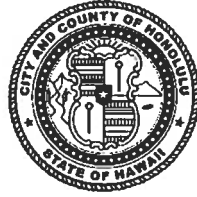


HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
CHIEF  
KAHU MĀKA'I  
  
KEITH K. HORIKAWA  
RADE K. VANIC  
DEPUTY CHIEFS  
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE **RP-PA**

March 31, 2025

The Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 222, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Fireworks

I am Major Randall Platt of District 4 (Kailua/Kāne'ohe/Kahuku) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 222, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Fireworks.

The HPD supports this bill that aims to appropriate monies for the Illegal Fireworks Task Force and extends the sunset date of the task force from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2030. Act 67 will take effect on July 1, 2050.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 222, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Fireworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Platt", is written over a horizontal line.

Randall Platt, Major  
District 4

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Arthur J. Logan", is written over a horizontal line.

Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police

**SB-222-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 5:17:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Reeser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee Members on Finance,

I am writing as a resident of Makawao, Maui, where we have been dealing with year-round fireworks (both illegal and legal) and homemade bombs detonating throughout our residential neighborhood. The explosions shake our houses and terrify our animals and elderly neighbors, some with PTSD. There is no way to predict when the explosions will hit and cannot be planned for. Even on July 4th and New Year's Eve, there are no drugs or options available to protect our families, pets and neighbors from the war zones taking place in our neighborhoods due to the power and quantity of these unsafe fireworks. It is not safe to go outside during these times as dangerous projectiles are everywhere, shooting into our houses, landing on our roofs and in our yards, still on fire. This is beyond dangerous so any tools that can be used to stop it must be implemented immediately as this crisis gets worse every year. There will be more preventable accidents and deaths if nothing is done. The last thing we need is for our insurance rates to rise because we continue to let this problem grow out of control.

Mahalo,

Cheryl Reeser  
Makawao, Hawai'i

**SB-222-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 7:02:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2025 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB222, SD1, HD1,**

Act 67 established the Illegal Fireworks Task Force (IFTF) under the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) on June 7, 2023. The IFTF has made the most progress thus far, to interrupt the supply chain and distribution that led to some areas on Oahu noting a slight reduction of illegal fireworks in 2023. This effort has accomplished more than any other initiative to reduce illegal fireworks use, and has resulted in ongoing criminal investigations, two felony indictments, and covert operations that resulted in twenty criminal citations. There is a need to continue this effort to reduce illegal fireworks at the ports so it will make it much easier for police to enforce end-users.

In the year 2024 illegal fireworks made a comeback. This is due to the IFTF members being able to commit only part-time due to other primary duties. Much of the IFTF's daily work is done by state narcotics investigators because the technique to interdict illegal fireworks are the same used to interdict illegal drugs. To continue the excellent work that has been done so far, Jordan Lowe's 2025 Report to the Legislature on the IFTF recommended the "creation of a full-time fireworks control unit comprised of criminal investigators". **SB227, SD1, HD1** would establish the Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Division under the Department of Law Enforcement that would identify and provide the full-time dedication and staffing needed instead of just the current part-time commitment that **SB222, SD1, HD1** currently provides.

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 provide your support for **SB222, SD1, HD1**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-222-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:33:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2025 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

am in full support of providing funds to the illegal fireworks task force for their enforcement activities. We are not providing enough support to enforcement and that must change.

**SB-222-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:26:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

Aloha Kākou, Guardians of Our Sacred Isles,

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 wield the mana of our ancestors to herald S.B. No. 222, "Relating to Fireworks." This bill, amending Act 67 of 2023, extends the Illegal Fireworks Task Force's reign from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2030, with interim reports through 2029 and a final decree in 2030. I summon you to embrace this Act, effective June 29, 2025 (Section 2), for it is a torch to banish the chaos of illicit pyrotechnics from our 'āina.

- A Kingdom Under Siege: The scourge of illegal fireworks rages unchecked—1,600 calls flooded Honolulu Fire Department on New Year's 2024 alone (HFD data), a 20% surge since 2020. The Aliamanu tragedy of 2024 claimed six lives, a wound still raw. S.B. No. 222 extends the Task Force's quest, begun in 2023, to quell this peril through 2030, ensuring our ohana breathes free of smoke and fear.
- The Task Force's Sacred Charge: Act 67 birthed a coalition of law enforcers, a shield against the 1.2 million pounds of illegal fireworks seized nationwide in 2023—70% from China (CBP 2024). Extending its life with annual reports (2025-2029) weaves a net of vigilance, tracking progress as San Diego's 2022 sting slashed fireworks incidents by 35% (SDPD). Our Task Force must endure to mirror such triumphs.
- Fuel for the Fight: Appropriations for 2025-2027 (Section 3)—though unspecified—fund staff, operations, and law enforcement reimbursements. In 2023, Hawaii spent \$1.2 million on fireworks enforcement (DLE estimate), yet seizures doubled to 15,000 pounds (CBP Hawaii). I propose \$3 million annually, akin to California's \$2.8 million task force budget (2024), to arm our warriors with overtime, fuel, and disposal might.
- A Tapestry of Time: Extending the sunset to 2030 grants five more years to unravel the triad-cartel web—\$500 million in illicit Pacific profits since 2020 (DEA HIDTA 2024). Interim reports weave accountability, illuminating paths to victory as 1 in 4 Hawaii residents report sleep loss from fireworks noise (DOH 2024 survey).

- Correcting the Stars' Misalignment: The bill's July 1, 2050, effective date (Section 5) is a scribe's error, clashing with Section 2's June 29, 2025, intent. Align all to June 29, 2025, to unleash this magic swiftly, lest we delay justice for our keiki and kūpuna.
- A Vision of Peace: This Act spares our skies from toxins—perchlorates choking 145,000 asthmatics (CDC 2022)—and our veterans from 150-decibel torment (VA 2023). It honors our 'āina, scarred by 17,000 wildfire acres in 2023 (DLNR), and silences a plague costing \$2 million yearly in damages (Hawaii Insurance Bureau 2024).

S.B. No. 222 is a celestial decree, extending the Task Force's kuleana to 2030 with resources to smite this fiery foe. I beseech you: fund it with \$3 million annually, mend the date to June 29, 2025, and pass it with the speed of Pele's wrath. Let us reclaim our nights, weaving a legacy of serenity where the only sparks are the stars above our kingdom.

Mahalo for Your Sacred Duty,

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