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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO MONITOR THE USE OF  
ILLEGAL FIREWORKS AT PUBLIC PARKS AND BEACHES.

1 WHEREAS, the proliferating use of illegal fireworks has  
2 become a growing concern for communities across the State; and  
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4 WHEREAS, in just two days, emergency rooms and hospitals in  
5 Hawaii treated 110 individuals on December 31, 2024, and January  
6 1, 2025, including five fatalities, the highest visitation total  
7 since 2010, when there were 112 injuries; and  
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9 WHEREAS, according to 18 years of data from the Department  
10 of Health, injuries plunged immediately after a statewide ban on  
11 aerial fireworks was expanded on Oahu in 2011 to include  
12 virtually all consumer fireworks; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the fireworks restrictions imposed on Oahu through  
15 Ordinance 10-25 in 2011 helped reduce emergency room visits  
16 until January 1, 2025; and  
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18 WHEREAS, a study in 2022 of the effectiveness of that  
19 county ordinance on Oahu found "a significant association  
20 between stricter firework legislation and a decrease in  
21 firework-related injuries over a multiyear period"; and  
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23 WHEREAS, immediately after the ban, injuries on Oahu fell  
24 from 79 over New Year's Eve and Day in 2010-2011 to 14 in 2011-  
25 2012; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, however, the firework injury incident rate in  
28 Hawaii more than doubled between 2011-2012 and 2021-2022 and has  
29 continued to climb; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the firework injury incident rate in Hawaii far  
32 outstripped a 17-percent increase nationwide over the same



1 period, according to data from the United States Consumer  
2 Product Safety Commission; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, Oahu accounted for 84 percent of the injuries on  
5 New Year's Eve and New Year's Day for 2025, and injuries on the  
6 Neighbor Islands were also higher than in 2024; and

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8 WHEREAS, a massive and horrific fireworks explosion  
9 occurred at a New Year's Eve party at a home in Aliamanu, Oahu,  
10 at approximately 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2025; and

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12 WHEREAS, as of February 5, 2025, six fatalities have  
13 resulted from that tragic incident; and

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15 WHEREAS, the number of injuries, which includes fatalities,  
16 on December 31, 2024, and January 1, 2025, was the highest since  
17 2010-2011; and

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19 WHEREAS, Hawaii's per-capita rate of injuries treated in  
20 emergency rooms over the New Year's holiday -- 4.1 per 100,000  
21 residents -- far exceeds the national average of 2.9 per  
22 100,000, according to data collected by the United States  
23 Consumer Product Safety Commission for 2023-2024, the most  
24 recent year for which national comparisons were available; and

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26 WHEREAS, the use of illegal fireworks occurs at locations  
27 throughout Hawaii, including in public places, such as parks and  
28 beaches; and

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30 WHEREAS, greater monitoring by law enforcement for the use  
31 of illegal fireworks at public parks and beaches would support  
32 public health and protect public safety; now, therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
35 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
36 of 2025, that the Department of Law Enforcement is urged to  
37 monitor the use of illegal fireworks at public parks and  
38 beaches; and

39  
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of Law  
42 Enforcement.



# H.R. NO. 50

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OFFERED BY:

  
MAR 05 2025

