

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
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March 30, 2021

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

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 513, Senate Draft (SD) 1, House Draft (HD) 2
Relating to the Enforcement of Laws

I am Steven Goble, Vice Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports SB 513, SD 1, HD 2, which proposes to increase fireworks display permit fees, increase fines for certain fireworks violations, require the Attorney General to establish an explosion detection technology working group, and require the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement a web-based fireworks reporting tool.

The SFC fully supports increased fines for fireworks violations and collaboration with other government agencies to reduce 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. Furthermore, on March 19, 2021 a fireworks explosion in a residential neighborhood in Ontario, California caused two fatalities and damaged dozens of homes.

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The increase in fines may deter individuals from the illegal use of fireworks and the proposed multiagency effort to increase scrutiny of fireworks violations will 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 SB 513, SD 1, HD 2.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Goble', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEVEN GOBLE
Vice Chair

SG/GL:st

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 SENATE BILL 513, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS.

By
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty JK Cullen, Vice Chair

LATE

Wednesday, March 31, 2021; 2:30 p.m.
Via Video Conference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill (SB) 513, Senate Draft (SD) 1, House Draft (HD) 2, which would establish an expeditious adjudication system for processing fireworks infractions, increase the fireworks display permit fees, and increase the maximum fines for fireworks violations. Further, it would create a separate criminal offense for the illegal sales of certain display fireworks, aerial devices, and pyrotechnic articles; and increase the penalty for removing or extracting the pyrotechnic contents. The measure would require the Department of the Attorney General to establish an explosion detection technology working group; and PSD to develop and implement a web-based firework reporting tool. SB 513, SD 1, HD 2 would also authorize the Sheriffs Division to enforce the fireworks control law and appropriate funds to complete that mission.

The Department supports the measure's increased fee and penalties as a deterrent for the illegal use of fireworks. PSD also recognizes the inherent dangers in the improper handling and removal of explosives materials from fireworks.

PSD supports the implementation of a program to disrupt the flow of illegal fireworks into the State of Hawaii. However, to establish a viable enforcement program, PSD will require authorization to hire and train five law enforcement officers (LEO) in the detection, safe handling, and disposal of explosive materials. These LEOs must further be trained in the recognition and classification of consumer fireworks (Department of Transportation (DOT) classification 1.4) and display fireworks (DOT classification 1.3). An additional explosive detection canine and handler is also required.

PSD must develop a shipping container inspection program and be given authorization to review domestic and foreign shipping manifests to narrow the scope of shipping containers to be inspected. In addition to National Guard assets, PSD shall coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard Service, the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission, State of Hawaii DOT Harbors Division, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Appropriations of approximately \$950,000 per year must be allocated to PSD for the effective detection, safe storage, and disposal of illegal fireworks.

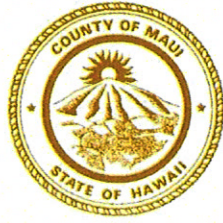
Appropriations of approximately \$150,000 per year must be allocated to PSD for the development and maintenance of the web-based fireworks reporting system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

March 30, 2021

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

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 513, Senate Draft (SD) 1, House Draft (HD) 2
Relating to the Enforcement of Laws

I am David C. Thyne, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports SB 513, SD 1, HD 2, which proposes to increase fireworks display permit fees, increase fines for certain fireworks violations, require the Attorney General to establish an explosion detection technology working group, and require the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement a web-based fireworks reporting tool.

The SFC fully supports increased fines for fireworks violations and collaboration with other government agencies to reduce 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. Furthermore, on March 19, 2021 a fireworks explosion in a residential neighborhood in Ontario, California caused two fatalities and damaged dozens of homes.

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The increase in fines may deter individuals from the illegal use of fireworks and the proposed multiagency effort to increase scrutiny of fireworks violations will 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 SB 513, SD 1, HD 2.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: March 29, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Rep. Ty J.K. 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 SB 513, SD1, HD2:
Relating to The Enforcement of Laws
Wednesday, March 31, 2021, 2:30 p.m., Capitol Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 513, SD1, HD2, which Increases the fine for fireworks violations, requires the Attorney General to establish an explosion detection technology working group, and authorizes the Sheriff Division to enforce the fireworks control law, among other provisions.

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 pass this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-513-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 9:06:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The 2020 year was terrible for fireworks infractions. They were goingn off months before the celebratory date, disturbing humans and pets. Anything that can help law enforcement get this under control is appreciated. SB513 is a welcome start.