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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 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 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. However, we recommend that the reference to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 132D be changed to HRS Section 132, as HRS 132D references fireworks. Since aerial luminaries do not meet the fireworks criteria, we believe it would be more appropriately placed in HRS 132, as this chapter references fire protection.

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 SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 2113, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 with the recommended revision.

The Honorable David Ige, Chair  
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Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



KENNETH G. SILVA  
Chair

KGS/LR:cn