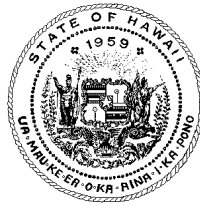


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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 HOUSE BILL 508
RELATING TO FIREWORKS.**

By
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Friday, February 9, 2021; 2:00 p.m.
Via Video Conference

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

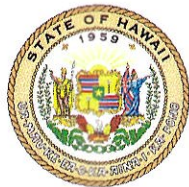
The Department of Public Safety (PSD) offers comments on House Bill (HB) 508, which would increase the fines associated with the illegal use of consumer fireworks, display fireworks, pyrotechnic articles, and aerial devices outside of the times permitted by law.

PSD supports measures that stem the use of illegal fireworks in the State of Hawaii. Increasing the monetary fines under HB 508 from a minimum fine of \$500 to \$1,000; and the maximum fine from \$2,000 to \$4,000 will serve to further deter individuals from using illegal fireworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
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February 8, 2021

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 508 Relating to Fireworks

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support HB 508, 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 and the HFD fully support 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 the HFD, and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 508.

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Page 2
February 8, 2021

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.P.N.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:cs

LATE

HB-508

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 3:15:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stason Tanaka	Honolulu Police Dept.	Comments	No

Comments:

I am available for testifying.



LATE

Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 8, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson
Vice Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa
and Members of the
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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

RE: Testimony in support of HB 508: Relating to Fireworks
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, 2 p.m., Capitol Room 329

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 508, which Increases 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.

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

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:35:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of HB 508 Relating to Fires to increase the fines of violation of the misuse and abuse of fireworks by an individual. If the individual(s) can afford to buy fireworks that are expensive and illegal, then the individual(s) should be responsible and be accountable to paying these increased fines. The individual makes choices through their actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 508.

HB-508

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 3:30:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 12:37:09 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

PLEASE pass this law! It's crazy town when holidays approach. They are set off so randomly that I never know when someone will light up and my poor dog is terrified!! There is NO reason for people to be setting off these bombs whenever they like at all hours of the day.

HB-508

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:54:59 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
judy bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please increase fines for setting off fireworks, and any illegal use of fireworks. I have stated in my support for bill 213 that i think fireworks are traumatizing; emotionally and medically bad for those who cannot sleep, those who are frightened literally shaking ; for pets and their owners. People who work in the day and need their sleep , people who are struggling with illness, the elderly-- all need their sleep. Fun for a few is not worth the pain and trauma for the many. IF THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT PENALTY, IT WON'T STOP !! Please increase fines!! and maybe ENFORCE IT!!

LATE

HB-508

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:59:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/9/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Taniguchi	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Fireworks are a problem recognized by many people. The solution is difficult.

Better enforcement is needed because police cannot pinpoint the violator, and even then neighbors are unwilling to start conflicts with neighbors who set off illegal fireworks.

How can we stop illegal fireworks at their source? Manufacturers need Permits to ship fireworks into Hawaii, like ammunition perhaps?

How can we stop illegal fireworks at point of sale? Local wholesale and retail Permits required to import and sell, with maximum amounts? Heavy penalties for violations.

What other examples of effective enforcement for importation of illegal fireworks are there?