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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that illegal use of  
2 fireworks in Hawaii has caused brush fires, structural fires,  
3 injuries, and even death despite the various local, state, and  
4 federal laws governing the manufacture, transportation,  
5 distribution, sale, and use of fireworks. These laws continue  
6 to be violated at what appears to be an increasing rate. While  
7 law enforcement efforts to control illegal fireworks in Hawaii  
8 have had limited results, the legislature finds that a concerted  
9 multi-jurisdictional approach is needed to address the illegal  
10 fireworks problem in Hawaii.

11           The purpose of this Act is to establish an illegal  
12 fireworks task force to plan, coordinate, and engage in law  
13 enforcement operations to interdict illegal fireworks; develop a  
14 comprehensive strategic plan to stop the importation of illegal  
15 fireworks and explosives into Hawaii; promote compliance with  
16 the state fireworks control laws; and ensure the safety and  
17 security of the airports, harbors, and other facilities and



1 institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal  
2 fireworks and explosives.

3 SECTION 2. (a) There shall be established within the  
4 department of law enforcement for administrative purposes the  
5 illegal fireworks task force. The task force shall use the  
6 findings from the legislative reference bureau's 2019 report,  
7 "Blast from the Past: An Update to the Report of the Illegal  
8 Fireworks Task Force to the Legislature for the Regular Session  
9 of 2011", as the basis for developing a comprehensive strategic  
10 plan to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and explosives  
11 into Hawaii; promote compliance with the state fireworks control  
12 laws; and ensure the safety and security of the airports,  
13 harbors, and other facilities and institutions in the State  
14 against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives.

15 (b) The director of law enforcement or the director's  
16 designee shall be the chair of the task force.

17 (c) The following individuals or their designees shall  
18 serve as members of the task force:

19 (1) Attorney general;

20 (2) Deputy director of the harbors division of the  
21 department of transportation;



1 (3) Chief of police of each county police department; and  
2 (4) Prosecuting attorney of each county.

3 (d) The chair shall invite representatives of the  
4 following federal entities to serve as members of the task  
5 force:

6 (1) United States Attorney's Office, District of Hawaii;

7 (2) United States Department of Homeland Security;

8 (3) Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and  
9 Explosives;

10 (4) Federal Bureau of Investigation;

11 (5) United States Coast Guard;

12 (6) United States Customs and Border Protection; and

13 (7) Office of Homeland Security Investigations of the  
14 United States Department of Homeland Security.

15 (e) The task force and their represented agencies may  
16 plan, coordinate, and engage in law enforcement operations to  
17 interdict illegal fireworks and the task force shall develop a  
18 comprehensive strategic plan to stop the importation of illegal  
19 fireworks and explosives into Hawaii; promote compliance with  
20 the state fireworks control laws; and ensure the safety and  
21 security of the airports, harbors, and other facilities and



1 institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal  
2 fireworks and explosives.

3 (f) The task force shall submit an interim report on the  
4 status of its comprehensive strategic plan, including findings,  
5 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the  
6 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
7 the regular session of 2024. The task force shall submit a  
8 final report of its comprehensive strategic plan, including  
9 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the  
10 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
11 the regular session of 2025.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
16 year 2024-2025 to carry out the purposes of this Act, including  
17 the hiring of necessary administrative support staff for the  
18 task force, operation of the task force, and reimbursement of  
19 funds to law enforcement agencies for task-force-related law  
20 enforcement operations, including law enforcement personnel,



1 overtime and other salary-related payments, charges for fuel,  
2 equipment, and storage and disposal of confiscated fireworks.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000,  
6 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2025.



**Report Title:**

Illegal Fireworks Task Force; DLE; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force within the Department of Law Enforcement to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and explosives into the State, promote compliance with the fireworks control laws, and ensure the safety and security of facilities and institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Sunsets 6/30/2025. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

