



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
State Fire Council
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 4, 2008

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye:

Subject: S.B. 2184 Relating to Fireworks

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support S.B. 2184, which proposes to allow the various counties to enact more stringent laws than those imposed by Chapter 132D of the Hawaii Revised Statutes(HRS).

Chapter 132D-17, HRS, states that no county may enact stricter laws or rules relating to the present fireworks law. Fires, injuries, and property damage from fireworks have increased during New Year's Eve and Independence Day celebrations, thereby creating health and safety concerns for the public and straining the resources of fire, police, and emergency medical services. Each county should be allowed to determine the potential hazards fireworks present and the benefit to their community by further restricting fireworks use based on each county's needs.

Fires, injuries, and property damage from fireworks on New Year's Eve and Independence Day continue to strain the resources of fire, police, and emergency medical services and results in reduced or limited emergency manpower for critical incidents. This proposal will not affect public displays of aerial fireworks, which are conducted by licensed pyrotechnic professionals.

The SFC and the HFD strongly urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2184.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7173.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth G. Silva".

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair