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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the widespread use  
2 of illegal fireworks poses an extreme danger and lethal risk to  
3 public health and safety, resulting in fires, serious burn  
4 injuries, and fatalities to innocent bystanders. The cost to  
5 the community far outweighs any intrinsic benefit, as numerous  
6 lives have been lost over the years from the use of illegal  
7 fireworks. In addition, the potential for wildfires in this  
8 time of climate change is a real and present danger and is a top  
9 priority for all levels of government today.

10           The legislature further finds that fireworks-related  
11 tragedies, including the Aliamanu New Year's Eve explosion of  
12 2024 that claimed at least six lives, seriously impact entire  
13 neighborhoods in urban Honolulu and across the State. Fireworks  
14 also emit excessive smoke and other toxins into the air, making  
15 breathing difficult for thousands of Hawaii residents with  
16 respiratory ailments. Noise from loud fireworks traumatizes  
17 many residents, particularly war veterans who may suffer from



1 post-traumatic stress from being in combat. Pets and vulnerable  
2 species in their natural habitats also suffer each holiday  
3 season when fireworks noise and environmental pollution levels  
4 are especially high.

5 The legislature recognizes that, with the increase in  
6 fireworks-related calls, public safety agencies are heavily  
7 strained to maintain adequate response levels for other critical  
8 emergencies, which adds to the cost of state and county  
9 resources that could be used for natural disasters and other  
10 emergencies. These agencies are often overwhelmed and are not  
11 able to stop the thousands of illegal fireworks being used,  
12 making it a death trap for thousands of innocent lives who are  
13 not involved in illegal fireworks use.

14 The legislature also finds that the State's communities  
15 deserve to live in peace and security without the public safety  
16 risk and disruptive impact of illegal fireworks. There can be  
17 no more gray areas when lives are lost while this black market  
18 flourishes.

19 The legislature believes that intelligence-led policing and  
20 criminal surveillance of illegal fireworks can be effective  
21 approaches in deterring the use of illegal fireworks. An



1 investment of funds to conduct sting operations by law  
2 enforcement to enforce fireworks ordinances or laws on Oahu is  
3 one of the first steps to effectively reducing the use of  
4 illegal fireworks in the State.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
6 funds to the department of law enforcement for:

- 7 (1) Sting operations on Oahu to enforce fireworks  
8 ordinances or laws;
- 9 (2) An explosives and firearms laboratory on Oahu;
- 10 (3) A new explosive enforcement section, including  
11 staffing, within the department's criminal  
12 investigation division; and
- 13 (4) A fireworks program to provide educational campaigns  
14 for public safety and awareness of fireworks through  
15 advertising and promotional videos.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
19 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary  
20 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the department of law enforcement



1 to conduct sting operations on Oahu to enforce chapter 132D,  
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2026-2027 for an explosives and firearms laboratory on  
10 Oahu.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
12 of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
16 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary  
17 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for a new explosive enforcement  
18 division within the criminal investigation section of the  
19 department of law enforcement, including:

20 (1) \$ for six full-time equivalent (6.0 FTE)  
21 exempt investigator V positions;



- 1           (2)   \$                   for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
- 2                   exempt investigator VI position; and
- 3           (3)   \$                   for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
- 4                   account clerk III position.

5           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
6 of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.

7           SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                   or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
11 year 2026-2027 for a fireworks program to provide educational  
12 campaigns for public safety and awareness of fireworks through  
13 advertising and promotional videos.

14           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
15 of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.

16           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Fireworks; DLE; Enforcement; Safety; Education; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates moneys to the Department of Law Enforcement for various efforts to enforce fireworks law. Effective 7/1/2050.  
(SD2)

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