

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dliir.director@hawaii.gov

LATE

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2737, House Draft (HD) 1 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 HB 2737, HD 1, which proposes to increase the display permit fee from \$110 to \$150 and the fine for certain fireworks violations from \$2,000 per violation to \$5,000 per violation. It also clarifies that each aerial device, fireworks display, or articles pyrotechnic having a total weight of 25 pounds or less illegally imported, transferred, or sold constitutes a separate violation with penalty increases for removing or extracting the pyrotechnic contents.

This permit authorizes licensed pyrotechnicians to conduct outdoor aerial and indoor fireworks displays at special events. The permit fee has remained the same for 15 years; however, administrative costs to process, review, and approve have increased. Factors contributing to rising costs include an on-site verification of fireworks inventory before and after the event; inspection of pyrotechnic equipment; and the evaluation of the firing site and safety precautions for the display's distance to audiences, proximity to adjacent structures, nearby combustible vegetation, and weather conditions. Furthermore, the illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks permit fees and violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

Public safety and property protection are priorities for the HFD's approval of fireworks permits. The SFC and the HFD support any fireworks legislation that strengthens existing enforcement efforts and penalties and urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 2737, HD 1.

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Page 2
March 10, 2020

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MPN', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:gl