



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
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EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 15, 2022
3:15 PM
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.B. 3343
RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Senate Committee on Transportation
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) provides **comments** on S.B. 3343.

S.B. 3343 proposes to require importers of fireworks to obtain a license from the Harbors Division of the Department of Transportation and requires an annual report to the Legislature.

The requirement to obtain a license from DOT to import fireworks is unnecessary. The license to import would insert another layer, making it more difficult for those that are currently following the laws and legally importing fireworks. In addition, S.B. 3343 reallocates the \$3,000 fee for importers from the county to the state. The county fire department relies on fees, including the importer fee, to support the auditor of fireworks and related inspection of inventory and maintenance of records.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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 14, 2022

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Transportation
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 216
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Lee and Nishihara:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 3343 Relating to Fireworks

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD offers comments regarding SB 3343, which requires importers of fireworks to obtain a license from the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation's (DOT) Harbors Division who shall submit an annual report to the legislature.

The HFD believes the consumer use of illegal fireworks in Hawaii continues on a dangerous and increasingly upward trajectory. However, language in SB 3343 that redirects fireworks import license fees from the county fire departments to the DOT's Harbors Division 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 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 loss of fireworks import license fees will impact the City and County of Honolulu (City), as it will realize an annual revenue loss of \$31,500. Furthermore, the City

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anticipates a reduction in funds received from the Federal Recovery Fund, the American Rescue Plan Act, and real property tax revenue in fiscal year 2024.

It may be advantageous to contain regulation of fireworks importation, wholesale, retail, pyrotechnical, and consumer discharge under the respective county authority having jurisdiction.

Public safety and property protection remain priorities of the HFD. Therefore, the HFD supports the intent of SB 3343 to stem the flow of illegal fireworks into Hawaii and is willing to assist in refining SB 3343 to that goal.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
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The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Transportation
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 216 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Lee and Nishihara:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 3343 Relating to Fireworks

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC offers comments regarding SB 3343, which requires importers of fireworks to obtain a license from the Harbors Division of the Department of Transportation and an annual report to the Legislature.

The SFC believes the consumer use of illegal fireworks in Hawaii continues on a dangerous and increasingly upward trajectory. However, language of SB 3343 redirecting fireworks import license fees from the county fire departments to the Harbors Division of the State Department of Transportation (DOT) 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.

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Furthermore, it may be advantageous to contain regulation of fireworks importation, wholesale, retail, and pyrotechnical and consumer discharge under the respective county authority having jurisdiction.

Public safety and property protection remain priorities of the SFC. Therefore, the SFC supports the intent of SB 3343 to stem the flow of illegal fireworks into Hawaii and is willing to help refine SB 3343 to that goal.

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:



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 10, 2022

To: Chair Sen. Chris Lee
Vice Chair Sen. Lorraine Inouye
and Members of the Committee on Transportation
Chair Sen. Clarence Nishihara
Vice Chair Sen. Lynn DeCoite
and Members of the Committee on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 3343: Relating to Fireworks
Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022, 3:15 p.m., Via Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 3343, which requires importers of fireworks to obtain a license from the Harbors Division of the Department of Transportation and requires an annual report to the Legislature.

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.

At what should be joyous times for local families, illegal fireworks fill our neighborhoods with unexpected explosions that terrorize pets and people alike. Animals who flee their homes are at enormous risk of injury and death. An average of eight 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, doing lasting damage to their 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 pass this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-3343

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 5:02:42 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/15/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Lee, Vice Chairperson Inouye and Members of the Committee on Transportation, and Chairperson Nishihara, Vice Chairperson DeCoite and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

I am Jennifer Chiwa and have lived on Oahu my whole life. I currently reside in Makiki.

Please support SB 3343. I support a complete ban on fireworks for safety and health reasons. If a complete ban will not be considered at this time, SB 3343 might help to cut down on the usage and availability of fireworks.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.