



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2503, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

TIME: 10:15 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Mark S. Tom,
Deputy Attorney General, at 808-586-1160)

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill and offers the followings comments and suggested amendments.

The purpose of this bill is to enhance fireworks enforcement by: (1) permitting civil asset forfeiture of any property or proceeds related to felony fireworks offenses; (2) amending the definition of "aerial device" to include fireworks that move more than twelve feet in any direction, not just those that rise into the air; and (3) clarifying the offense of "sending or receiving fireworks or articles pyrotechnic by air delivery," to specifically include unaccompanied delivery.

These amendments will expand existing fireworks control laws in a reasonable manner to address practical questions that have arisen in the course of law enforcement operations against illegal fireworks.

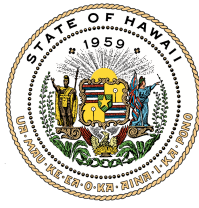
To clarify the forfeiture provision on page 1, lines 4-12, and avoid potential confusion regarding the meaning of the word "violation," the Department recommends amending page 1, lines 4-12, as follows (underscoring in the bill has been removed, to Ramseyer recommended changes):

"§132D- Forfeiture of property used in violation of this chapter. [~~In~~
~~the case of a violation of this chapter that constitutes a felony, any]~~ Any property
used or intended for use in the commission of, attempt to commit, or conspiracy

to commit a ~~[violation]~~ felony offense under this chapter or that facilitated or assisted ~~[the activity,]~~ a felony offense, and any proceeds or other property acquired or maintained with the proceeds from a ~~[violation of]~~ felony offense under this chapter, may be ordered forfeited to the State, subject to the requirements of chapter 712A."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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, SENATE DRAFT 1

RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Before the Senate Committee on

JUDICIARY

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:15 AM

State Capitol Conference Room 016

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 2503, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, which amends Chapter 132D of the Hawaii Revised Statutes relating to fireworks. Specifically, this bill authorizes civil asset forfeiture for felony fireworks offenses involving 25 pounds or more of illegal fireworks, expands the definition of 'aerial device,' and clarifies that the offense of sending or receiving fireworks by air delivery applies regardless of whether the offender accompanies the delivery.

The DLE supports the civil asset forfeiture provision in this bill. As the Illegal Fireworks Task Force has demonstrated through its ongoing operations, the importation and distribution of illegal fireworks in Hawaii represent a serious and persistent public safety threat. Since its establishment under Act 67, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, the Task Force has removed nearly 150,000 pounds of illegal fireworks from Hawaii's streets. However, enforcement alone is not sufficient — effective deterrence requires that those engaged in large-scale illegal fireworks activity face meaningful economic consequences. Civil asset forfeiture is a proven enforcement tool that removes the

economic incentive from criminal activity, ensures that crime does not pay, and serves as a powerful deterrent to others who may consider engaging in similar conduct. Extending civil asset forfeiture to felony fireworks offenses involving 25 pounds or more directly addresses a key weakness identified by the Task Force and strengthens the State's ability to disrupt large-scale illegal fireworks operations.

The expansion of the definition of 'aerial device' is also a welcome clarification. As illegal fireworks continue to evolve in type and variety, ensuring that Hawaii's statutes reflect the current landscape of dangerous fireworks products is critical to effective enforcement. Ambiguities in statutory definitions can create loopholes that are exploited by those seeking to import or distribute illegal fireworks, and this amendment helps close those gaps.

Additionally, the clarification that air delivery offenses apply regardless of whether the offender accompanies the delivery is an important and necessary update. The increasing use of commercial air delivery services to import illegal fireworks into Hawaii has been a significant challenge for law enforcement. This clarification removes any ambiguity that could hinder prosecutions and ensures that individuals who exploit air delivery channels to circumvent Hawaii's fireworks laws are held fully accountable.

Taken together, the provisions of this bill represent meaningful, targeted enhancements to Hawaii's fireworks enforcement framework. The DLE looks forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to protect the safety and well-being of Hawaii's residents and visitors through strong and effective fireworks regulation and enforcement.

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

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:00:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

We understand that this measure fine-tunes law enforcement tools to improve deterrence and close loopholes.

We suffer from the same sort of nuisance in Britain so we are supporting this measure as an ongoing effort to keep illegal explosives out of your neighbourhoods and away from your human and animal family members.

We beg to support the Bill.

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 9:31:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am authorized on behalf of Maui Humane Society to urge your support of HB2503.

We support this important measure as part of an ongoing effort to keep illegal explosives out of our neighborhoods and away from our human and animal family members.

Mahalo for all your efforts to keep our communities safe!

Kathy Carroll, Ph.D., PO Box 631522, 758 Queens Street, Lāna`i City, HI. 96763. Member, Maui Humane Society Board of Directors

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:07:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT this measure for additional enforcement against illegal fireworks.

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:12:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:59:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Gollero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill a thousand percent! Words can not sufficiently convey the huge sigh of relief our entire neighborhood feels these past two years ever since a task force and stricter penalties has finally put a stop to these dangerous bombings.

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 5:54:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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.

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 6:32:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB2503 HD1 SD1.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 10:25:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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.

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 12:29:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB2503 HD1 SD1. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:01:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelley Dunbar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As both a resident of Maui and a member of the Board of Directors of the Maui Humane Society, I fully 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.

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 2:47:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Judiciary.

Please support HB 2503 HD 1 SD 1 which strengthens existing laws against illegal fireworks. This bill helps to emphasize the paramount importance of the health and safety of the people and animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

HB-2503-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 7:32:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Though I am one of those people who enjoyed playing with fireworks, I think that it has become way too dangerous and we DO NOT need another Salt Lake episode.

Mahalo