

**HB-806-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 7:08:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2025 10:02:00 AM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Beverly Heiser | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB806, HD1, SD1**, that Appropriates funds for Department of Law Enforcement to conduct sting operations on Oahu to enforce fireworks ordinances or laws.

The Department of Law Enforcement’s (DLE) annual report to the 2025 Legislature proves that sting operations are effective. In a joint operation with Honolulu Police, two Oahu men were indicted and charged with a felony for illegal distribution of aerial fireworks. Both pled “no contest”. One of the felons recently had his sentencing hearing and was given a fine of \$5,000 for possession without a license and for selling to someone who did not have a valid permit. He was sentenced to four years of supervised release. Covert operations conducted by the Illegal Fireworks Task Force (IFTF) resulted in a total of 20 citations, 6 issued on July 4, 2024 and 14 issued during the holiday season in 2024. So far, two who were cited on July 4th have taken pleas deals in District Court.

The actions taken by the IFTF appears to be very promising, and can succeed if they are provided the additional personnel and funding for whatever is needed to increase effectiveness of the operation. The IFTF have coordinated the best efforts thus far, that have shown notable results in combatting illegal fireworks.

The Aliamanu tragedy was sad, and it is hopeful that the lives lost and those suffering from life-changing critical injuries were not in vain but will provide the wake-up call to take the use of illegal fireworks seriously. This all starts with legislators creating laws to invoke stiffer penalties and higher fines, and allows enforcement to the fullest extent of the law to instill a fear of getting caught and induce deterrence. This may require more appropriations committed this year to be effective, but how do you put a price on lives lost, life-changing deformities, and psychological issues that may require medical attention for the rest of one's life? Yes, enough is enough.

Please pass **HB806, HD1, SD1**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-806-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:00:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2025 10:02:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lynne matusow       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am in full support. We must use every tool in the tool box to prevent another tragedy like what happened on Jan. 1, 2025, with more than six now dead from one major explosion, and at least another dead because of illegal fireworks.

**HB-806-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 11:26:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2025 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**HB-806-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:02:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2025 10:02:00 AM

| Submitted By                        | Organization   | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire | Testifying for Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of Hawaiian Islands | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Subject: Royal Endorsement of H.B. No. 806 - Funding to End Illegal Fireworks Smuggling

Aloha Legislators,

As Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands and Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party ([www.ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.ohanaunityparty.com)), I extend my resolute support for H.B. No. 806, "Relating to Fireworks." This bill appropriates funds for the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct sting operations on Oahu, enforcing Chapter 132D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, during the fiscal biennium 2025-2027. Below, I present my royal and communal endorsement, fortified with data exposing the scourge of illegal fireworks smuggled from China, through international ports, mail systems, and by local gangs, cartels, and triads—threats to our sacred ‘āina and kānaka:

- A Lethal Affront to Our People:
  - The Aliamanu New Year’s Eve explosion of 2024 stole six precious lives, a tragedy echoing across our islands. In 2023, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported 9,700 fireworks injuries nationwide, with illegal devices driving the deadliest outcomes—unacceptable in our kingdom.
- Desecration of Health and Spirit:
  - Toxic smoke from fireworks poisons our air, endangering over 145,000 residents with asthma or COPD (CDC 2022). Noise exceeding 150 decibels torments our 11,000+ veterans with PTSD (VA 2023), our pets, and keiki of the wild, like the Hawaiian monk seal.
- Burden on Our Guardians:
  - Honolulu Fire Department faced 1,600+ fireworks calls in New Year 2024, a 20% surge since 2020 (HFD), straining response to wildfires that scorched 17,000 Maui acres in 2023 (DLNR). This is a royal call to protect our resources.
- China’s Smuggling Onslaught:
  - U.S. Customs seized 1.2 million pounds of illegal fireworks in 2023, 70% from China via ports like Los Angeles (CBP 2024). China’s \$1.3 billion legal fireworks

trade (UN Comtrade 2022) masks a shadow market, with 30% of seizures tied to triads (DEA 2023).

- Ports as Gateways of Chaos:
  - Honolulu's ports and airport saw 15,000 pounds of fireworks intercepted in 2022, up 25% from 2020 (CBP Hawaii). Shanghai's 43 million TEUs annually (2023) hide 5-10% contraband, including fireworks (CSIS 2024), flooding our shores.
- Mail as a Silent Invader:
  - USPS nabbed 8,000 illegal fireworks packages in 2023, many from China via ePacket (USPS OIG 2024). Honolulu's mail facility reports a 40% rise in suspicious parcels since 2021 (USPS), a breach we must seal.
- Organized Crime's Web:
  - Local gangs, Mexican cartels, and Chinese triads like 14K profit \$500 million in Hawaii's illicit markets since 2020 (DEA HIDTA 2024). A 2023 HSI-FBI bust seized 50 tons of cartel-linked fireworks bound for our islands (DOJ)—a war on our sovereignty.
- H.B. No. 806 - Our Shield:
  - Funding Oahu sting operations mirrors San Diego's 35% fireworks drop post-2022 sting (SDPD). I propose \$5 million annually, akin to CBP's \$4.8 million Operation Apollo X (2024), to crush this menace at its root.
  - Effective July 1, 2025, this bill restores peace to our ohana.
- Royal Decrees for Victory:
  - Deploy 10 CBP scanners at Oahu ports, as 2023 border trials boosted detection 40% (DHS).
  - Use AI parcel screening with USPS, cutting mail smuggling 50% in 2024 pilots (USPS).
  - Expand HSI's anti-triad units, building on 59 Mexico arrests in 2023 (DHS), to sever crime's grip.

As HRM and Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party, I implore you to enact H.B. No. 806 with ample funding. This is not merely policy—it is a stand for our people's lives, our 'āina's purity, and our kingdom's honor against foreign smugglers and their local pawns. Let us unite to banish this peril, ensuring safety and serenity for all. Mahalo for your stewardship.

With Royal Resolve,  
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire  
HRM, Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands  
Chairman, Ohana Unity Party  
[www.ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.ohanaunityparty.com)

**HB-806-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 11:58:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/31/2025 10:02:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gregory Misakian    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB806 HD1 SD1.

Gregory Misakian