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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2273, H.D. 1

February 24, 2022
12:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FIREWORKS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2273, H.D. 1, specifies that certain violations of the Firework Control Law shall be considered a violation of State noise control rules, punishable by civil penalties and subject to citations; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Health (DOH) for the establishment of 1.00 full-time equivalent Inspector position in the Noise Section of the Indoor and Radiological Health Branch; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to DOH to enter into a contract with a security company to assist the Inspector position annually from October through the end of the second week of January.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 5:34:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyler, Kahului	Quieter & Healthier Maui	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for considering this important bill for the health and quality of life of Hawaii residents. Studies increasingly detail the environmental health hazard posed by noise pollution, including the illegal explosive fireworks terrorizing our neighborhoods. Current laws and efforts are not working, and we strongly urge the passing of HB 2273, HB 1695, and HB 2275.

Maui residents recently formed a group, with a particular focus on reducing noise and its harmful short & long term mental & physical health effects. Aerial "bombs" have no place in residential neighborhoods, yet they continue to wreak havoc on residents in their own home, especially vulnerable veterans with PTSD, pets & wildlife, and a wide range in our communities who don't want to live in a war zone.

Efforts to curb this out-of-control issue are long overdue.

Mahalo!



HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:33:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Moran	Kihei Community Association (KCA)	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair The Kihei Community is support of this action. For about the last decade our community has been subjected to numerous illegal explosions from Halloween until well after new years. These sudden sporadic explosions are exceedinly disruptive to our pets, wildlife, residensts, especially our veterans, who suffer from PTSD. Any action to help mitigate these explosions is appreciated. Mahalo Mike Moran for the KCA

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:16:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ralph Bishop	A Quieter O'ahu - A Hawai'i 501c3 Organization	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

It is a public shame that noise has reached such uncontrollable levels across our beautiful islands. It has become a high visibility quality of life issue, and everyone should also understand it is a public health issue.

It is an embarrassment that HPD fails, fails, and fails again and again in the task of providing a deterrence to lawbreakers by simply enforcing our laws. Now it comes again to the Legislature to attempt to strengthen our stand against illegal noise by imposing tougher penalties and sanctions.

We are Quieter O'ahu (<https://www.quieteroahu.com>), a Hawai'i 501c3 Organization, and have been speaking out against noise for 14 years. And we now speak up for our several hundred subscribers who, in our entirety, support laws to mitigate the unhealthy, dangerous, and out of control noise that we experience today.

Pass this Bill!

Mahalo



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 23, 2022

To: Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita
and Members of the Committee on Finance

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2273, HD1: Relating to Fireworks
Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022, 12:30 p.m., Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 2273, HD1, which specifies that certain violations of the Fireworks Control Law shall be considered a violation of noise control rules under the Hawaii noise pollution laws, punishable by civil penalties and subject to citations under those respective laws. Appropriates funds to establish one full-time equivalent position for an inspector in the department of health. Appropriates funds for the department of health to enter into a contract with a security company to assist the inspector.

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.

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. 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-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:46:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

While I support the intent of this bill, I question what teeth the noise control aspects have. Often there is more involved than the decibels which someone has to measure. Is the equipment available? Are the operators available? Doubt it. Often the noise has to be for a specific amount of time. How do you measure this? In minutes, in number of blasts, or something else? We have trouble enforcing noise ordinances emanating from liquor establishments, where we can easily identify the source.

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 4:18:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and members,

Strong support for this bill and the others designed to give us relief from the year-round war zone, IED explosions we have become subject to in our homes.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed in Mililani

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:00:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Luanne Teoh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a full time resident in South Kihei and I support the hiring of enforcement officer/s to enforce the noise pollution laws. Everyone deserves the right to peaceful nights and not be triggered by sonic bombs from illegal M-80s people set off for no good reason apart from creating noise pollution.

My father in law in his 70s is a decorated war hero from the Vietnam war. We have asked him if that style and sound from fireworks bother him and he says yes and that it shocks and stresses him and brings on his PTSD.

While we understand that people should be able to celebrate by lighting fireworks that are colorful and fun, the sonic bombs from the illegal M-80 style firecrackers only serve to add stress, fear and disruption to both the lives of humans and animals. It is completely unnecessary and unwarranted.

Thank you.

Luanne Teoh

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:38:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vijak Ayasanonda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a full time resident, fireworks in my neighborhood have caused damage, noise pollution and not to mention the trauma to my dogs and cat. My other neighbors who do not participate also find the few individuals blatantly disregarding noise, time or use of illegal fireworks. Police even when called refuse to do anything about it as they say even my video evidence is insufficient for them to cite or arrest or confiscate the offender.

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:40:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristin Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident in Pukalani and am in strong support of HB2273. We need more stringent laws and penalties around noise pollution. Every big holiday especially, there is excessive and very loud fireworks, and most likely, illegal fire crackers late into the night. Pukalani sounds like a war zone and it's especially not healthy for pets and for people experiencing PTSD around loud noise.

Please support HB2273.

Mahalo, Kristin Mills

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:16:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gary J Mooers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am so thankful that our elected officials are finally listening to the people who elected them.

Fireworks are such a nuisance, especially the loud ones. I am not a veteran, but I can't imagine how traumatic it must be for people who made the sacrifice to defend our nation, only to come home with PTSD which is re-ignited every time one of those "bombs" go off in the air. To me, that is the #1 reason why these fireworks are wrong to allow for another minute.

Another reason is our pets. Numerous pets are so traumatized that they run away from their home, trying to get away from the noise. Often this results in serious injury or death to our pets.

Least in importance, but still paramount in importance to me and my family, is the disturbance to our right to enjoy our home peacefully.

We love to watch fireworks shows, when we go to a fireworks show. We never asked for this loud invasive situation that we face every New Years and Independence Day and weeks before and after each holiday.

Maui should make noise disturbance laws, and enforce them! The same is true for modified exhaust on vehicles all over the island. A policeman on the radio told me the reason we don't have noise ordinances is because they cannot afford the equipment to measure the decibel level of the noise. We are not a 3rd-world country, to allow this is a travesty.

I look forward to seeing progress made in civilizing our beautiful island.

Mahalo

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:41:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beverly Heiser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Please support HB2273.

I have joined a forum called STOP All (Illegal) Fireworks that was formed on a social networking service for neighborhoods called NextDoor. The group currently has 94 members.

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 our gutters. I have dogs and these debris contain TOXIC chemicals that can cause illness if ingested. Thus I spend hours cleaning up the mess.

These toxic chemicals that often contain heavy metals are being dispersed in our environment and pollute our air, water, and soil. They cause harm to people, pets, and wildlife.

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

I favor a TOTAL BAN on all types of fireworks, but at the least this type of ILLEGAL activity should be stopped.

Thank you for letting me testify. Please support HB2273.

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 5:19:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samuel Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB-2275 HD1 Because it allows for illegal firework violators to be charged with Hawaii State civil noise pollution laws.

Samuel Mitchell Makiki NB-10 & Pau Fireworks Now

HB-2273-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 6:29:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stanley Hanakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My family want to ban the use of fireworks by people who stay in hawaii because of the illegal uses of fireworks. The people who live around us have been setting off liiegal fireworks day and night-aerial bombs and aerial fireworks. We had called 911 numweous times-2 to 3 times a day but these illegal fireworks kept on going on. VERY ANNOYING AND IRRITATING!!!

Stanley Hanakawa and Family