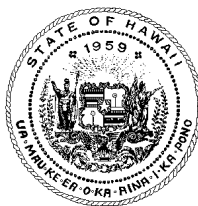


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**MAX N. OTANI**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Tommy Johnson**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Jordan Lowe**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 213  
RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

By  
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Friday, February 9, 2021; 2:00 p.m.  
Via Video Conference

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) offers comments on House Bill (HB) 213, which seeks to impose a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

PSD supports measures that stem the use of illegal fireworks in the State of Hawaii. HB 213 will reduce the demand for consumer fireworks, and consequently, will lessen the opportunities for illegal fireworks to be imported into the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LATE

ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO  
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
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February 8, 2021

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 436  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 213 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 213, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

The SFC and the HFD fully support increased limitations on the use of fireworks by the general public. The widespread use of fireworks endangers the public, not only when it is being used, but also when it is transported throughout the state. In addition, the pervasive use of permitted fireworks by the public encourages the sale and use of illegal fireworks throughout the community. Deaths and serious injuries have occurred along with property damage. Neighborhoods are impacted by noise and pollution, veterans are reminded of combat conditions, and animals are traumatized for weeks and sometimes months preceding these holiday celebrations. While fireworks injuries occur primarily to children, an adult male who lived on Kauai succumbed to fatal injuries sustained from a fireworks explosion on December 31, 2020. Hawaii news media reports at least seven others, including juveniles, were injured from fireworks misuse on New Year's Eve 2020.

The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC and the HFD, and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 213.

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Page 2  
February 8, 2021

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or [lrogers@honolulu.gov](mailto:lrogers@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

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

MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair

MPN/LR:cs

LATE

**HB-213**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 3:12:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stason Tanaka	Honolulu Police Dept.	Comments	No

Comments:

I am available for comments.

**HB-213**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 12:24:45 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Inga Gibson	Pono Advocacy	Support	No

Comments:

CPC 2-9-21 2pm

SUPPORT FOR HB213 Prohibitions on Fireworks less for cultural permitted events

Dear Chair Johanson and Members of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Having working in the animal protection field for more than 20 years, and formerly serving as an animal control officer on Oahu, I have seen first hand the animal suffering, stress and even death that has resulted from fireworks in our communities.

Many dogs, in their attempt to escape the noise of the fireworks, injure themselves. Further, the days of and following firework events, such as New Years and the 4th of July, shelters commonly become full of dogs that have become loose in their fearful attempt to escape the fireworks.

The excessive fireworks displayed across the state this past New Year's demonstrates that current laws are not adequate and must be strengthened. We support whatever measure law enforcement and fire safety officials believe would be the most effective in preventing fireworks except under limited, controlled circumstances, to protect humans and animals alike.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-213**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 5:04:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

## Comments:

ARH strongly supports HB213. Multiple attempts to curb in the illegal trade/use of fireworks over the past 50 years have not achieved any peace for the citizens of Hawai'i, especially our Kupuna or our companion animals and endangered wildlife.

The import of illegal fireworks continues and will unless and until private ownership is completely banned.



Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

**RE: HB 213 Relating to Fireworks – In Opposition**  
February 9, 2021; Via Videoconference; 2:00 P.M.

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee:

American Promotional Events, Inc. (APE) opposes HB 213, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

While we acknowledge the intent of this measure, we do not believe it will achieve the desired outcome. In 2010, the Honolulu City Council banned nearly all consumer fireworks on Oahu with the purpose of reducing injuries and smoke. Since that time, consumers have obtained fireworks through the black market. As it's been reported and observed over the past decade, the proliferation of illegal aerial devices is at an all-time high. Legislation aimed at strengthening enforcement and penalties for the use of illegal aerial devices has not proved successful. With the ban on Oahu proving to be unsuccessful and producing unintended consequences, a similar statewide ban would net the same negative results.

Instead of driving consumers to the black market, a safer alternative should be available. New York, New Jersey, Arizona, Delaware and others have reversed their ban on consumer fireworks and allow the sale of consumer fireworks such as fountains and ground spinners, which produce significantly less smoke and noise. Currently, fireworks are allowed in 49 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Hawaii consumers are enamored with fireworks and have a long history of fireworks being an integral part of New Years and July 4<sup>th</sup> family celebrations.

As we do not believe this bill will achieve its purpose, we respectfully ask that you hold this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns.

Brian Trim  
Vice President

**AMERICAN PROMOTIONAL EVENTS, INC.**  
**2120 MILWAUKEE WAY • TACOMA, WA 98421**  
**TACOMA (253) 922-0800 • FAX (253) 830-2930**  
**[www.tntfireworks.com](http://www.tntfireworks.com)**



LATE

## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: Feb. 8, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson  
Vice Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa  
and Members of the  
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 213: Relating to Fireworks  
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, 2 p.m., Capitol Room 329

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Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 213, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

Hawaiian Humane supports any attempt to remove fireworks from residential neighborhoods, to increase penalties, and to enhance enforcement. At what should be joyous times for local families, illegal fireworks fill our neighborhoods with unexpected explosions that terrorize pets and people alike. Making matters worse, these bombs increasingly go off for weeks at a time.

Animals who flee their homes in fear are at enormous risk of injury and death. Good Samaritans often bring deceased pets to the Hawaiian Humane Society with the goal of providing closure to their owners. That number averages 1-2 a day. Between New Year's Day and Jan. 2 the number spikes. This year we received 13 deceased animals within that timeframe, last year 14 and in 2019 seven. Even when families keep their pets safely indoors, the loud noises fireworks produce cause fear, anxiety and stress in animals. This anxiety can do lasting damage to a pet's emotional and physical health. Neither people nor animals should have to take tranquilizers just to survive the impacts of illegal behavior by their neighbors.

We urge the committee to restore peace and safety to our neighborhoods and leave fireworks displays to the professionals. Mahalo for your consideration.



**HB-213**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:27:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB 213 Relating to Fireworks. This year's New Year fireworks by individuals was the worst noise pollution, air pollution, and fire hazardous event in 2021. The dry weather and winds were ripe for fires to homes happen - and it did! I am glad this legislative body is taking action this year through this bill. HPD officers and HFD firemen are put at risk for having to handle the misuse and abuse of individuals who do illegal fireworks in our neighborhoods. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 213.

**HB-213**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 3:29:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

long over due. public has been suffering from noise, injuieres, fatalities, and pollution for years. time to stop playing games and put some teeth into fireworks enforcement.

**HB-213**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:49:15 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please strictly limit fireworks of all kinds, especially those which make noise!!! Not only are they extremely dangerous but the level, degree, & amount of noise is uncivilized! What kind of 'civilized' society lets residents set off 'bombs' in residential neighborhoods??? It is so distressing : it prohibits sleep! It is so awful for tired overworked citizens. It is so awful & medically so bad for those who are ill and those who have trouble sleeping. It is frightening and upsetting emotionally for everyone except the VERY few who feel the need to hear noise for a thrill! So many more people and PETS are suffering from this noise than the number of people who are enjoying it! Please have pity and empathy for those who are sick, those who are tired , and those who get traumatized! PETS are devastated as are their owners!!!

LATE

**HB-213**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:58:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Taniguchi	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Fireworks are a problem recognized by many people. The solution is difficult.

Better enforcement is needed because police cannot pinpoint the violator, and even then neighbors are unwilling to start conflicts with neighbors who set off illegal fireworks.

**How can we stop illegal fireworks at their source?** Manufacturers need Permits to ship fireworks into Hawaii, like ammunition perhaps?

**How can we stop illegal fireworks at point of sale?** Local wholesale and retail Permits required to import and sell, with maximum amounts? Heavy penalties for violations.

**What other examples of effective enforcement for importation of illegal fireworks are there?**