OF, AND ADVOCATE AGAINST THE USE OF, ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY, PETS, AND WILDLIFE.

1           WHEREAS, illegal fireworks in Hawaii pose a significant  
2 safety, environmental, and health issue and this body finds it  
3 necessary for agencies across the islands to disseminate a  
4 public service announcement (PSA) concerning fireworks safety;  
5 and

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7           WHEREAS, past PSAs have been effective in changing  
8 attitudes and behaviors regarding tobacco, and this body seeks  
9 to do likewise with a fireworks PSA; and

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11           WHEREAS, fireworks are viewed in many communities in Hawaii  
12 as merely harmless fun; and

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14           WHEREAS, in just twenty-four hours, from December 31, 2023,  
15 to January 1, 2024, the Honolulu Fire Department responded to  
16 twenty-three fireworks-related fires; and

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18           WHEREAS, during this period, Honolulu Emergency Medical  
19 Services responded to seven fireworks-related injuries,  
20 including to keiki and kupuna, that were disfiguring and will  
21 have life-long consequences for the injured individuals; and

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23           WHEREAS, during December 2023 alone, the Department of Law  
24 Enforcement confiscated sixteen tons of illegal fireworks and  
25 since its inception, the Department has seized thirty-five  
26 thousand pounds of fireworks; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, fireworks can also trigger a military veteran's  
3 post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as seven percent of all  
4 veterans on average will suffer from PTSD during their  
5 lifetimes; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, however, of the more recent veterans of the  
8 Persian Gulf war, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation  
9 Enduring Freedom, thirty percent will experience PTSD during  
10 their lifetimes; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of  
13 Veterans Affairs, fireworks may cue memories of combat or  
14 explosions and may be reminders of intense fires or gun  
15 violence; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, according to The Humane Society of the United  
18 States, during holidays involving fireworks, pet animals are  
19 often frightened from the noise and commotion of fireworks,  
20 causing them to flee from familiar environments, often becoming  
21 lost; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the bright lights from fireworks frequently cause  
24 animals to run into the streets, and wildlife rehabilitation  
25 centers are often flooded with all sorts of wildlife affected by  
26 fireworks; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, leading up to the 2023 New Year Celebration, the  
29 Hawaiian Humane Society estimated that twenty percent of pets  
30 will go missing on New Year's Eve and that in 2022, it received  
31 seventy to eighty animals after the New Year celebration; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, as an isolated archipelago, Hawaii is home to many  
34 unique and endemic species of wildlife, including twenty-six  
35 forest bird species, and most of these species are considered  
36 vulnerable, near-threatened, threatened, endangered, or  
37 critically endangered; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
40 Administration has stated that the trash from fireworks poses  
41 major risks to animals because sea birds and marine animals can  
42 mistake this debris for food, resulting in malnutrition,



1 internal injuries, intestinal blockage, starvation, and even  
2 death; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the effects of illegal fireworks are significant  
5 and wide-ranging, including the physical injuries to and  
6 psychological effects on individuals, displacement of pets, and  
7 negative impacts on wildlife; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
11 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
12 Law Enforcement, fire departments and police departments of each  
13 county, humane societies in each county, and media organizations  
14 throughout the State are urged to collaborate to create and  
15 disseminate public service announcements to highlight the  
16 dangers of, and advocate against the use of, illegal fireworks  
17 in order to protect the health and safety of the community,  
18 pets, and wildlife; and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Law  
22 Enforcement; Fire Chiefs of the Honolulu Fire Department, Hawaii  
23 Fire Department, Maui Fire Department, and Kauai Fire  
24 Department; Police Chiefs of the Honolulu Police Department,  
25 Hawaii Police Department, Maui Police Department, and Kauai Fire  
26 Department; President and CEO of the Hawaiian Humane Society;  
27 President of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Island Humane  
28 Society; CEO of Maui Humane Society; Executive Director of Kauai  
29 Humane Society; President and General Manager of Hawaii News  
30 Now; General Manager of KHON2; President & General Manager of  
31 KITV; President & General Manager of Hawaii Public Radio;  
32 President of iHeartMedia in Honolulu; President & Publisher of  
33 the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*; Editor and General Manager of  
34 Honolulu Civil Beat; Editor of the *Hawaii Tribune Herald*; Editor  
35 of *West Hawaii Today*; Publisher of *The Maui News*; and Editor of  
36 *The Garden Island*.

