



*improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.*

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Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Board President Poi Dogs & Popoki  
In strong support of SB 670 - Relating to Fireworks  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1:15 pm, room 229

Aloha Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We are in strong support of SB 670 because we believe it will make people think twice about the illegal use of fireworks or be penalized for the activity. The bill also provides another tool in the toolbox for those of us looking for respite from the inconsiderate and constant barrage of bombs invading our communities.

The most recent bombing in Ewa Beach was last Sunday following the Super Bowl. I had to rush outside after hearing the first bomb at about 5 pm. It was still daylight so these are not flashy aerials for viewing. They are simply bombs. For the next hour – I had to sit and hold a shaking 100 pound mastiff who will climb out of a 6 foot high chain link fence and in his fear – attack my other dogs. This past year – the bombs started in early October they continued nightly through the first week of January. Add in a win by any MMA fighter or Alabama or other sporting event with Hawaii ties and that adds up to constant disruption in my life and the life of my animals.

For the second year – after sedating my dogs on New Years Eve – I walked a one-square mile around my neighborhood and identified the same properties year after year who are setting off illegal fireworks. And again – these are not just pretty flashy aerials. But the bombs that shake your house and set off car alarms. And they are the bombs that send my animals running in fear.

I have fought for stronger fireworks laws for the past 4 years. But this past year was the first time that I saw overwhelming disgust and frustration by people all over the state. People are tired of it. For the most part – even I can agree that I can put up with and plan for New Years Eve from 9 pm to 1 am. But because these people cannot follow the law, we need stronger penalties. I know where they live. I know who they are. And I am looking for a hammer to shut them down and hold them responsible for the crime and penalties that go with it. Its time to pay the consequences for poor decisions.

Entertainment does NOT trump quality of life. Please pass SB 670.

**SB-670**

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 9:43:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Celeste Kato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB670.

We all know that there will probably never be a complete ban of fireworks in Hawaii. Honolulu's current restriction of needing a permit to purchase firecrackers and the date/time restrictions of firecracker usage was a compromise that people learned to live with and planned around. And is currently a joke - ask anybody how their New Year's Eve was and you'll hear the same story - whoa - had so many aeriels!

The stricter penalties proposed in SB670 will hopefull help deter a few people from playing with illegal fireworks. And every little bit will help.

I have friends who are animal care-givers. They rescue, foster, adopt, and love cats and dogs that are abandoned at the beach, tied up to fence posts, thrown out of moving cars, left in dumpsters. These people give their time, money, energy and heart to the animals. No matter how many animals you have it still breaks your heart when one dies. Especially if it is because of a senseless, illegal act.

Markie was rescued along with his female companion and their puppies; they had all been dumped at a graveyard in Pearl City right before a major storm. Once old enough, the puppies were quickly adopted. Markie was shy, but adorable and plans were being made to find him a loving home. A few days before New Year's Eve, one too many firecracker bombs went off. Terrified, Markie got into a fight with another, equally terrified, dog. Markie did not survive. We cannot and do not blame the other dog, it wasn't his fault. The unpredictability of the firecrackers, especially the bombs, terrifies and traumatizes the innocent animals that have no place to hide.

Knowing that there will be firecrackers at a specific time on a specific night is something that can be planned for; the animals can be sedated if necessary, they can be kenneled and sheltered. It is not the ideal situation, but it is livable and workable.

Stopping the use of illegal aeriels and bombs will also stop the trauma and heartache the fireworks cause. The people who "play" with illegals need to be pay the price for their actions.

thank you.

Celeste Kato

**SB-670**

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 10:47:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelley Streadbeck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Entertainment should not trump quality of life! No such thing as its "our culture"! There is a specified day/time for people to celebrate "culture". Not every single night for months.

**SB-670**

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 5:49:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
DyannaYost	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I live in a Kona subdivision that is about 25 miles south of Kailua Kona and we are on water catchment. For the first time we had illegal fireworks in our subdivision this last New Years Eve, starting at 7pm until well after 1am in the morning New Year's Day. They started again New Year's Day in the evening.

Water is a commodity to those of us here. Illegal fireworks put those of us on water catchment in a very precarious situation. If one house burns we are all in jeopardy and we simply don't have to water out here, it would take fight house fires, if even one or several houses burned.

Furthermore, illegal fireworks are terrible for our pets. I heard dogs howling barking from the sheer terror from the loud bombs. I can only imagine how they effect people that are on the spectrum of autism disorder as well as our veterans with PTSD.

I'm urging you to please pass this bill and keep those of us in Hawaii safe and at peace.

Mahalo,

Dyanna Yost

**SB-670**

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 7:27:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel Halverson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Illegal fireworks are terrible. Not only do they happen on the Eve, but they go off for several months before.

**SB-670**

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 11:51:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John R Kercheval	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 670, which holds property owners liable for use of illegal fireworks and allows law enforcement greater ability to cite and arrest those responsible for the use of the illegal fireworks.

I am a hospital physician at Kona Community Hospital and a 41-year veteran of the military with multiple combat tours with battalion size units in Afghanistan. I have worked with military veterans throughout my military and medical careers. A number of these veterans simply dread the days on either side of several holidays here in Hawaii. The reason for their dread is the tremendous number of illegal fireworks which are detonated at all times of the day or night and in any number of indiscriminate locations. I consider myself fortunate that in spite of experiencing many episodes of shelling, mortars and rocket attacks while deployed, I have been able to make the adjustment and have no significant sequelae from these encounters. Many of my fellow service members are not so fortunate. Holidays and the multiple explosions which occur with no warning and in any location cause recurrent trauma and anxiety.

Additionally, I live in an area of Hawaii Island called Kona Paradise. We are a development of over one-hundred homes which are remote from town and on water catchment. The indiscriminate launching of illegal fireworks places the community as a whole at risk. As we say here, "if one burns, we all burn."

I know of no one that seeks to end the controlled, legal use of fireworks or to halt commercial displays by professionals. I do believe that we need improved control of the import of illegal fireworks and greatly improved enforcement and attention by law enforcement to end the use of illegal fireworks.

Thank you,

Dr. John Kercheval



**SB-670**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 7:29:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB670, which would increase the penalties for illegal fireworks.

Illegal fireworks are still being used, so clearly more of a disincentive is called for.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

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