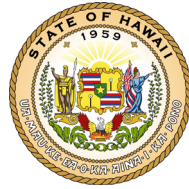


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2185, Senate Draft (SD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports the intent of SB 2185, SD 1, which increases the fees for permits required for the purchase and use of fireworks. It also requires the auditor of fireworks and articles pyrotechnic records for each county fire department to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing inventory, recordkeeping, and sales of fireworks to license or permit holders.

Language in SB 2185, SD 1 redirecting fireworks permit fees from the county fire departments to the emergency medical services special fund administered by the Department of Health may have a negative consequence on existing fireworks control programs implemented by the county fire departments. For example, fireworks import license fees are used by county fire departments to fund the salary of an auditor of fireworks and articles pyrotechnic; to support inspection and inventory checks of storage facilities; to support training for county fireworks auditors; and to support expenses relating to education and enforcement regarding compliance with the Hawaii Revised Statutes §132D.

The SFC believes the consumer use of illegal fireworks in Hawaii continues on a dangerous and increasingly upward trajectory. The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks permit fees to deter the use of illegal fireworks. The SFC supports increased fireworks permit fees proposed by SB 2185, SD 1, but requests maintaining the flow of fireworks permit fees to the respective county fire departments.

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Page 2
February 22, 2022

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Goble', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVEN GOBLE
Chair

SG/GL

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

LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2185, Senate Draft (SD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports the intent of SB 2185, SD 1, which increases the fees for permits required for the purchase and use of fireworks. It also requires the auditor of fireworks and articles pyrotechnic records for each county fire department to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing inventory, recordkeeping, and sales of fireworks to license or permit holders.

Language in SB 2185, SD 1 redirecting fireworks permit fees from the county fire departments to the emergency medical services special fund administered by the Department of Health may have a negative consequence on existing fireworks control programs implemented by county fire departments. For example, fireworks import license fees are used by county fire departments to fund the salary of an auditor of fireworks and articles pyrotechnic and support inspection and inventory checks of storage facilities; training for county fireworks auditors; and expenses relating to education and enforcement regarding compliance with Hawaii Revised Statutes §132D.

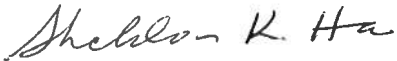
The HFD believes the consumer use of illegal fireworks in Hawaii continues on a dangerous and increasingly upward trajectory. The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended the legislature consider increasing fireworks permit fees to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

The HFD supports increased fireworks permit fees proposed by SB 2185, SD 1, but requests maintaining the flow of fireworks permit fees to the respective county fire departments.

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Page 2
February 23, 2022

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 808-723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,


SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

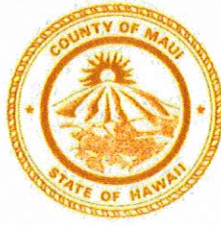
SKH/GL:cn

LATE

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 22, 2022

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2185, Senate Draft (SD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am Bradford Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Chief to the Maui Fire Department. The SFC supports the intent of SB 2185, SD 1, which increases the fees for permits required for the purchase and use of fireworks. It also requires the auditor of fireworks and articles pyrotechnic records for each county fire department to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing inventory, recordkeeping, and sales of fireworks to license or permit holders.

Language in SB 2185, SD 1 redirecting fireworks permit fees from the county fire departments to the emergency medical services special fund administered by the Department of Health may have a negative consequence on existing fireworks control programs implemented by the county fire departments. For example, fireworks import license fees are used by county fire departments to fund the salary of an auditor of fireworks and articles pyrotechnic; to support inspection and inventory checks of storage facilities; to support training for county fireworks auditors; and to support expenses relating to education and enforcement regarding compliance with the Hawaii Revised Statutes §132D.

The SFC believes the consumer use of illegal fireworks in Hawaii continues on a dangerous and increasingly upward trajectory. The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks permit fees to deter the use of illegal fireworks. The SFC supports increased fireworks permit fees proposed by SB 2185, SD 1, but requests maintaining the flow of fireworks permit fees to the respective county fire departments.

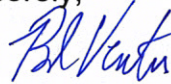
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Page 2

February 22, 2022

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

SB-2185-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 8:18:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!

Fees should be raised to reflect the costs imposed by those using fireworks!

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Doubles Fireworks Permit Fees

BILL NUMBER: SB 2185 SD1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Government Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Doubles the fee required to obtain a consumer fireworks permit.

SYNOPSIS: Amends section 132D-10, HRS, to raise the fireworks permit fee from \$110 to \$220. All fees are earmarked to the emergency medical services special fund administered by the department of health and established under section 321-234, HRS.

Requires the Auditor to provide an annual report to the legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2023.

STAFF COMMENTS: Our comments relate to the earmarking of this fee to the EMS special fund.

In 2002, the Legislature set requirements for establishing and continuing special and revolving funds. Sections 37-52.3 and 37-52.4, HRS, now state that the criteria used to review special and revolving funds are the extent to which each fund:

- Serves a need, as demonstrated by the purpose of the program to be supported by the fund; the scope of the program, including financial information on fees to be charged, sources of projected revenue, and costs; and an explanation of why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process;
- Reflects a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the program users or beneficiaries, or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue—as opposed to serving primarily as a means to provide the program or users with an automatic means of support, removed from the normal budget and appropriation process;
- Provides an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity, that is used only when essential to the successful operation of the program or activity; and
- Demonstrates the capacity to be financially self-sustaining.

We are concerned that the new special fund clearly fails the second criterion and may fail other criteria as well. The establishment and intended use of the special fund as described subverts the appropriation process.

Digested: 2/20/2022



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

RE: SB 2185 SD1 RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Good morning, Chairperson Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We are opposed to SB 2185 SD1 Relating to Fireworks. This measure increases the fees for permits required for the purchase and use of fireworks. Requires the auditor of fireworks and articles pyrotechnic records for each county fire department to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing inventory, recordkeeping, and sales of fireworks to license or permit holders. Effective 1/1/2023.

Raising taxes is not the solution to stop sales of illegal fireworks that include the aerals that we see lighting up the skies especially at new years. This bill would penalize wholesalers and retailers who are legally selling fireworks by imposing a new consumer fireworks tax. People with their fireworks permits who would normally come to our stores to purchase legal fireworks may look elsewhere like the black market where the fireworks would be a lot cheaper. We would also see more theft of fireworks as it would be a sough after high ticketed item.

We need to find solutions that are aimed directly at those selling illegal fireworks and not penalize retailers who sell legal fireworks.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2185-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 12:56:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This job is a wast of time and Money this is something that is not needed. Fireworks is a tradition in Hawaii it has ben here before I was bron and will be here afture I am gone forget regulating it you are only Making enemyes. Witch will not work out for you or any one eles in the Government. Let the people of hawaii keep there Heratige it be longes to the People of Hawaii.!!

SB-2185-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:34:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Fireworks release large amounts of greenhouse gasses and should be prohibited in Hawaii. We are in a climate emergency! Any release of greenhouse gasses brings the emergency closer. The legislature should be aware of this and consider it with every bill. All legal and illegal fireworks must be eliminated and the urgency communicated.

SB-2185-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:53:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT SB 2185 RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

SB-2185-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:48:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM



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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Please support SB2185.

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 SB2185.

SB-2185-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:38:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM



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

Comments:

I support SB-2185 SD1 because firework user fees will go to the department of health emergency medical services special fund. With 11 persons being seriously injured from 12/31/21 to 1/1/2011 the City & State needs a way to help pay for the damages that fireworks cause.

But I think the Fireworks Distributors and sellers fees should also be increased

Samuel Mitchell (Makiki NB-10 / Nextdoor Pau Fireworks Now)