
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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
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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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1 WHEREAS, the firework injury incident rate in Hawaii far
2 outstripped a 17-percent increase nationwide over the same
3 period, according to data from the United States Consumer
4 Product Safety Commission; and

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

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

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

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17 WHEREAS, the number of injuries, which includes fatalities,
18 on December 31, 2024, and January 1, 2025, was the highest since
19 2010-2011; and

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

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

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

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



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
3 Director of Law Enforcement.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 05 2025

