
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the illegal use,
2 possession, and distribution of fireworks continue to endanger
3 public safety, property, and the environment in the State.
4 Despite existing laws and enforcement efforts, the unauthorized
5 use of fireworks persists, causing disturbances and posing
6 significant risks to residents.

7 On June 7, 2023, the governor signed Act 67, Session Laws
8 of Hawaii 2023, into law, establishing an illegal fireworks task
9 force within the department of law enforcement. The illegal
10 fireworks task force was required to develop a comprehensive
11 strategic plan to address the systemic problem of illegal
12 firework trade and usage within the State. The illegal
13 fireworks task force submitted a final report to the
14 thirty-third legislature containing the task force's findings,
15 recommendations, and proposed legislation, which included a
16 recommendation that the legislature fund a new crime unit within



1 the department of law enforcement to address illegal fireworks
2 enforcement on a full-time basis.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish an
4 illegal fireworks enforcement division within the department of
5 law enforcement to enhance regulatory oversight, increase
6 enforcement, and further coordination among agencies to combat
7 illegal fireworks activities.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 353C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
10 and to read as follows:

11 "§353C- Illegal fireworks enforcement division. (a)
12 There shall be established within the department an illegal
13 fireworks enforcement division. The division shall use the
14 findings from the illegal fireworks task force established
15 pursuant to Act 67, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, as a basis for
16 developing a comprehensive strategic plan to stop the
17 importation and distribution of illegal fireworks and explosives
18 in the State, promote compliance with the state fireworks
19 control laws, and ensure the safety and security of critical
20 infrastructure against the discharge of illegal fireworks.



1 (b) An administrator shall be the head of the illegal
2 fireworks enforcement division and shall have charge, direction,
3 and control of the division and all matters relating to the
4 enforcement of illegal fireworks by the department, subject to
5 the direction and control of the director; provided that the
6 department and counties, or both, are authorized to enforce and
7 administer the provisions of chapter 132D pursuant to section
8 132D-20."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2026-2027 to carry out the purposes of this Act, including:

14 (1) The operation of the illegal fireworks enforcement
15 division; and

16 (2) The reimbursement of funds to law enforcement agencies
17 for division-related law enforcement operations,
18 including law enforcement personnel, overtime and
19 other salary-related payments, charges for fuel,
20 equipment, technology, and storage and disposal of
21 confiscated fireworks.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2026-2027 for the establishment of six permanent positions
8 within the illegal fireworks enforcement division of the
9 department of law enforcement as follows:

- 10 (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) division
11 administrator position;
12 (2) Four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) state law
13 enforcement investigator positions; and
14 (3) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) clerk position,
15 who shall be exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17 of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, and
20 shall be repealed on June 30, 2028.



Report Title:

DLE; Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Division; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes the Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Division within the Department of Law Enforcement. Appropriates funds. Sunsets 6/30/2028. (HD1)

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