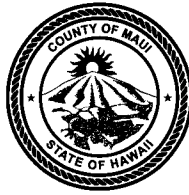


ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



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 25, 2015

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda:

Subject: S.B. 663 Relating to Fireworks

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD 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 MFD 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Murray".

JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief