

Harry Kim  
Mayor

**LATE**

Darryl J. Oliveira  
Fire Chief

Glen P. I. Honda  
Deputy Fire Chief

## County of Hawai'i

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

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February 4, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE 1-800-586-6659

TO : SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE, CHAIR  
COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

FROM : DARRYL OLIVEIRA, FIRE CHIEF, HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: SB 2184  
COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008  
1:15 P.M.

As the Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department, I would like to ask for your support and consideration of SB 2184 relating to fireworks.

Each County has unique changing situations, such as drought, environmental, and public safety issues. These conditions place each County in the best position to determine what should or should not be allowed at any given time related to fireworks or articles pyrotechnic sales and use.

This bill will provide each County the latitude to enact ordinances or adopt any rules regulating fireworks or articles pyrotechnic and will ultimately assure proper public safety.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration on this matter and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

  
DARRYL OLIVEIRA  
Fire Chief

DO:lk



# LATE TESTIMONY

## HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO  
2305 S. BERETANIA ST., RM. 202, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826-1493  
TEL: (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003  
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The Twenty Fourth Legislature  
The Senate  
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

### **S.B. No. 2184 Relating to Fireworks**

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 1,800 professional and 800 retired fire fighters throughout the State, the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association supports S.B. No. 2184, which authorizes the respective county councils to enact more stringent fireworks laws than those imposed by state fireworks law, chapter 132D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The HFFA supports S.B. No. 2184, because of the impact on fire fighters throughout the State. This legislation provides the individual counties with the ability to assess the impact of fireworks in each jurisdiction and adopt laws to appropriately address their needs. We believe the counties will be best served by having the fire service personnel working with the county councils deal with this issue.

This initiative helps protect the community and fire fighters. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we ask for your support of S.B. No. 2184.



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February 4, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Intergovernmental & Military Affairs  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair / Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President or Lauren Zirbel, Gov't Relations

Re: SB 2184 RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

We oppose SB 2184.

We have been there and done that. The law used to allow the counties to have home rule, and we had four different ordinances, creating adverse situations.

Fireworks are one of the few exceptions where home rule does not work. We need to have one law for the entire state to eliminate the practice of fireworks that would be legal on one county being transported to another county where they are illegal.

The existing law became effective in 1995, and has substantially reduced the practice where people would import fireworks that were legal on the Big Island, then they would show up elsewhere in the state where they were not legal. Along with this change aerial fireworks became illegal statewide. Also at the same time, it became illegal to sell, use, or setoff any consumer fireworks that went higher or wider than twelve feet.

It is a Class C Felony to import illegal aerial fireworks. Because of the demand and profits involved, some people are willing to take the chance. Enforcement is catching up with them, and the publicity is making an impact. If one county were to become more restrictive than current law, there would be a movement where legal fireworks in one county would encourage people to bring them to another county where they were illegal. The problem is that enforcement would be hampered because the threshold that now makes it a felony can be avoided.