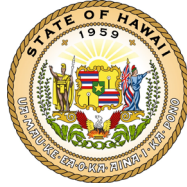


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

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)

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1695 House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 1695 HD 1, which increases from \$2,000 to \$5,000 the maximum fine that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations.

There is a general sense that the use of illegal fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. A search of youtube.com using the term "aerial fireworks Hawaii New Years" reveals pervasive use of illegal aerial fireworks in many neighborhoods. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1695 HD 1.

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

Sincerely,

STEVEN GOBLE  
Chair

SG/GL

TESTIMONY OF

**LARRY S VERAY**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

***MOST STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 1695 HD1***

**RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

**March 13, 2022**

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1695 HD1.

I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 representing our board and all our residents, families and pets negatively impacted by the random, all hours of the day, terroristic loud aerial fireworks explosions impacting our lives daily. Our board unanimously approved our resolution on fireworks at our January 25, 2022 Neighborhood Board meeting to include mitigation recommendations for our Congressional Representatives and State Legislators.

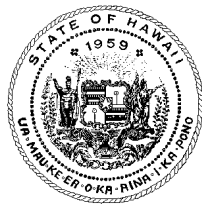
We strongly support this bill by increasing the fine for illegal aerial bomb fireworks use and distribution sales up to \$5,000 based on the seriousness of the offense for example terrorizing schools, child/adult day care centers, hospitals, church services and neighborhood board meetings. We also understand this bill is meaningless unless there is evidence provided by the community or gathered by the Honolulu Police Department to lead to a prosecution of bad actors where they should be fined appropriately.

I most strongly urge you to support and approve HB 1695 HD1. I am totally confident the community will begin standing up to bad actors, work with HPD and provide the evidence needed for the court to prosecute and fine. Mahalo!

Very respectfully,

*Larry S. Veray*

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
1177 Alakea Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**MAX N. OTANI**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Tommy Johnson**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Jordan Lowe**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1695, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

By  
Max N. Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 15, 2022; 9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1695, House Draft (HD) 1, which increases the maximum fines that may be assessed against certain fireworks related violations from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

PSD supports measures that will help stem the use of illegal fireworks in the State of Hawai'i. Increasing the monetary fines under HB 1695 HD 1 from a minimum fine of \$500 to \$2,000; and the maximum fine from \$2,000 to \$5,000 will act to further deter individuals from using illegal fireworks.

For this reason, PSD supports HB 1695 HD 1 and respectfully requests the Committee on Judiciary to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

March 14, 2022

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1695, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 1695, HD 1, which increases the maximum fine that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

A search of aerial fireworks in Hawaii via a major video-sharing website reveals pervasive use of illegal aerial fireworks in many neighborhoods thereby confirming the use of illegal fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the HFD, and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1695, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please contact 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 "Sheldon K. Hao".

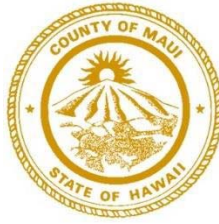
SHELDON K. HAO  
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn

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

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads:

**SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL (HB) 1695 HOUSE DRAFT (HD) 1 RELATING TO  
FIREWORKS**

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports HB 1695 HD 1, which increases from \$2,000 to \$5,000 the maximum fine that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations.

There is a general sense that the use of illegal fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. A search of youtube.com using the term "aerial fireworks Hawaii New Years" reveals pervasive use of illegal aerial fireworks in many neighborhoods. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1695 HD 1.

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 black ink, appearing to read "Brad Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA  
Fire Chief

**HB-1695-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 4:18:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/15/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support-

**HB-1695-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 1:38:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/15/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am OPPOSED to HB 1695 HD1

I understand the frustration of many in the community as regards use of fireworks. However, I view with concern the recent trend in Hawaii to create "infractions" as a way to avoid the work involved in trials. It creates the appearance that the State is unwilling to meet its normal proof burden and instead hopes that the accused will simply "admit" and pay the fine, thus helping to finance the operation of State Judiciary. This is damaging to society's concept of fair governance. Recall that among the things viewed in the past as " repeated injuries and usurpations " was included:

" For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury "

**HB-1695-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 12:14:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/15/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1695, but find it wanting. First, I object to the use of defective effective dates and find that they do not serve to encourage future discussion, they are a cop out, and often end in the defeat of a bill during conference committee. The effective date should be changed to effective upon approval.

I favor outlawing all fireworks, except those run by the professionals. These setting off these noise making, smoke making, devices at all days, all times, are creating harm to animals, sick persons, and all others. at times they burn does edifices and phuysically harm persons, both those firing off the explosives and innocent bystanders who are hit by the debris.

As it stands now, those who fire off these dangerous missiles know there is a slim chance they will get caught. Thus I do not know how much of a deterrent it will be. But I will take anything I can get.



**HB-1695-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 3:45:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/15/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of Honolulu Fire Dept., Brandford K. Ventura, Chief to the Maui Fire Dept., Larry Veray, Chair of the Pearl City NB #12, I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry a resident of Waianae, STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 1695 HD1 Relating to Firework!

**HB-1695-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 10:23:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/15/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beverly Heiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support HB1695 HD1 that raises fines from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for certain fireworks violations. Anything that can deter and stop the use of illegal fireworks are appreciated.

Aerial types of fireworks were banned in 2011. This is not just about a few individuals using fireworks during unauthorized times that is a nuisance but also the many island-wide using illegal fireworks during New Year's Eve.

My family does NOT do fireworks of any kind. Yet every New Year's day DEBRIS from ILLEGAL fireworks from New Year's Eve lay scattered over our entire yard. Some land on our roof and wash down gutters. I have dogs and debris contain TOXIC chemicals that can cause illness or injury if ingested. Thus I spend hours cleaning up the mess.

Toxins and heavy metals from fireworks are dispersed in our environment and pollute our air, water, and soil. Much of the debris are NOT biodegradable. They cause harm to people, pets, and wildlife.

The problem has increased over the years and is out of control. There is increased noise, destruction of property, fires, life changing injuries, and even fatalities. Tradition should not sound or look like a war zone.

I favor a TOTAL BAN on all types of fireworks except by permit for cultural or religious reasons but at the least this type of ILLEGAL activity should be stopped.

Individuals who have voiced frustrations and are seeking resolution have formed a group on the social networking neighborhood platform NextDoor called "STOP All (Illegal) Fireworks" aka "Pau Fireworks Now".

Thank you for allowing me to testify. Please vote to advance this bill.

**HB-1695-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 9:23:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/15/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is not Right and you will have to Face the People SOON!!