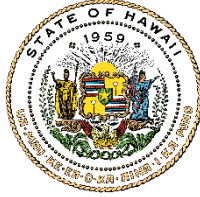


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SYLVIA LUKE
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
3:01 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 48/ SENATE RESOLUTION 36
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

Senate Concurrent Resolution 48/ Senate Resolution 36 urges the Department of Law Enforcement, fire 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. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures.**

The widespread use of illegal fireworks endangers the public in the form of direct injury, house fires, and wildfires. Members of the public experienced firework-related injuries during recent New Year's Eve celebrations about a month ago in Honolulu. In 2023 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, Hawai'i.

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 (HFD) responded to 23 fireworks-related fires from 8 a.m. on December 31st and 8 a.m. on January 1st. The HFD 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 Hawai'i. Messaging to the public on the dangers of fireworks needs to come from a united front. To protect the public, property, and the environment; the Department urges your committee's support on the passage of these measures.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of these measures.

SCR-48

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 3:39:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support.