

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Nadine K. Nakamura
Managing Director

John T. Blalock
Deputy Fire Chief

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 315, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 206
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: S.B. 663 Relating to Fireworks

I am Robert F. Westerman, Vice Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The SFC and the KFD support S.B. 663, which proposes to increase the display permit fee from \$110 to \$300.

This permit authorizes licensed pyrotechnicians to conduct outdoor aerial and indoor fireworks displays at special events. Although the permit fee has remained the same for 13 years, administrative costs to process, review, and approve have increased. This includes an evaluation of the firing site, distance to audiences, and proximity to adjacent structures and combustible vegetation. On-site verification of fireworks inventory before and after the event and inspection of pyrotechnic equipment, safety precautions, and weather conditions are some of the items reviewed.

Public safety and property protection are priorities of the fire department's approval process, and the permit fees should increase appropriately.

The SFC and the HFD urge your support on the passage of S.B. 663. Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at sbratakos@honolulu.gov or 723-7105.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Westerman
Vice Chair

RFW/dag