
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR
INSPECTING CARGO SHIPMENTS TO HAWAII TO COORDINATE THEIR
EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY SHIPPING CONTAINER ORIGINATING
FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE IS INSPECTED FOR ILLEGAL GOODS.

1 WHEREAS, eight years have passed since the City and County
2 of Honolulu enacted a ban on most consumer fireworks; and

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4 WHEREAS, during the period from December 31, 2018, to
5 January 1, 2019, the Honolulu Fire Department responded to nine
6 fires, some of which were believed to have been started by
7 illegal fireworks; and

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9 WHEREAS, news reports and video recordings from earlier
10 this year depict numerous instances of illegal firework use
11 throughout Oahu during the period of December 31, 2018, to
12 January 1, 2019; and

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14 WHEREAS, it is believed that most fireworks that are
15 illegally obtained and ignited during new year festivities
16 arrived in Hawaii via shipping containers; and

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18 WHEREAS, Hawaii harbors receive more than two hundred
19 thousand shipping containers annually, the vast majority of
20 which are not inspected for any illegal materials; now,
21 therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
25 2019, the Senate concurring, that the United States Coast Guard,
26 Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture,
27 Department of Public Safety, and Honolulu Police Department are
28 requested to coordinate their inspections of shipping containers
29 originating from outside the State to ensure that every shipping



1 container that arrives in Hawaii is inspected or scanned for
2 illegal fireworks, drugs, and firearms; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these inspections shall be
5 carried out in such a way as to have minimal impact on the flow
6 of commerce in the State; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander of the
10 Fourteenth Coast Guard District, Director of Transportation,
11 Director of Agriculture, Director of Public Safety, and Honolulu
12 Police Chief.

