

SB 2090

RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

Limits the use of consumer fireworks to only cultural events,
including religious events.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMNE
DIRECTOR

JADE BUTAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9089
Email: dilr.director@hawaii.gov

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and
Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Committee on Technology and the Arts
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 216
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Wakai:

Subject: S.B. 2090 Relating to Fireworks

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support S.B. 2090, which proposes to limit the use of consumer fireworks with a permit to only cultural and religious events.

The bill would eliminate the use of consumer fireworks on New Year's Eve, Independence Day, and Chinese New Year, but allowed with a permit for religious or cultural purposes, such as dedications, funerals, and special events. The widespread use of consumer fireworks continues to impact our citizen's health and safety, especially on New Year's Eve. People are greatly impacted by noise, pollution, and mental health issues during these three holidays.

Since the enactment of a City and County of Honolulu ordinance three years ago, which only allows the use of firecrackers with a permit, fireworks injuries have declined on

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai
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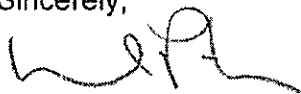
Oahu. There has been no commensurate reduction of injuries in the other three counties, which still allow all types of consumer fireworks.

Fireworks injuries occur primarily to children and prompt the illegal activity of homemade explosive devices. The elimination of consumer fireworks on the three noted holidays will reduce the number of emergency response calls, thereby allowing fire, police, and emergency medical services to be available for other important emergency incidents. We also believe that limiting consumer fireworks use allows law enforcement to be available to identify and arrest violators of fireworks.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's passage of S.B. 2090 for the protection of our citizens.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

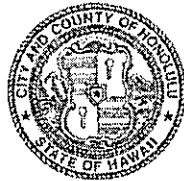
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. P. Neves', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE H. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. MCCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE TB-SI

February 6, 2014

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
and Members
Committee on Technology
and the Arts
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Wakai and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2090, Relating to Fireworks

I am Timothy Boswell, Captain of the Kapolei Police Station, of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD joins the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) in support of Senate Bill 2090, which limits the use of consumer fireworks to cultural and religious events.

The use of fireworks remains a safety concern for all public safety workers. Enforcement is very difficult, and without a total ban, we will continue to receive numerous calls for service involving fireworks. Under this bill, the use of consumer fireworks will be limited to cultural and religious purposes.

We urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill 2090, Relating to Fireworks.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police


TIMOTHY BOSWELL, Captain
Kapolei Police Station

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

January 31, 2014

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Economic Development, Government
Operations and Housing
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Espero:

Subject: S.B. 2090 Relating to Fireworks

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member of the Hawai'i State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The SFC and the HCFD support S.B. 2090, which seeks to limit the use of consumer fireworks for the health and safety of our citizens.

The bill would eliminate the use of consumer fireworks on the three designated holidays namely, New Year's Eve, the Fourth of July, and Chinese New Year, but continue to allow private uses for religious or cultural purposes, such as dedications, funerals and special events with a permit. The widespread use of consumer fireworks continues to impact our citizen's health and safety, especially on New Year's Eve. The elimination of consumer fireworks on the three noted holidays will reduce the number of emergency response calls, thereby allowing fire, police and emergency medical services to be more readily available for other emergency needs of the community.



SB 2090, Relating to Fireworks

January 31, 2014

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The SFC and the HCFD urge your committee's passage of S.B. 2090. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at 808(932-2903) or fire@co.hawaii.hi.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Rosario".

DARREN J. ROSARIO

Fire Chief

SFC Member

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
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February 4, 2014

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and
Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Committee on Technology and the Arts
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 216
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Wakai:

Subject: S.B. 2090 Relating to Fireworks

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support S.B. 2090, which proposes to limit the use of consumer fireworks with a permit to only cultural and religious events.

The bill would eliminate the use of consumer fireworks on New Year's Eve, Independence Day, and Chinese New Year, but allowed with a permit for religious or cultural purposes, such as dedications, funerals, and special events. The widespread use of consumer fireworks continues to impact our citizen's health and safety, especially on New Year's Eve. People are greatly impacted by noise, pollution, and mental health issues during these three holidays.

Since the enactment of a City and County of Honolulu ordinance three years ago, which only allows the use of firecrackers with a permit, fireworks injuries have declined on Oahu. There has been no commensurate reduction of injuries in the other three counties, which still allow all types of consumer fireworks.

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The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
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Fireworks injuries occur primarily to children and prompt the illegal activity of homemade explosive devices. The elimination of consumer fireworks on the three noted holidays will reduce the number of emergency response calls, thereby allowing fire, police, and emergency medical services to be available for other important emergency incidents. We also believe that limiting consumer fireworks use allows law enforcement to be available to identify and arrest violators of fireworks.

The SFC and the MFD urge your committee's passage of S.B. 2090 for the protection of our citizens.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,


JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief



HFIA
HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Executive Officers:

Stanley Brown, ConAgra Foods - Chairperson
John Schilf, RSM Hawaii - Vice Chair
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores - Treasurer
Lisa DeCoito, Aloha Petroleum - Secretary
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235
Honolulu, HI 96813
Fax : 808-791-0702
Telephone : 808-533-1292

TO:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS and SENATE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Senators Will Espero and Glenn Wakai, Chairs

Senators Rosalyn Baker and Clarence Nishihara , Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 6, 2014
TIME: 1:45pm
PLACE: Conference Room 414

RE: SB2090

Position: Opposition

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Here in Hawaii we have used fireworks for many years to safely and responsibly celebrate our most important cultural, historical, and religious holidays, in particular New Year's Eve, Independence Day, and Chinese New Year's. We already have significantly stricter fireworks laws than most other parts of the country, even though a majority of Hawaii residents seem to support greater freedom in our fireworks legislation.

A recent Ward Research poll confirms what most of us already knew. The silent majority of Hawaii residents oppose having their personal, cultural and religious freedom taken away from them in the form of a total ban on fireworks.

Almost 4 in 10 (38%) of Hawaii residents strongly oppose a ban on the fireworks, while only 23% strongly support a ban. In other words, for those who stated they had strong feeling on the subject, those opposed to a ban outweigh those supporting it by 15 percentage points.

Those born and raised in Hawaii are more likely to strongly oppose a ban, 45% of those born in Hawaii strongly oppose a ban.

There were no significant differences in opinions between registered voters and those not registered to vote.

Total State Results:

Strongly Oppose: 38%
Somewhat Oppose: 24%
= Total Opposed = 62%
Somewhat Support: 14%
Strongly Support: 23%
= Total Support 37%

The consumer fireworks as defined in this bill are designed for use by consumers to celebrate historical, cultural, and religious events, and there is no evidence to suggest that there has been the kind of significant misuse that would necessitate this kind of overbearing regulation. There is however evidence from other counties across the United States shows that bans on safe and sane consumer fireworks consistently result in an increase in the use of illegal aerial fireworks.

In addition to unnecessarily depriving Hawaii citizens of the ability to freely celebrate some of our most important holidays, this ban would also deprive retailers of thousands of dollars of revenue and the state of thousands of dollars in taxes.

The residents of Hawaii deserve to freely and responsibly celebrate religious, cultural, and historical events as they have for many years, without the state unnecessarily disrupting and curtailing our ability to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 7:11 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: surfmaster008@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2090 on Feb 6, 2014 13:45PM*

SB2090

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for PSM/TEC on Feb 6, 2014 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Higa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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