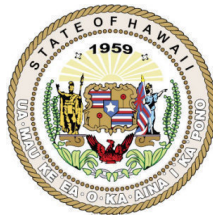


JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 587-2562

Vacant
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1041
RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, February 7, 2023; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference
Testifiers: Jordan Lowe, Michael Vincent

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports House Bill 1041.

This administration bill establishes an illegal fireworks task force to execute law enforcement operations to interdict illegal fireworks, develop a comprehensive strategic plan to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and explosives into Hawaii, promote compliance with the 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.

The proposed amendments are intended to bring together the Department of Law Enforcement, Attorney General, Harbors division of the Department of Transportation, county chiefs of police, county prosecutors, and various federal law enforcement agencies to attack the illegal fireworks problem collectively and cooperatively through joint agency law enforcement operations and investigations and the development of a comprehensive plan with findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation for the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

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

February 7, 2023
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 325

H.B. 1041
RELATING TO FIREWORKS

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is in **support** of this measure that establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force that aims, among other objectives, to ensure the safety and security of airports, harbors, and other state facilities against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives.

DOT acknowledges the need to control and mitigate the use and spread of illegal fireworks, and considers this task force a balanced and reasonable approach to create solutions to achieve this end.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Luke A. Evslin



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

February 3, 2023

**TESTIMONY OF FELICIA COWDEN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1041, RELATING TO FIREWORKS
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1041, Relating to Fireworks. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Member of the Kauai County Council and Public Safety & Human Services Committee Chair.

I support HB 1041, which seeks to establish a task force to manage the excessive use of illegal fireworks.

In the past two years, there has been a remarkable increase in home-made "noise bombs" and the use of pyrotechnics and other illegal fireworks that are overwhelming our neighborhoods. It represents a brazen disregard for our existing laws limiting fireworks. A task force can help identify pathways to positively redirect the celebratory interest into more concentrated areas, leaving neighborhoods safer and police departments able to focus on more serious crimes.

The Kauai County Council has received many complaints regarding respiratory health impacts as well as trauma, fear, and exhaustion to both humans and animals. We have had our Kauai Police Department engaged in our Council conversation. Help from a State Task Force, including law enforcement, is most welcomed.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1041. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Mahalo,
Felicia Cowden

FELICIA COWDEN
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

AAO:jy

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE DAVID A. TARNAS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawai`i

February 7, 2023

RE: H.B. 1041; RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu (“Department”), submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 1041.

The purpose of this bill is to establish an illegal fireworks task force, to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and explosives into Hawaii, with appropriations for implementation in fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

For years, Oahu residents have seen and heard evidence of illegal fireworks being set off at seemingly every street corner and public park on the island. Residents have become accustomed to the skies being lit up like a battlefield by illegal aerial devices, not only for New Year’s Eve and Fourth of July, but for weeks before and after those special occasions. In recent years, many communities have been forced to endure this endless barrage of fireworks year-round. Concerns about the incessant noise of these illegal fireworks; their effects on respiratory health and air quality; and effect on those with post-traumatic stress disorder, are further heightened by the fact that national and local statistics have also shown a rise in firework related injuries.¹

It has become abundantly clear that the “cat and mouse” game of on-site enforcement, even with multiple Acts passed by the Legislature, has had little effect in combating the ever-increasing supply of and demand for illegal fireworks. To address this public safety concern, the Department agrees that a multi-disciplinary approach must be implemented, through joint agency collaboration, as no single agency can curb or end the importation and illegal sales of illegal fireworks alone.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of H.B. 1041. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

¹ <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2021-Fireworks-Annual-Report.pdf>

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 4:19:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Samuel Mitchell | City & County of Honolulu Maikiki NB-10 | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

MAKIKI/LOWER PUNCHBOWL/TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO.
10 Making Hawaii a Safe & Sane Fireworks
State

WHEREAS, fireworks contain toxic chemicals and it spreads heavy metals that contribute to Hawai‘i's air, water; and soil pollution;
and

WHEREAS, fireworks are affecting the health and safety of dogs, cats, birds, fish, children, the elderly, and veterans with post traumatic stress disorder;
and

WHEREAS, Honolulu residents have complained about illegal fireworks & skyrockets being fired off at all hours of the day and night;
and

WHEREAS, fireworks cause a wide variety of health concerns such as cancer, respiratory and reproductive problems in humans and animals;
and

WHEREAS, in Honolulu from Dec 31 2021 to Jan 1st, 2022 there more than 11 persons seriously injured by fireworks, including one child;
and

WHEREAS, illegal fireworks are being stored in small stores, warehouses, and homes where they are a serious fire hazard;
and

WHEREAS, people are now buying fireworks-making kits which are coming in by United States Postal Service ground and being shipped to Hawai‘i by airmail;
and

WHEREAS, the Nextdoor group Stop all illegal Fireworks group has allowed the local community to voice and share ideas on what the City, State, and Federal Government can do to correct Hawai‘i's Fireworks problems; now,
therefore

BE IT RESOLVE, the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 asks State and City Legislators to use its resources to stop illegal fireworks from entering Hawai‘i by way of its Ports and Postal Services;
and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus

Neighborhood Board No. 10 asks the Legislature to improve its fireworks laws by assisting the counties in starting up a monetary reward program, that asks for the names & addresses of illegal fireworks shippers, distributors, and sellers;

and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be distributed to the Governor of Hawai‘i, the Lieutenant Governor of Hawai‘i, Representative Della Au Belatti, Representative Sylvia Luke, Senator Brian Taniguchi, and Senator Sharon Moriwaki.

IAN ROSS, CHAIR MAKIKI/LOWER PUNCHBOWL/TANTALUS
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO.10 Adopted 3-17-2022

TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1041

February 5, 2023

Aloha, Chair David Tarnas and Vice Chair Gregg Takayama and committee members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1041 in preparation of the hearing on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 2 PM. I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I am representing our Neighborhood Board and the numerous residents in Pearl City who have been negatively impacted by all-year-round illegal use of fireworks in Pearl City. Our Neighborhood Board unanimously approved a Fireworks Resolution on January 25, 2022 followed by a follow-on Fireworks Resolution at our January 24, 2023 board meeting.

The intent of HB1041 bill establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force within the Department of Law Enforcement to plan, coordinate, and engage in law enforcement operations to interdict illegal fireworks, develop a comprehensive strategic plan 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 airports, harbors, and other facilities and institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

Tons of explosive fireworks are entering our ports in Hawaii all year round. The most cost effective way to stop illegal fireworks from coming into Hawaii is to interdict the shipments on the West Coast of the United States, prior to the shipments being loaded on container ships to Hawaii. There needs to be a strong partnership with the Federal Government to stop this major organized crime ring that is corrupting many State and City officials, police and fire department personnel as they continue to operate "under the radar" successfully distributing illegal fireworks across all communities in Hawaii while they are making millions of dollars in profit.

The Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 is in support of this bill, we most strongly urge you to pass HB1041.

Very respectfully,

Larry S. Veray



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 3, 2023

To: Chair Rep. David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Gregg Takayama
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

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

RE: Testimony with comments on HB 1041: Relating to Fireworks
Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, 2 p.m., Room 325 and Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our comments on House Bill 1041, which establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force within the Department of Law Enforcement to plan, coordinate, and engage in law enforcement operations to interdict illegal fireworks, develop a comprehensive strategic plan 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 airports, harbors, and other facilities and institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives.

If this is what needs to happen to make progress on this issue, then it has the Hawaiian Humane Society's support. However, as the measure's own preamble reflects, this is not an understudied problem. For increasingly long stretches of the year, illegal fireworks fill our neighborhoods with unexpected explosions that terrorize pets and people alike. That makes it impossible for pet owners to prepare and creates sustained stress on people and animals, which can do lasting damage to their emotional and physical health.

Our communities are losing patience and want desperately to see progress that protects them from harm.

Mahalo for your consideration of our comments.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:29:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Serena Stefanic-Phillip | Hawaiian Humane Society | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support Bill HB1041.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 3:01:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel | Animal Rights Hawai'i | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support!



The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

HOUSE BILL 1041 RELATING TO FIREWORKS - COMMENTS

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

2:00 PM

Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and members of the Committee:

American Promotional Events, Inc. offers **comments** on House Bill 1041 which establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force under the Department of Law Enforcement to interdict illegal fireworks, develop a comprehensive strategic plan 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 airports, harbors, and other facilities and institutions in the State.

APE is the largest distributor of fireworks in the US and an importer and seller of legal and safe consumer fireworks in Hawaii. We have intimate knowledge on the necessary requirements imposed on the legal sale and transport of fireworks, and can provide valuable input.

Our knowledge goes beyond just shipping commodities and good, but working with other federal state agencies including U.S. Customs, US. Consumer Product Safety Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, Alcohol Tobacco Firearms.

While APE prefers House Bill 783 in establishing a task force attached within the State Attorney General's office, but more importantly requests that fireworks industry experts be included in the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

Brian Trim
Vice President

AMERICAN PROMOTIONAL EVENTS, INC.
2120 MILWAUKEE WAY • TACOMA, WA 98421
TACOMA (253) 922-0800 • FAX (253) 830-2930
www.tntfireworks.com



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti
Volunteer Board President, Poi Dogs & Popoki

In Strong Support of HB 1041 – Relating to Fireworks
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2 pm, Rm. 325

Aloha Chair Tarnas 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 HB 1041.

While most can appreciate the idea of a task force focused on fighting illegal fireworks inclusive of all areas of law enforcement, our only expectation is that this group of leaders is actually committed to getting something done. After speaking with the Honolulu Police Department and the Prosecuting Attorney's office over the past few years, the only response to proposed legislation was complacency. We hope that this new Law Enforcement Branch has the will and fortitude to work with the many other branches of government to finally get something done. And bring relief to our communities.

It does appear, however, that maybe the task force should include representatives from the **US Post Office, FedEx and UPS** – since apparently illegal aerals are being flown in from the mainland (ie: recent bust of the corrections officer found shipping 100 lbs of illegal aerals into Hawaii). There is no doubt that these items are available and being flown in more often than not. This is just one distributor! Its no wonder that we have so many problems.



HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:27:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maria Virginia M Lopez | Hawaiian Humane Society | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB1041

Testimony of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
Comments on HB1041
Before the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (“Matson”) appreciates the intent of HB1041, Relating to Fireworks and respectfully offers amendments. This measure establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force and appropriates funds.

As an island state, Hawaii is very dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo in and out of our State. It is estimated that over 90 percent Hawaii’s imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the State support safe, dependable, and efficient cargo transportation and logistics to timely service our residents and businesses who depend on these goods, vehicles, materials, and fuel on all major islands.

Matson respectfully requests this measure be amended to include a representative of the Hawaii Harbor Users Group, of which Matson is a member. Matson is opposed to the illegal importation of fireworks. The need to control illegal fireworks in Hawaii must be balanced with the need to ensure goods are on shelves available for Hawaii residents. Further, HHUG is best situated to explain the flow of cargo and current procedures for a variety of inspections.

Thank you for considering the requested amendment.

Testimony of the Hawaii Harbor Users Group
Comments on HB1041
Before the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Harbor Users Group (HHUG) is a non-profit maritime transportation industry group comprised of key commercial harbor users statewide. HHUG appreciates the intent of HB1041, Relating to Fireworks and respectfully offers amendments. This measure establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force and appropriates funds.

As an island state, Hawaii is very dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo in and out of our State. It is estimated that over 90 percent Hawaii's imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the State support safe, dependable, and efficient cargo transportation and logistics to timely service our residents and businesses who depend on these goods, vehicles, materials, and fuel on all major islands.

HHUG respectfully requests this measure be amended to include a representative of our organization. HHUG members are opposed to the illegal importation of fireworks. The need to control illegal fireworks in Hawaii must be balanced with the need to ensure goods are on shelves available for Hawaii residents. Further, HHUG is best situated to explain the flow of cargo and current procedures for a variety of inspections.

Thank you for considering our requested amendment.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 2:23:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Valerie Weiss | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. Our illegal fireworks is out of hand.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:25:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cheryl Reeser | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

We need to do as much as possible to curb illegal fireworks from port and warehouse inspections, package scanning, and creating task forces to deal with this growing problem. It has gotten to the point that it is not safe to go outside in many neighborhoods in Hawaii due to these illegal bombs that go off not only on July 4 and December 31, but for months prior and after these holidays. Since when do we tolerate illegal, unpoliced explosives being set off in neighborhoods by anyone without any consequences? Please devote resources to this problem as it gets progressively worse every year. Undercover police task forces to bust dealers and buyers should also be happening. Right now there are no consequences to this terror we are allowing in our neighborhoods. This is not Hawai'i.

Mahalo.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:33:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Holly Nishimitsu | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in regards to the huge amount of illegal fireworks and bombs that are set off every Fourth of July and New Year’s Eve. I might also add that the bombs are not limited to those two holidays, but continue intermittently throughout the year. Not only do they startle and disturb humans, but the adverse effect on companion animals, pastured animals, and wildlife is unconscionable, not to mention sometimes deadly.

I cannot accept that there is nothing that can be done. I do understand that it is currently difficult to examine every shipping container that reaches Hawai’i, but perhaps it is time to fund and staff such an endeavor. Not only would illegal fireworks and related supplies be stopped or at least decreased, but drugs could also be targeted as well as any other illegal items.

Portions of legal fireworks sales could be set aside to partially fund such an endeavor. Fines from citations could also be used.

Perhaps incentivizing reporting illegal activity anonymously would help to make a dent. Drones? Increased patrols in neighborhoods where such activity is rampant?

I live in Kapahi, and the bombs and aerals were unbelievable, with seemingly more each year. This is a common complaint from my friends and relatives who live not only on Kaua’i, but also on O’ahu. My elderly 14 year old dog would jerk spasmodically when a bomb exploded, my younger dog paced and barked and was more clingy than usual, despite having had calming supplements. My three cats would sometimes run and look back at me, hiding under the bed or moving about restlessly. I ran an air purifier and a fan and closed windows, which of course did nothing to mitigate the noise.

Here are comments that others have shared, primarily animal related:

Three dogs were affected “all night.”

The kitchen was “hazy” from the smoke.

Geriatric cat “is pacing around and looking at windows.” Other cats were going “into cupboards with the pots.”

Dog was “a mess last night. I gave a second dose 4 hours after first dose and nothing would calm him down. He was shaking so bad.” “I felt so bad for him.” We had to hold him but that still didn’t help.”

Dog “was shaking most of the night...in my arms...I had my hand over her ears most of the night.”

Senior dog: “It’s like he gave a sigh of relief this morning. Even with all meds, he was panting and pacing. Noisiest New Year’s ever! So glad it’s over, even though I’m sure we’ll still hear the occasional bombs.” “Dog was breathing so heavily, it was like he was gonna have a heart attack. We were so relieved when he survived the night!”

Dog “majorly stressed. We are in the laundry room just try and keep it quiet.” Dog “got anxiety.”

Dog “is trying to hide under my legs.”

Dog “was quite jittery especially with the bombs. Had to be held or nestled right next to husband or me.”

Dog “was traumatized.” “He stayed on couch all night and didn’t want to go potty in the dark. The next night seemed like he was afraid of the dark!”

Dog is “usually unaffected but they were so exceptionally loud, she was a nervous wreck.”

Multiply this by the thousands of pet owners AND consider the many pets who disappeared once the fireworks started. FaceBook pages and animal groups have many reports of disrupted lives and lost pets, including injured and dead animals.

As a long time animal lover, which I’m sure many of you are, I am pleading with you to enact laws to stop the influx of illegal fireworks, and/or enforce the laws. Fund and staff the agencies (or create a new one) to give the law abiding citizens of Hawai’i the relief they seek.

Sincerely,

Holly Nishimitsu

5696 Kula Mau’u Street

Kapa’a, HI 96746

hollynis@hotmail.com

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:35:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melanie Kim | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill to establish a task force to plan, coordinate and engage law enforcement operations to reduce introduction of illegal fireworks and explosives in the state and ensure compliance with firework control laws to ensure the safety and security of airports, harbors and other state facilities. As a healthcare provider who works at the health institution that has the only burn unit in the state of Hawaii. We see the tragedies that arise out of impulsive and unsafe use of illegal fireworks: loss of limb, organ complications and life threatening injuries that did not need to happen. Please support this bill.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:46:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| JOHNNY KELLY | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Yes we must have a Fireworks Task Force! They must start immediately to be a Force, not set around at meetings on their asses and plan, plan, and have meeting after meeting and years later start doing their job. They must be accountable and act swifley or they will be like the Navy and EPA and continue doing nothing about Red Hill!

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 9:46:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Michael I Rice | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I stand against this bill for the simple reason that the ban on aerial fireworks does not work and will not work. This bill is just throwing money in an attempt to fix a problem that we have made ourselves.

During Prohibition, 2 of my great grandfathers were Moonshiners, 1 was a Rum Runner, and 1 was a police officer assigned to enforce liquor laws. I'll give you 3 guesses as to which one of the 4 always had a full wallet and liquor cabinet.

Legalize Aerial Fireworks again, when people realize they can easily buy consumer grade fireworks for \$200 as opposed to paying thousands of dollars for the same fireworks to be smuggled in as well as accessing commercial grade pyrotechnics, the problem will correct itself.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:37:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Eubank | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB1041. The illegal fireworks situation is out of control. We need a comprehensive law enforcement plan on all fronts to stop the use of illegal fireworks, to protect Hawaii citizens, animals and property. Mahalo. Susan Eubank

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:29:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lois Crozer | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I love the idea of a taskforce to study the problem of fireworks because everyone now has their own idea of how we can eliminate illegal ones. We need to look at so many factors, but the priority should be getting rid of the BOMBS at all hours for the day which terrifies residents and pets. These make life miserable for many people for the enjoyment of the few. PLEASE DO THIS NOW! It's long overdue. If you decide to continue to allow them for July 4, December 31 and Chinese New Year (the red firecrackers which historically scare away the spirits), then please figure this out! BUT DO SOMETHING!

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 1:56:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Daniel R Freund | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We have enough laws, we don't have enough enforcement. This bill will help that imbalance.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:13:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephanie McLaughlin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support this important bill that will help animals in Hawaii like my dog, Donny, and my cat, Katie, who suffer from illegal fireworks set off in my home community of Mililani mauka.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:19:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lynne matusow | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

While I support the intent, it is a waste of time. Enough studies, enough task forces. All they do is delay while the problem continues to grow. Instead put the efforts into controlling the problem by putting limits on fireworks, increasing fines, and emphasizing a shipping container inspection program with all illegal fireworks seized.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:30:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dana Keawe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Side Note:

Now we need a task force like this to stop all these invasive species from entering Hawai'i too.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:23:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| carole richelieu | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We need progress rather than lip service after all these years. This measure establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force within the Department of Law Enforcement to plan, coordinate, and engage in law enforcement operations to interdict illegal fireworks, develop a comprehensive strategic plan 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 airports, harbors, and other facilities and institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:59:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Carrie Harrington | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Congressionals:

Residential use of fireworks is out of control. In my neighborhood of Enchanted Lake in Kailua, many of our neighbors set off hundreds and hundreds of ground and erial fireworks each New Years Eve and 4th of July. The fireworks start with loud bomb sounding fireworks days (usually a week) before the actual holiday, increasing in number as the holiday approaches. On the actual holiday, people don't concenrate fireworks with a one hour or 30 minute show, they release fireworks all day long, and once night falls they release aerial fireworks all night long. If this could be contained to a 30 minute or 1 hour window, it would be manageable, but the constant bomb sounds from these fireworks has braught much stress to our pets and ourselves. Worse, the hours and hours of bomb sounds is damaging to our war veterans who suffer from PTSD. There is a video on 808viral on Instagram that displays the horror we experience on NYE. I enjoy aerial fireworks, but not for hour after hour. It is obscene. Fireworks should be limited to a narrow window of one or two hours at most, and laws should be strictly enforced. The county and city could use money, so why not enforce the laws and fine people? Pets and veterans suffer the most, not to mention the risk of fire. My family supports HB1041.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:44:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Natalie Hanson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Although I love fireworks as much as the next person and grew up in a family of pyromaniacs, in a state with ample open space and loose regulation allowing the liberal purchase and use of fireworks, I think the use of fireworks on Oahu has gotten far out of hand, given the local conditions. In the 3 years since we moved to our current neighborhood (Kalihi), there have been several fires around the holidays that I can only assume must be related to the over-use of fireworks in densely built/populated neighborhoods. Aside from the obvious safety concerns relating to fires and fireworks in densely built areas, the smoke from fireworks and subsequent fires has significantly impacted the health of myself and my family. I would like to see much greater enforcement of current fireworks restrictions, and a re-visiting of said laws, so I support HB1041. Thanks for your consideration.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:43:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| martha shelton | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about how the illegal fireworks, especially the 'bombs', are destroying our quality of life. I understand that not all pyromaniacs can be caught, particularly during the holidays, but ONE FAMILY from ONE PROPERTY in Kaaawa is exploding their 'ordnance', obviously, blatantly, belligerently and unapologetically, up to 6 nights a week.

The neighbors know who is doing this, but, apparently, our testimony is worthless. Our pleas for quiet are met with vicious demands that we move out of town if we don't like their illegal pyrotechnics.

The police say they have to see the fuse being lit before they can do anything. Does that hold true for every crime? If a cop didn't see it happen, it didn't happen?

All the rules and laws exist to protect the criminals and we are just left to suffer. And they think it's funny. They obviously have no worries about being caught. They set their 'bombs' off in their backyard behind a tall fence knowing the police won't do anything about it.

Oh, the police will lie to our faces and SAY they will "talk" to the pyromaniacs. Then we see them drive by the house and never even get out of the car. It's like they're on the side of the criminals, like in a 3rd world country.

We shouldn't have to live this way. We shouldn't have to live in what sounds like a war zone, never having a moment of rest as we tensely wait for the next explosion, then hearing the babies cry; seeing the animals in terror. They are killing our dogs.

It is unacceptable that the police do no more than whine about stopping the fireworks at the ports. That's fine as far as that works, but we don't have that standard for other crimes. "Feet on land" shouldn't be "home free" like in a game of tag.

The laws need to be specifically written to, not just ALLOW the police to act upon neighbors' testimony and other evidence that police don't personally witness, but to proactively compel police to do so. The "cops have to see it happen or it didn't happen" standard HAS TO CHANGE!

I understand the House doesn't confirm judges, but we need judges who will take the laws seriously and stop letting criminals off scott-free.

We need the House to lower the weight threshold for felony conviction to something like 5 lbs, rather than 25lbs. Fireworks are not heavy. 25 lbs is A LOT of explosives. It shouldn't be so very difficult to get a warrant to inspect a property, particularly a single family structure, OBVIOUSLY and FREQUENTLY shooting off fireworks in the back yard.

We need the legislature to empower the Department of Health to investigate and issue injunctions aganst firework offenders.

These explosions are compromising our health every bit as much as 2nd hand smoke, probably more. If we have a task force for tobacco, we should have one for these obnoxious, nerve shattering fireworks.

Thank You

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:12:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Tara Murphy | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

I strongly support HB1041. In Kaaawa, the level of explosive fireworks is as though there is an authorized quarry in the midst of a residential community. The blasting is as loud and concussive as one would expect in explosive blasting in a quarry. Fireworks happen throughout the year, and for no particular reason. They are beyond nuisance. They terrify pets and people. If we were invaded by a foreign army, it would take some time to realize that it is not fireworks as usual. This must stop. Thank you, Tara Murphy

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:43:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kim A Shelton | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am a retired Defense Contractor, Veteran and homeowner who has resided in Hawaii for over 23 years. My family consists of myself, my spouse, two cats and one dog. For the past several years, illegal fireworks & firearm discharge activity, occurring outside of New Years & July 4th holidays, in our surrounding neighborhood has been on the increase causing a major disruption to our and our neighbors normal lives. At any given time, we may experience a large explosion or aerial display and explosions which, at times, rattles the windows and shakes the structures around us. At times, the explosive sounds resemble gun shots. Our animals display extreme anxiety and fear which takes them some time to overcome when the explosions subside. My spouse experiences mental anguish when a sudden explosion occurs and is considering leaving if the fireworks continue. We have contacted Honolulu Police numerous times and have been told "There's nothing we can do unless we see the person lighting the fuse." This is an unacceptable response to an illegal activity. I am willing to accept the legal activity during New Year's and July 4th celebrations but not at random and throughout the entire year. Law enforcement needs to enforce the laws so we, as Hawaii residents, can support law enforcement.

Respectively,

K. A. Shelton

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:22:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jennifer Chiwa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Tarnas and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

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

Please support HB 1041 which would establish the Illegal Fireworks Task Force. This task force appears to be helpful in banning fireworks which would be greatly beneficial to the health and safety of human and animal community members and which would be supportive of police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and hospital workers, all of whom risk their lives for our health and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration in supporting HB 1041.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:45:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victor K. Ramos | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT: The respective police departments deal with the symptoms of the influx of illegal fireworks to the State of Hawaii. What must be addressed is HOW the illegal fireworks are able to make it's way to the State.

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:03:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Troy Schacht | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Fireworks are dangerous, unhealthy, upset people and animals, etc. There are better ways to celebrate. <https://earth911.com/living-well-being/eco-unfriendly-fireworks/>

Sincerely,

Toy Schacht, Kapaa, HI

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:03:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Beverly Heiser | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I Strongly Support HB1041 that establishes the Illegal Fireworks Task Force.

The Fireworks Task Force is important and needed because it will bring together all the necessary agencies and individuals to discuss the best plans of actions to stop the importation of illegal fireworks that has increased over the years.

The recent incident of a Corrections Officer bringing in fireworks via the U.S. Post Office that may have been transported on a plane indicates the need for greater security especially for our airports, harbors, and postal facilities. An explosion on a plane, at a harbor, or at a postal facility could injure individuals who may not even be aware of the cargo or package they are handling or transporting. The illegal fireworks in this case were sent back to the mainland, but it does bring into question if we have proper storage facilities and disposal methods of confiscated fireworks. I recall the incident in 2011 at a storage bunker in Waikele that killed several individuals. This may be something the task force may want to research and examine.

The different agencies coming together can provide valuable discussion and input on what can be done to improve security, safety and enforcement.

Please support HB1041.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:08:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natalie Graham-Wood | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB 1041.

TESTIMONY FOR HB1041

I live in Kaaawa where someone is continuously and randomly setting off fireworks “bombs” any time day and night outside of the normally expected holiday schedule. Children cannot be put to bed, the elderly are distressed, animals are terrified and cannot be controlled. It is completely inconsiderate and disruptive. Can’t something be done to stop this?

Aloha,

Elizabeth Ashley

HB-1041

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:19:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ryan Christopher | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I do not support HB1041. Any additional monies spent to try to enforce the laws against fireworks is a waste of money that can be used in so many better ways. The fireworks displays are proof that the majority of people want them legal. The state should make them legal and tax them so people get what they want and the state can make money not spend money. I would support certian dry areas being areas that cant have fireworks for fire reasons.