

Linda Lingle  
Governor



Darwin L.D. Ching  
Director

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

February 23, 2010

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 302  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Karamatsu:

Subject: H.B. 2790, H.D. 1 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 offer the following comments:

1. We support the statewide ban of consumer fireworks, with the exception of special events and professional public fireworks displays.
2. We believe each county should determine the potential hazards of fireworks and the benefit to their community by further restricting fireworks use based on each county's needs and resources. Chapter 132D-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes states that no county may enact stricter laws or rules relating to the present fireworks law.
3. We support measures that make the arrest and prosecution for illegal purchase, possession, setting off, igniting, or discharging of fireworks easier and increase the penalties and consequences for convictions of fireworks violations.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151.

Sincerely,

KENNETH G. SILVA  
Chair

KGS/LR:bh