

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)

February 9, 2024

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
Committee on Transportation and Culture  
and the Arts  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Lee and Wakai:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2230 Relating to Fireworks

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC strongly supports SB 2230, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for use at cultural events.

The SFC continually advocates for increased limitations on the use of explosives by the general public. The widespread use of fireworks endangers the public. Members of the public experienced firework-related injuries during recent New Year's Eve celebrations in Honolulu. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to at least eight incidents, including eye injuries, serious burns, and more. Six out of the eight cases resulted in permanent disfigurement, involving the loss of limbs and eyesight. The age of victims ranged from six-years old to senior citizens. A 28 year-old male suffered a fatal head injury from fireworks on New Year's Eve 2022-2023. On April 8, 2011; 5 fatalities resulted from an accidental fireworks explosion at the Waikele Self Storage facility in Waipahu, Hawaii.

Indeed, every New Year's Eve, first responder agencies throughout the state experience high operational tempo from fireworks misuse; with incident call volume occasionally exceeding available resources. The Honolulu Fire Department responded

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Page 2  
February 9, 2024

to 23 fireworks-related fires from 8 a.m. on Dec. 31 and 8 a.m. on Jan. 1. The department responded to eight fireworks-related blazes during the same time period of 2022 to 2023. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks cause more than 19,500 fires each year.

Fireworks are known ignition sources for building fires and wildfires in Hawaii. To protect the public, property, and the environment; the SFC urges your committee's support on the passage of SB 2230.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo Todd", written in a cursive style.

KAZUO TODD  
Chair

KT/GL:

# PHANTOM FIREWORKS

Distributors of Phantom® and Wolf Pack® Brand Fireworks

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2445 Belmont Ave  
Youngstown, Ohio 44505  
Danial Peart, Director of Government Affairs

o. 330.746.1064  
dpeart@fireworks.com  
www.fireworks.com

February 9, 2024

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

Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation  
and Culture and the Arts  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024

**RE: Senate Bill 2230 – Relating to Fireworks**  
**Hearing date: February 12, 2024 at 3:01 pm**

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Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Lee and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of Phantom Fireworks in **OPPOSITION** to Senate Bill 2230 – Relating to Fireworks. This bill seeks to ban all fireworks, including consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events. Although Phantom Fireworks supports the intent of the bill to control the spread of illegal fireworks, this bill would not achieve such purpose.

Consumer fireworks are an important part of Hawaii's local culture. In addition to ethnic cultural events such as Chinese Lunar New Year or festivals with dragon dances, locals enjoy celebrating with fireworks on other occasions. In fact, the largest use of consumer fireworks is during New Year's Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. A statewide ban would not prevent the illegal fireworks from continuing to be sold but would encourage the illegal sale as has continued since Honolulu's ban in 2010. The better approach would be to provide better regulation and increase the enforcement of current laws, including fireworks sales outside of the allowed time periods.

Simply put, the outright ban of all fireworks during the most popular fireworks periods would not serve to address the sale and use of illegal fireworks. We appreciate the willingness of the legislature to tackle the issue of illegal fireworks, and we are

thankful to be able to continue to work with the many Representatives and Senators who are committed to finding the appropriate solution. For these reasons, we urge the committee to defer Senate Bill 2230.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Danial Peart



The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

### **SENATE BILL 2230 RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

Monday, February 12, 2024 at 3:01 PM  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Lee, Vice Chairs Elefante and Inouye, and members of the Committees:

American Promotional Events, Inc. **opposes** Senate Bill 2230. The measure proposes a statewide restriction on consumer fireworks which we firmly believe that it will not yield the anticipated results.

In 2010, the Honolulu City Council banned most consumer fireworks. The unintended consequence of this action was a surge in black market activities as consumers sought alternative sources for fireworks that had lit up the skies for years.

Fast forward to today, and we find ourselves amidst an unprecedented proliferation of illegal aerial devices. Despite numerous legislative attempts to bolster enforcement and penalties, the situation remains largely unchanged. A near-total ban, rather than curbing the use of fireworks, has inadvertently fueled the black market and led to unintended consequences. As such, a similar statewide near-ban would likely lead to the same undesirable outcomes.

Instead of pushing consumers towards the black market, we should be exploring safer alternatives. We can take a cue from states like New York, New Jersey, Arizona, and Delaware, which have revised their bans on consumer fireworks. These states now permit the sale of less disruptive fireworks such as fountains and ground spinners.

Currently, fireworks are permitted in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. It's clear that people across the nation, including Hawaii, have a deep-seated love for fireworks. They are a cherished part of our New Years, 4th of July, and cultural celebrations. Therefore, it's crucial that we find a balance that respects this tradition while ensuring the safety and peace of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns.

Brian Trim, Vice President

**AMERICAN PROMOTIONAL EVENTS, INC.**  
2120 MILWAUKEE WAY • TACOMA, WA 98421  
TACOMA (253) 922-0800 • FAX (253) 830-2930  
[www.tntfireworks.com](http://www.tntfireworks.com)



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
FEBRUARY 12, 2024  
SB 2230 RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

Good afternoon, Chair Wakai and Chair Lee and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety & Intergovernmental & Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture & the Arts. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We respectfully oppose SB 2230. This measure imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for use at cultural events.

Hawaii's Asian culture is steeped deep into the tradition of using fireworks in belief that it wards off evil and welcomes in good luck and happiness. This is practiced by many during the New Year at midnight to bring in good luck and happiness for the new year. At weddings and business openings, firecrackers are used to drive away evil spirits. A ban on fireworks will only lead people to purchase them on the illegal market.

While we understand the intent of this measure, this type of legislation will not curtail the use of illegal fireworks in Hawaii. Aerial fireworks have been banned for several years in the state and yet we continue to see them year after year lighting up the skies from people's residences, from the street fronting people's homes, and at beaches to name a few. We have already seen that time limits on the use of fireworks are overlooked as we continue to see illegal ariels and "bombs" weeks before the actual holiday. People for years after the ban have found ways to purchase those illegal aeriels and they will do the same for fireworks. We also want to point out that the already illegal aerial devices and fireworks like that of bottle rockets, roman candles, and mortar-and-shell fireworks as well as homemade fireworks caused the highest rates of significant injury.

Instead of a ban, we need to find other means to enforce the laws and penalties on those who use illegal aeriels and "bombs" and who also bring them into the islands. We need to ensure that the Illegal Fireworks Task Force that includes state narcotics agents, deputy sheriffs, county police officers, the Department of the Attorney General, and federal agencies including Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has the tools and laws needed to apprehend those who are bringing in, distributing/selling and using the already illegal fireworks.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2230**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 3:46:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2024 3:01:00 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. every year people are killed, maimed, pets run away, and worse and still nothing is done to stop the use of fireworks by individuals. what this bill does need is means of enforcement. do we have the capabilities to capture the culprits and bring them to justice.

I think you should tell us who or what by request refers to. the people have the right to know who asked for the introduction of this bill.

**SB-2230**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 4:09:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2024 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aside from banning fireworks altogether, this bill is a good start. Please support it. Mahalo.



**SB-2230**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 6:47:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2024 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I **strongly support** the passage of SB 2230 to impose a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for use of cultural events. It needs to be passed this year.

This past New Year's Eve and New Year's Day - prior to and post of these two days, illegal fireworks were being set off with jolting booms, shooting fireworks in the air leaving red paper all over the streets and the worst is the polluted grey and difficult to breathe air that hung from early evening (New Year's eve) to the following morning on our street.

Serious Injuries of children and adults were reported post New Year's Day. Enough is enough! For the safety and health of our families and the community, please pass SB 2230 this legislative session.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of the passage of SB 2230.

**SB-2230**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:33:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2024 3:01:00 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-2230**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 1:08:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2024 3:01:00 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 Wakai and Lee, Vice Chair Elefante and Inouye, and Committee Members,

I Support Bill SB 2230.

While I doubt this Bill has a chance of passing, I do support it because of the high risk of fires, injuries, pollution, and the trauma it causes to pets and people with health conditions. Many today also do not follow laws to use fireworks within specified times. Some take apart fireworks to make homemade devices. Children innocently watching fireworks may be injured from flying debris. This past year many children were injured because of fireworks, some with life changing injuries. I also feel for police, firefighters and emergency medical services who have to respond to the many calls especially on New Year's Eve.

Massachusetts is currently the only state that has imposed a total fireworks ban except for professional fireworks shows.

Last year I watched a Youtube video of a child that looked about five-years-old walking in the middle of a street to ignite an aerial firework with a torch lighter. If people cannot respect the laws, especially with the use of illegal fireworks, this may be the only recourse to take in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 11, 2024

To: Chairs Sens. Glenn Wakai and Chris Lee  
Vice Chairs Sens. Brandon J.C. Elefante and Lorraine Inouye  
and Members of the Committees on  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs;  
and Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2230: Relating to Fireworks  
Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, 3:01 p.m., Room 225 & Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 2230, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

Hawaiian Humane supports any attempt to restrict fireworks from residential neighborhoods. As this measure points out, illegal fireworks fill our neighborhoods with unexpected explosions that terrorize pets and people alike while disrupting what should be joyous times for local families.

By limiting the issuance of fireworks permits to cultural events, this measure has the potential to reduce what are now legal fireworks sales and thereby make importing illicit supplies more difficult.

SB 2230 highlights the perennial nature of this issue. In fact, the problem only seems to get worse. 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 without warning. 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, mental and physical health. Neither people nor animals should have to take tranquilizers just to survive the impacts of their neighbors' illegal behaviors.

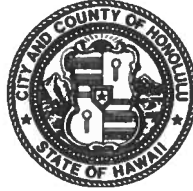
We urge the committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • WEBSITE: [honoluluupd.org](http://honoluluupd.org)

**LATE**

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
CHIEF  
KAHU MĀKA'I

KEITH K. HORIKAWA  
RADE K. VANIC  
DEPUTY CHIEFS  
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE GB-RG

February 12, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Transportation and Culture  
and the Arts  
State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Wakai and Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2230, Relating to Fireworks

I am Major Gail Beckley of District 8 ('Ewa/Kapolei/Wai'anae) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.


The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2230, Relating to Fireworks. This bill will impose a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

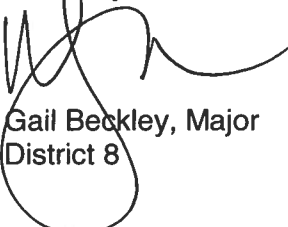
From December 1, 2023, to January 3, 2024, there were approximately 2,600 fireworks-related calls to 911. These calls overtaxed police response and services. Although most of the fireworks being used are illegally entering Honolulu, a statewide limitation may lessen these unnecessary 911 calls.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 2230, Relating to Fireworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police

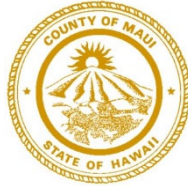
Sincerely,  
  
For Gail Beckley, Major  
District 8

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director

**BRADFORD K. VENTURA**  
Fire Chief

**GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA**  
Deputy Fire Chief



**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

February 12, 2024

**LATE**

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
Committee on Transportation and Culture  
and the Arts

The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Lee and Wakai,

**SUBJECT: SENATE BILL (SB) 2230 RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department. The SFC strongly supports SB 2230, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for use at cultural events.

The SFC continually advocates for increased limitations on the use of explosives by the general public. The widespread use of fireworks endangers the public. Members of the public experienced firework-related injuries during recent New Year's Eve celebrations in Honolulu. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to at least eight incidents, including eye injuries, serious burns, and more. Six out of the eight cases resulted in permanent disfigurement, involving the loss of limbs and eyesight. The age of victims ranged from six-years old to senior citizens. A 28-year-old male suffered a fatal head injury from fireworks on New Year's Eve 2022-2023. On April 8, 2011; 5 fatalities resulted from an accidental fireworks explosion at the Waikele Self Storage facility in Waipahu, Hawaii.

Indeed, every New Year's Eve, first responder agencies throughout the state experience high operational tempo from fireworks misuse; with incident call volume occasionally, exceeding available resources. The Honolulu Fire Department responded to 23 fireworks-related fires from

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Page 2  
February 12, 2024

8 a.m. on Dec. 31 and 8 a.m. on Jan. 1. The department responded to eight fireworks-related blazes during the same time period of 2022 to 2023. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks cause more than 19,500 fires each year.

Fireworks are known ignition sources for building fires and wildfires in Hawaii. To protect the public, property, and the environment; the SFC urges your committee's support on the passage of SB 2230.

If you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723- 7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



BRADFORD K. VENTURA  
Fire Chief