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January 30, 2014

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: S.B. 2302 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. 2302, which proposes to define terminology and clarify practices related to fireworks in accordance with nationally recognized standards.

In addition to fireworks being a potentially dangerous product during its use, potential dangers also exist during transport and storage. The definitions being proposed are based on nationally recognized standards for safety and best industry practices to protect lives and property that will be applicable statewide. Proposed revisions to the general prohibitions found in Section 132D-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), allows fireworks to be used in movie productions or by those authorized to test or dispose of fireworks.

The revision to Section 132D-8, HRS, authorizes safety requirements for redistributing fireworks that are shipped first to Honolulu; taken by container to a designated location; and repackaged for distribution to the neighbor islands, local storage facility, or retail locations. This revision would include requirements from the building or fire codes or other nationally recognized standard.

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The SFC and the MFD urge your committee's passage of S.B. 2302. Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief