

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
Director

ERNEST J. ROBELLO
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2503, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FIREWORKS
Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Friday, March 20, 2026, 3:15 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 016
Testifier: Mike Lambert

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 2503, House Draft 1. This bill amends Chapter 132D of the Hawaii Revised Statutes relating to fireworks. Specifically, House Bill 2503, House Draft 1, authorizes civil asset forfeiture for fireworks offenses constituting felonies, particularly those involving 25 pounds or more of fireworks. The bill also expands and clarifies the definition of "aerial device," and clarifies that the offense of sending or receiving fireworks or articles pyrotechnic by air delivery applies regardless of whether the offender accompanies the air delivery.

Act 67, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 2023, established the Illegal Fireworks Task Force to plan, coordinate, and engage in law enforcement operations to interdict illegal fireworks; develop a comprehensive strategic plan to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and explosives into Hawaii; promote compliance with the state fireworks control laws; and ensure the safety and security of airports, harbors, and other facilities and institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives. Since its

establishment, the Illegal Fireworks Task Force has removed nearly 200,000 pounds of illegal fireworks from the streets of Hawaii, and operations and investigations continue.

The authorization of civil asset forfeiture for felony-level fireworks offenses is a critical enforcement tool. Civil asset forfeiture serves to stop ongoing criminality, deter future violations, and ensure that the economic benefit of criminal activity does not outweigh the penalties imposed. Illegal fireworks pose a serious threat to public safety, and those who traffic in large quantities, including 25 pounds or more, must face meaningful consequences beyond criminal prosecution alone. Allowing for the forfeiture of property connected to these felony-level offenses ensures that individuals cannot simply absorb criminal penalties as a cost of doing business while continuing to profit from illegal activity.

The clarification regarding the offense of sending or receiving fireworks by air delivery, regardless of whether the offender accompanies the shipment, closes a significant loophole that has been exploited by those seeking to import illegal fireworks into Hawaii without direct personal exposure. This clarification strengthens law enforcement's ability to hold all parties involved in the illegal importation of fireworks accountable, regardless of the method or structure of their operation.

The expansion of the definition of "aerial device" further strengthens the State's regulatory framework by ensuring that modern and evolving categories of fireworks products are properly captured under the law, reducing ambiguity in enforcement and prosecution.

Together, these provisions directly support the mission of the Illegal Fireworks Task Force and the broader effort to reduce the harm caused by illegal fireworks in our communities. The DLE strongly encourages the passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: March 16, 2026

To: Chair Sen. Carol Fukunaga
Vice Chair Sen Chris Lee
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Vice President of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2503, HD1: Relating to Fireworks
Friday, March 20, 2026, 3:15 p.m., Room 016 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 2503, House Draft 1, which authorizes civil asset forfeiture related to fireworks offenses that constitute felonies; amends the definition of "aerial device"; and clarifies that the offense of sending or receiving fireworks or articles pyrotechnic by air delivery applies regardless of whether the offender accompanies the air delivery.

Hawaiian Humane is deeply grateful for the amazing work this committee and the state Legislature as a body did last session to strengthen our statutes combatting illegal fireworks. While we did see a decrease in lost pets on O'ahu over the most recent holiday period, illegal behavior clearly continued. We support giving law enforcement more tools to deter people who would commit these crimes and to close loopholes in existing laws.

The Hawaiian Humane Society represents the interests of our animal companions who have far more sensitive hearing than human being and are therefore more likely to be terrified by explosives going off in residential neighborhoods. But these activities pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of pets, people and property.

Please pass HB2503, HD1, and give law enforcement the tools it needs to ensure the peace and security of our neighborhoods. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 6:47:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Carroll	Testifying for Maui Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Lāna`i and founder of the Lāna`i Cat Sanctuary. I currently serve on the board of directors of the Maui Humane Society (MHS). In that capacity I am authorized to provide testimony on behalf of MHS. MHS urges the Legislature to pass HB2503, HD1. This important measure will help keep illegal explosives out of our neighborhoods and away from our human and animal family members.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathy Carroll, Ph.D.

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:03:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Britain we are also very concerned about the reckless use of fireworks, which can frighten, cause damage and even maim people and animals.

We beg to support this measure as part of an ongoing effort to keep illegal explosives out of your neighbourhoods and away from vulnerable human and animal family members.

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 5:56:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joanna p milo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support HB2503

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 5:58:08 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia C	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2503 HD1.

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:54:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2503 HB RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 4:46:57 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Authorizes forfeiture of fireworks that would be recognized as offenses that constitute felonies; amends the definition of "aerial device"; and clarifies that the offense of sending or receiving fireworks or articles pyrotechnic by air delivery applies regardless of whether the offender accompanies the air delivery.

It will improve deterrence and close loopholes. I support keeping illegal explosives out of our neighborhoods and away from our human and animal family members.

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:16:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carole richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure fine-tunes law enforcement tools to improve deterrence and close loopholes.

Hawaii Kai voter

Testimony in support of HB2503 Relating to Fireworks

I support HB2503 which authorizes civil asset forfeiture related to fireworks offenses involving fireworks with a total weight of twenty-five pounds or more; amends the definition of "aerial device"; and clarifies that the offense of sending or receiving fireworks or articles pyrotechnic by air delivery applies regardless of whether the offender accompanies the air delivery.

This measure fine-tunes law enforcement tools to improve deterrence and close loopholes. I support this measure as part of an ongoing effort to keep illegal explosives out of our neighborhoods and away from our human and animal family members.

Signed,
Judith Aikawa, MD
37 Apali Way
Kula, HI 96790

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:39:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Fukunaga, Vice Chair Senator Lee and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

Please support HB 2503 HD 1, which to my understanding, would strengthen existing laws against illegal fireworks. To support this bill is to support the paramount importance of the safety and health of the people and animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:03:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a strong supporter of Bill HB2503.

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:48:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:00:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

The more the merrier. I support all bills which will reduce illegal fireworks. This measure fine tunes law enforcement tools to improve deterrence and close loopholes. Again this year people were injured and property damaged. This has to stop.

Please move this bill forward.

Lynne Matusow

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:41:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2503 HD1. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I live Sunset Beach, Oahu.

HB-2503-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 10:00:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/20/2026 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I ask you to support HB2503 on fireworks to help keep our communities, our people, and our animals safe. The tragedies that happen every year to people and dogs is avoidable, but we need to have laws in place for protection. The only way will can stop some fireworks offenders, is by taking away the fireworks.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Wood

808-221-7229

Kalaheo, HI 96741