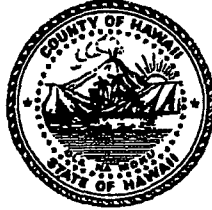


Harry Kim
Mayor



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January 31, 2008

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye
Chair, Committee on Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

Re: SB 2184

The purpose of SB 2184 is to allow the counties to enact ordinances regulating fireworks which are more restrictive than those set forth in Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 132D. The problem with fireworks is well-known, as is the cultural sensitivity and recognition of the traditional role of fireworks in Hawaii. For that reason, it would seem to be appropriate to allow each county to decide for itself whether new restrictions should be placed on fireworks, which might be greater than those imposed by the Legislature a decade ago.

Because of the way SB 2184 is worded, the description of SB 2184 on today's hearing notice may be a bit misleading. Under current law, the counties cannot enact ordinances which are more restrictive than the provisions of Chapter 132D. SB 2184 is meant to assure that the counties will be allowed to be more restrictive, but not less restrictive, than Chapter 132D. That is the intent, and if this Committee feels that the bill is not appropriately worded, we of course would defer to your judgment and welcome any amendments that would clarify the language.

Whether the exact wording of SB 2184 is appropriate or not, we hope that this Legislature will allow the counties to use their judgment in enacting ordinances that best fit their communities' needs.

Aloha,


Harry Kim
MAYOR