

**SB-227-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 5:18:25 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-227-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 7:05:23 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 SB227, SD1, HD1** that establishes the Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Division within the Department of Law Enforcement and appropriates funds.

Establishing an Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Division will provide the **full-time dedication** needed to slow the flow of Illegal Fireworks entering the state. This type of enforcement is needed, due to illegal fireworks being so out of control and the extensive involvement of the black market.

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.

The amount seized at the docks from December 2023 to January 2024 indicates a strong need for this type of effort to continue. The report to the 2025 legislature submitted by Jordan Lowe stated that “any earnest effort to counter illegal fireworks can only be done with a dedicated criminal investigative unit with sustained staffing and funding”. The current IFTF uses State Narcotics investigators who participate only part-time due to having other duties. The report further stated fireworks are smuggled into Hawaii year-round via “shipping, air transport, and mail channels”. It confirms that there is a “flourishing fireworks black market” with “well-established networks and organizations” and a “well-established underground of people” who use illegal fireworks regularly.

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 it 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 full support for SB227, SD1, HD1, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.**

**SB-227-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 10:35:29 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:

I support all bills and actions that will get the fireworks proliferation under control. There is nothing cultural about fireworks which harm those with PTSD, frighten pets, create noise problems, create fires, kills and maim people, etc. We need fireworks that are run by professionals instead of war zones.

Please move this bill forward.