
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF AN ILLEGAL FIREWORKS TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN TO STOP THE IMPORTATION OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES IN THE STATE, PROMOTE COMPLIANCE WITH STATE FIREWORKS CONTROL LAWS, AND ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE AIRPORTS, HARBORS, AND OTHER FACILITIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE AGAINST THE DISCHARGE OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES.

1 WHEREAS, illegal use of fireworks in Hawaii has caused
2 brush fires, structural fires, injuries, and even death despite
3 the various local, state, and federal laws governing the
4 manufacture, transportation, distribution, sale, and use of
5 fireworks that continue to be violated at what appears to be an
6 increasing rate; and

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8 WHEREAS, while law enforcement efforts to control illegal
9 fireworks in Hawaii have had limited results, a concerted multi-
10 jurisdictional approach is needed to address the illegal
11 fireworks problem in Hawaii; and

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13 WHEREAS, establishing a task force to develop a
14 comprehensive strategic plan to stop the importation of illegal
15 fireworks and explosives into Hawaii would promote compliance
16 with the state fireworks control laws and ensure the safety and
17 security of the airports, harbors, and other facilities and
18 institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal
19 fireworks and explosives; now, therefore,

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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
23 Session of 2023, that this body requests the convening of an
24 Illegal Fireworks Task Force to develop a comprehensive
25 strategic plan to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and
26 explosives in the State, promote compliance with state fireworks
27 control laws, and ensure the safety and security of the
28 airports, harbors, and other facilities and institutions in the



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1 State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives;
2 and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Illegal Fireworks Task
5 Force be established within the Department of Law Enforcement
6 for administrative purposes; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Illegal Fireworks Task
9 Force is requested to use findings from the Legislative
10 Reference Bureau's 2019 report, "Blast from the Past: An Update
11 to the Report of the Illegal Fireworks Task Force to the
12 Legislature for the Regular Session of 2011", as the basis for
13 developing its comprehensive strategic plan; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Law Enforcement
16 or the Director's designee is requested to be the Chair of the
17 Illegal Fireworks Task Force; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals serve
20 as members of the Illegal Fireworks Task Force:

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22 (1) Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
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24 (2) Deputy Director of the Harbors Division of the
25 Department of Transportation or the Deputy Director's
26 designee;
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28 (3) Chief of Police of each county police department or
29 the Chief of Police's designee;
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31 (4) Prosecuting Attorney of each county or the Prosecuting
32 Attorney's designee;
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34 (5) Two representatives of the shipping and trucking
35 industry, to be invited by the Chair of the task
36 force; and
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38 (6) Two representatives of the fireworks industry, to be
39 invited by the Chair of the task force; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Illegal
42 Fireworks Task Force is requested to invite representatives of



1 the following federal entities to serve as members of the task
2 force:

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4 (1) United States Attorney's Office, District of Hawaii;
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6 (2) United States Department of Homeland Security;
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8 (3) Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and
9 Explosives;
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11 (4) Federal Bureau of Investigation;
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13 (5) United States Coast Guard;
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15 (6) United States Customs and Border Protection; and
16
17 (7) United States Drug Enforcement Administration; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Illegal Fireworks Task
20 Force is requested to submit a report of its comprehensive
21 strategic plan, including findings, recommendations, and any
22 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
23 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
27 Homeland Security; Director of the United States Bureau of
28 Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; Director of the
29 Federal Bureau of Investigation; Commandant of the United States
30 Coast Guard; Acting Commissioner of the United States Customs
31 and Border Protection; Administrator of the United States Drug
32 Enforcement Administration; United States Attorney of the United
33 States Attorney's Office, District of Hawaii; Attorney General;
34 Director of Transportation; Chief of Police of each county; and
35 County Prosecutor of each county.
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OFFERED BY: _____



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