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February 23, 2021

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 508, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 508, HD 1, which proposes to increase the fines associated with the illegal use of all types of fireworks outside of the times permitted by law.

The SFC fully supports increased fines 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. 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 increase in fines may deter individuals from the illegal use of fireworks and aid law enforcement in their efforts to curtail this growing problem. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC, and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 508, HD 1.

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Manuel P. Neves in blue ink.

MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

PO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD. SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817  
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

The Waikiki Neighborhood Board supports the concept of the following bill: HB508

At the February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board the Board voted in favor of the concept of this bill.

Each year the proliferation of noncommercial Holiday Fireworks continues to expand. Reports of Fires and Injuries dominate the news and even the illegal transport of these fireworks presents a danger to aircraft and ships.

*Robert J. Finley*  
Robert J. Finley  
Chair



**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. 22, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Rep. Ty Cullen  
and Members of the Committee on Finance

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

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1245: Relating to Fireworks Infractions  
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, 2 p.m., Capitol Room 308

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 1245, HD2, which establishes an expeditious adjudication system for the processing of fireworks infractions.

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-508-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:58:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2021 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 508, HD 1 to increase the fines associated with the illegal use of consumer fireworks and display fireworks, articles pyrotechnic, and aerial devices outside of the times permitted by law.

This past year's New Year consumer fireworks was the worst in air quality and noise level pollution that occurred before the holiday, during and after the holiday's allowable time periods. It is a safety and health issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support the passage of HB 508, HD 1.

**HB-508-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:41:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2021 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:

in full support. amazing how in the pandemic with people hurting they still had kala to buy and use fireworks, often illegally

**HB-508-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 5:29:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

<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 HB508. The current low fine has absolutely NO deterrent effect.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

**HB-508-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 6:16:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB508, so we can have more effective penalties to deter use of illegal fireworks. Our currentn enforcement scheme seems to not be detrming illegal fireworks, which are used all around our islands. Every year, we have tragic (but not unforeseeable) injuries caused by illegal fireworks, along with unnecessary psychological stress and trauma to people and pets who find the explosions very diffiult to tolerate.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

**HB-508-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:27:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Regardless if it is illegal and that there have been fines and arrest people continue to break the law and pop them at random times of the day. With a greater incentive for law enforcement, hopefully it would motivate them to pursue finding those popping them.