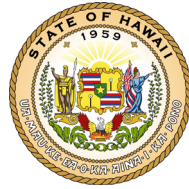


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

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  
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April 4, 2022

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2923, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports SB 2923, HD 1, which increases the maximum fine that may be assessed per fireworks-related violation from \$2,000 to \$5,000, provided that the fireworks violation does not otherwise have a specific penalty enumerated in statute.

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 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 SB 2923, 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

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

April 4, 2022

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2923, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports SB 2923, HD 1, which increases the maximum fine that may be assessed per fireworks-related violation from \$2,000 to \$5,000, provided the fireworks violation does not otherwise have a specific penalty enumerated in statute.

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 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 SB 2923, 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,  


for 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

April 5, 2022

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

**SUBJECT: SENATE BILL (SB) 2923, 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 SB 2923, HD 1, which increases the maximum fine that may be assessed per fireworks-related violation from \$2,000 to \$5,000, provided that the fireworks violation does not otherwise have a specific penalty enumerated in statute.

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 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 SB 2923, 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



*improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.*

---

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Board President Poi Dogs & Popoki  
In strong support of SB 2923 - Relating to Fireworks  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, April 6, 2:45 pm – via Zoom

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the Committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We are in strong support of SB 2923 which would increase the fine for fireworks violations.

We believe SB 2923 will make violators think twice about whether to use illegal fireworks. The current fine is a drop in the bucket when buyers spend thousands for mortars, bombs, and other illegal aerals. Many of us know WHERE the illegals are originating from (our neighbors' properties). They now start in early October. It used to be Halloween. By Thanksgiving Day, it's a daily occurrence, and next to New Year's Eve, its one of the worst days. Since New Years, bombs still go off because of football games and on Super Bowl Sunday, they will go off till midnight. Add in MMA fights, a family luau, or a win at Campbell High School, and there is practically no end to the number of illegals blowing up in my community.

It is difficult for people to grasp the fear and stress that some animals experience due to fireworks. Unless you are seeing it first-hand, you will fail to understand the chaos it causes in the lives of our animals and their owners. This year, I filed 3 police reports and agreed to testify against my neighbors for illegal fireworks, but I called 911 more than 10 times. One officer complained immediately about having to respond to my call - blaming the fireworks ban on the proliferation of illegals. A ridiculous excuse to avoid doing his job.

It's time for violators to pay the consequences for poor decisions. And increasing the fine would be another tool to discourage illegal fireworks use. Entertainment does NOT trump quality of life. Please pass SB 2923.

**SB-2923-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 2:21:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Fire Works is part of Hawaii. Any one pushing this should be removed for office. They do not work for the people and we should Fire them!!

**SB-2923-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 3:29:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2923 HD1 But the government will needs to do a lot more then increasing fireworks fine for the laws to to enforced.

Samuel Mitchell (Member Makiki NB-10 & Nextdoor Stop all illegal fireworks group)

Visit are 101 persons network to find how to fix some of the problems.

**SB-2923-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 8:17:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

<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 SB2923 HD1 that increases maximum fines for fireworks violations from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Anything that can deter, reduce, or stop the use of illegal fireworks is appreciated. The disrespect for the law banning aerial devices, and articles pyrotechnic since the year 2011 has led to the situation becoming out of control and virtually impossible to enforce. There is a definite need to enact much tougher laws and penalties as existing ones have done little if anything.

Fireworks and drugs have a lot in common. They are an insatiable addiction for some and are probably entering the state via the same means. Similar tactics may need to be imposed to gain control.

Thank you for letting me testify and provide comments.