

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
CHIEF

ROBERT M. SHIMADA
DEPUTY CHIEF

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
(808) 270-7561
FAX (808) 270-7919
EMAIL: fire.dept@mauicounty.gov

March 28, 2012

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 215
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige:

Subject: H.B. 2113, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 Relating to Fire Protection

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety (MFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The MFD and the SFC support H.B. 2113, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 which proposes to ban the use, sale, and possession of aerial luminaries, which are commonly known as sky lanterns, Hawaii lanterns, and flying luminaries. We recommend that the reference to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 132D be changed to a HRS Section 132. HRS 132D is the fireworks chapter and aerial luminaries do not meet the criteria of fireworks. We believe it to be more appropriate to be placed in HRS 132, which is the fire protection chapter.

We believe the uncontrolled releases of these devices pose a potential danger to life and property and recommend they be prohibited in the state. These devices are paper lanterns containing a small candle or other fuel source that heats air inside the lantern, thus causing the lantern to rise several hundred feet and remain airborne until the heat source diminishes, at which time the lantern descends. This uncontrolled, open-flame device can land on combustible vegetation, buildings, or power lines and interfere with aircraft flight patterns. Death or serious injury to livestock has been reported in many countries after the sky lantern remains were consumed. In Great Britain, numerous fires have been reported to buildings and crops. There is a ban of aerial luminaries in Georgia, Australia, and parts of Germany.

The MFD and the SFC urge your committees' support on the passage of H.B. 2113, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 with the recommended revision.

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
Page 2
March 28, 2012

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Gary K. Heu
Managing Director

John T. Blalock
Deputy Fire Chief

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

3083 Akahi Street, Suite 101, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

March 28, 2012

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 215
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige:

Subject: H.B. 2113, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 Relating to Fire Protection

I am Robert F. Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The KFD and the SFC support H.B. 2113, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 which proposes to ban the use, sale, and possession of aerial luminaries, which are commonly known as sky lanterns, Hawaii lanterns, and flying luminaries. We recommend that the reference to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 132D be changed to a HRS Section 132. HRS 132D is the fireworks chapter and aerial luminaries do not meet the criteria of fireworks. We believe it to be more appropriate to be placed in HRS 132, which is the fire protection chapter.

We believe the uncontrolled releases of these devices pose a potential danger to life and property and recommend they be prohibited in the state. These devices are paper lanterns containing a small candle or other fuel source that heats air inside the lantern, thus causing the lantern to rise several hundred feet and remain airborne until the heat source diminishes, at which time the lantern descends. This uncontrolled, open-flame device can land on combustible vegetation, buildings, or power lines and interfere with aircraft flight patterns. Death or serious injury to livestock has been reported in many countries after the sky lantern remains were consumed. In Great Britain, numerous fires have been reported to buildings and crops. There is a ban of aerial luminaries in Georgia, Australia, and parts of Germany.

The KFD and the SFC urge your committees' support on the passage of H.B. 2113, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 with the recommended revision.

Please call me at (808) 241-4980 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld