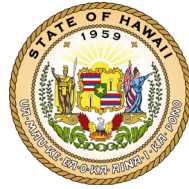


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO  
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1689 Relating to Fireworks

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 1689, which requires shippers that know that their cargo will include fireworks or articles pyrotechnic to report certain information to applicable county fire departments and authorizes county fire departments to enter shippers' vessels for the purpose of inspecting any shipment declared on the shipping manifest as fireworks or articles pyrotechnic.

The proliferation of illegal aerial fireworks use is evident by viewing numerous video recordings on youtube.com of many Hawaii neighborhoods on New Year's Eve. It is highly probable that fireworks are making its way into the state via shipping containers. Thus, it is envisioned a shipping container inspection program will decrease the amount of illegal fireworks being shipped into the state.

Hawaii news media reports injuries from fireworks misuse to adults and children every New Year's Eve. An adult male who lived on Kauai succumbed to fatal injuries sustained from a fireworks explosion on December 31, 2020. The elimination or reduction of illegal fireworks would reduce the number of emergency response calls due to fires and injuries, thereby allowing fire, police, and emergency medical services to be available for other important emergency incidents. We also believe the inspection of shipping containers will help reduce the number of fires and injuries related to fireworks misuse.

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Page 2  
February 7, 2022

HB 1689 will allow the counties to increase their scrutiny over the multimodal transportation of fireworks. The report of the illegal fireworks task force to the legislature for the 2011 Regular Session, which was prepared in accordance with Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended giving county agencies the authority to inspect cargo containers at the harbors and other areas where cargo is unloaded. We would request careful consideration of the county fire department employees' legal authority to have open access to shipping containers containing fireworks. The SFC believes that HB 1689 will have a greater positive impact in addressing the illegal importation of fireworks.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 1689.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

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

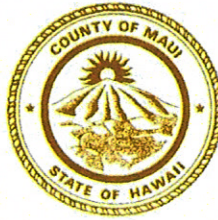
STEVEN GOBLE  
Chair

SG/GL

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor

BRADFORD K. VENTURA  
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA  
Deputy Fire Chief



**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY**

COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, HI 96732

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

**SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL (HB) 1689 RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

I am Bradford Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports HB 1689, which requires shippers that know that their cargo will include fireworks or articles pyrotechnic to report certain information to applicable county fire departments and authorizes county fire departments to enter shippers' vessels for the purpose of inspecting any shipment declared on the shipping manifest as fireworks or articles pyrotechnic.

The proliferation of illegal aerial fireworks use is evident by viewing numerous video recordings on youtube.com of many Hawaii neighborhoods on New Year's Eve. It is highly probable that fireworks are making its way into the state via shipping containers. Thus, it is envisioned a shipping container inspection program will decrease the amount of illegal fireworks being shipped into the state.

Hawaii news media reports injuries from fireworks misuse to adults and children every New Year's Eve. An adult male who lived on Kauai succumbed to fatal injuries sustained from a fireworks explosion on December 31, 2020. The elimination or reduction of illegal fireworks would reduce the number of emergency response calls due to fires and injuries, thereby allowing fire, police, and emergency medical services to be available for other important emergency incidents. We also believe the inspection of shipping containers will help reduce the number of fires and injuries related to fireworks misuse.

HB 1689 will allow the counties to increase their scrutiny over the multimodal transportation of fireworks. The report of the illegal fireworks task force to the legislature for the 2011 Regular Session, which was prepared in accordance with Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended giving county agencies the authority to inspect cargo containers at the harbors and other areas where cargo is unloaded. We would request careful consideration of the county fire department employees' legal



The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Page 2  
February 7, 2022

authority to have open access to shipping containers containing fireworks. The SFC believes that HB 1689 will have a greater positive impact in addressing the illegal importation of fireworks.

The SFC and the MFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 1689.

If you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Ventura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BRADFORD K. VENTURA  
Fire Chief

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

636 South Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007  
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: [www.honolulu.gov/hfd](http://www.honolulu.gov/hfd)

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO  
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1689 Relating to Fireworks

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 1689, which requires shippers, who are aware their cargo will include fireworks or articles pyrotechnic, to report certain information to applicable county fire departments and authorizes county fire departments to enter shippers' vessels to inspect any shipment declared on the shipping manifest as fireworks or articles pyrotechnic.

The proliferation of illegal aerial fireworks use is evident by viewing numerous video recordings on youtube.com of many Hawaii neighborhoods on New Year's Eve. It is highly probable that fireworks are making its way into the state via shipping containers. Thus, it is envisioned a shipping container inspection program will decrease the amount of illegal fireworks being shipped into the state.

Hawaii news media reports injuries from fireworks misuse to adults and children every New Year's Eve. An adult male who lived on Kauai succumbed to fatal injuries sustained from a fireworks explosion on December 31, 2020. The elimination or reduction of illegal fireworks would reduce the number of emergency response calls due to fires and injuries, thereby allowing fire, police, and emergency medical services to be available for other important emergency incidents. We also believe the inspection of shipping containers will help reduce the number of fires and injuries related to fireworks misuse.

HB 1689 will allow the counties to increase their scrutiny over the multimodal transportation of fireworks. The report of the illegal fireworks task force to the



The Honorable Henry Aquino  
Page 2  
February 7, 2022

legislature for the 2011 Regular Session, which was prepared in accordance with Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended giving county agencies the authority to inspect cargo containers at the harbors and other areas where cargo is unloaded. We would request careful consideration of the county fire department employees' legal authority to have open access to shipping containers containing fireworks.

The HFD believes HB 1689 will have a greater positive impact in addressing the illegal importation of fireworks and urges your committees' support on the passage of HB 1689.

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 808-723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



SHELDON K. HAO  
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn







**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 7, 2022

To: Chair Rep. Henry Aquino  
Vice Chair Rep. Greggor Ilagan  
and Members of the Committee on Transportation

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

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1689: Relating to Fireworks  
Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, 10 a.m., Via Videoconference

---

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 1689, which requires shippers that know that their cargo will include fireworks or articles pyrotechnic to report certain information to applicable county fire departments. Authorizes county fire departments to enter shippers' vessels for the purpose of inspecting any shipment declared on the shipping manifest as fireworks or articles pyrotechnic.

Hawaiian Humane supports any attempt to remove fireworks from residential neighborhoods by keeping these dangerous products out of our state entirely and/or enhancing enforcement. At what should be joyous times for local families, illegal fireworks fill our neighborhoods with unexpected explosions that terrorize pets and people alike.

Animals who flee their homes in fear are at enormous risk of injury and death. An average of 8 stray dogs per day came into the Hawaiian Humane Society in 2021. As the new year arrived, that number spiked to 36 between Jan. 1-2. Hawaiian Humane has long educated our community about keeping pets safe from the terror of fireworks around New Years and July 4, but these bombs increasingly go off for months at a time. That makes it impossible for pet owners to prepare and creates sustained stress on people and animals, which can do lasting damage to their 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.

Testimony of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.  
Comments on HB1689  
Before the Committee on Transportation  
February 9, 2022

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and Members of the Committee on Transportation,

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (Matson) provides comments on HB1689, which requires shippers of fireworks or articles pyrotechnic to report certain information to applicable county fire departments; and authorizes county fire departments to enter shippers' vessels for the purpose of inspecting any shipment declared on the shipping manifest as fireworks or articles pyrotechnic.

This measure proposes to add additional reporting requirements to fire departments. Matson believes this legislation is unnecessary because section 132D-8.6(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, already requires licensed importers, wholesalers, and retailers of fireworks or articles pyrotechnic ("licensee") to notify a county fire department of shipments of such shipments. Specifically, section 132D-8.6(a)(4) requires that *prior* to booking the shipment, the licensee shall provide to the applicable county fire chief (A) written documentation regarding the proposed display event or events and related contact information to allow the fire chief to validate the importation of a three-month or six-month inventory under section 132D-8.5; and (B) an inventory breakdown for each proposed display. Section 132D-8.6(a)(5) requires at the time shipping is booked, the shipper or consignee notifies the appropriate county official as determined by the county in writing of the expected shipment's landing date. As a shipper (as defined in section 132D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes), Matson receives similar information that the licensees are already required to report to the county fire departments and does not have additional information. Imposing additional notification requirements on interstate shippers would result in providing duplicative information to the county fire departments.

This measure also proposes authorizing a county fire department to enter a vessel for the purpose of inspecting any shipment declared on the shipping manifest as fireworks or articles pyrotechnic. Again, Matson believes this provision is also unnecessary because section 132D-8.6(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, clearly authorizes county fire departments to conduct inspections of fireworks. Section 132D-8.6(b) currently states: "The fire department of a county, in which a shipment of fireworks or articles pyrotechnic has landed and becomes subject to the jurisdiction of the fire department, shall be allowed to inspect, if it chooses, any shipment declared on the shipping manifest as fireworks or articles pyrotechnic."

Thank you for providing Matson the opportunity to provide comments.

**HB-1689**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:46:35 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Of all the fireworks bills introduced this year, this one may have the most impact on getting illegal fireworks, especially aerials, off our streets. The only ways to import these goods into Hawaii nei are by ship or air. Automobiles and trains won't work as these goods have to cross the ocean.

I urge you to support all of us who suffer from fireworks, the noise, the filth, the smoke, the danger, and pass this bill. We need help and this bill helps.

**HB-1689**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 2:51:56 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The people would rather see the Government Go Frist!!

**HB-1689**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:56:46 PM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman and Members: The fireworks problem is insane in Hawaii. Please support HB 1689 and any measure that would reduce or eliminate the use of fireworks in Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Cigainero

Keaau, HI 96749



**HB-1689**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:02:12 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

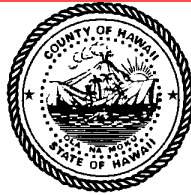
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Maureen Andrade	Village Park Community Association	Support	No

Comments:

In full support

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
*Mayor*

**Lee E. Lord**  
*Managing Director*



**Kazuo S. K. L. Todd**  
*Fire Chief*

**Eric H. Moller**  
*Deputy Fire Chief*

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1689 Relating to Fireworks

I am Kazuo S. K. L. Todd, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department. I support HB 1689, which requires shippers that know that their cargo will include fireworks or articles pyrotechnic to report certain information to applicable county fire departments and authorizes county fire departments to enter shippers' vessels for the purpose of inspecting any shipment declared on the shipping manifest as fireworks or articles pyrotechnic.

Additionally, I would recommend language to allow county police to levy a fine for shippers and owners of the shipment for not reporting known shipments, and language to allow police confiscation of goods improperly labelled in addition to the fines.

Should you have questions, please contact me at 808-932-2903 or [kazuo.todd@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:kazuo.todd@hawaiicounty.gov).

Sincerely,

KAZUO S. K. L. TODD  
Fire Chief  
Hawai'i Fire Department

KT:lk