

aquino1-Ruffalyne

From: Tom [reelcom1@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 5:43 PM
To: PBStestimony
Subject: Testimony: HB2909, HB2271, HB2068, HB2114,

Citizen Testimony

I am are FOR **HB2909, HB2271, HB2068, HB2114**

I will not be able to attend.

Haven't we had enough!?

We lost a 13 year member of our family this New Years. Our cat 'Shadow', while already frail, just could not deal with all the bombs and smoke. We miss her beyond words.

It is time to BAN all personal aerial fireworks and explosive percussive devices in Hawaii during the next legislative session and at the City/County level. My wife and I went thru the 'celebration' where the windward side looked and sounded like WWII. My lungs, eyes and ears still hurt! The problem is not just on Oahu however our dear friend Karen Jennings lost her Dog of 10 years due to fireworks.

I am all for celebration, you know we Irish love to party, but how much longer will we allow a rabid few who won't follow the law harm the lungs and peace of mind of the rest of us? Where are those that say they care about the aina and kai?

A few other points to consider....

- 1) In addition to several cats and dogs dying from fireworks, a horse died on NY Eve, too. Also, service dogs upon whom the disabled depend for lifesaving tasks can be permanently injured or killed themselves, leaving the disabled person up the creek without a paddle for an indefinite period of time, exposing them to danger, and incurring great expense to replace the service dog.
- 2) Fireworks contain, in addition to lead and arsenic, radioactive barium, carcinogenic perchlorate, and MANY other highly toxic compounds that stay in the environment indefinitely, and have been shown to contaminate drinking water.
- 3) The percussive blasts of even legal fireworks are enough to cause permanent hearing damage. The blast levels from the illegal _military grade explosions_ can cause traumatic brain injuries or death, as have been sustained by many of our troops.
- 4) Endangered species are put at risk from fireworks displays. Between the noise, lights, debris, and toxic air and runoff the potential for damage is very likely. Sea turtles in Florida have been known to ingest fireworks debris that ends up in the ocean, and with increasing numbers of our critically endangered monk seals breeding in the main islands, they are being put in even more danger, too.
- 5) The term "cultural purposes", as it pertains to fireworks use, opens up a HUGE loophole that will undoubtedly be used by those who want to set off fireworks indiscriminately. It needs to be deleted from the bill.

Today's modern aerial fireworks are a threat to public safety, the environment and our health. Please contact your representatives and let your voice be heard. Never again should the citizens of Hawaii and Oahu have to put up with this. And I look forward to actively campaigning against any public official who refuse to see the wisdom of this course

Sincerely,

Tom McAuliffe
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