
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
3

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
8

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
13

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
17

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
22

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
30

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

7
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

11
12 WHEREAS, as of February 5, 2025, six fatalities have
13 resulted from that tragic incident; and

14
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

18
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

25
26 WHEREAS, the use of illegal fireworks occurs at locations
27 throughout Hawaii, including in public places, such as parks and
28 beaches; and

29
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,

33
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

1
2
3

OFFERED BY:


MAR 05 2025

