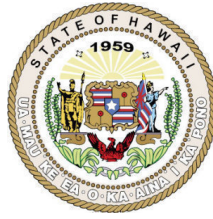


JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKUPŪĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu

1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Vacant
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 821
RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, February 15, 2023; 10:30 a.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 211, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) recommends that the Legislature address the funding elements of this bill through Senate Bill 1339 or House Bill 1041, which are the Administration's comprehensive bills to establish an illegal fireworks task force 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 Hawaii, promote compliance with the state 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.

The Illegal Fireworks Task Force is focused on concerted multi-jurisdictional law enforcement efforts to investigate, interdict, arrest, and prosecute those violating county, State, and federal fireworks laws. The DLE has already initiated cooperative dialog with appropriate law enforcement agencies and will continue to develop the law enforcement relationships needed to for successful operations and the development of an appropriate strategic plan and recommendations to the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this bill and recommend the passage of one of the administration bills on this subject, Senate Bill 1339, or House Bill 1041.



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

LATE

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

In Strong Support of SB 821 – Relating to Fireworks
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 10:30 am

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz 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 821.

In 2019, the legislature passed a fireworks law that holds the property owner or tenant liable for any illegal fireworks ignited on their property. That law specifically allows drone video to be used in the identification and prosecution of illegal fireworks defendants.

In the past year, I've filed 6 police reports citing the address of the illegal fireworks and committing to testify in the prosecution. Every year previously, I've filed similar reports. To date – none have been prosecuted. And I am aware that only one case was sent to the prosecuting attorney's office. The defendant didn't show up to court so the prosecuting attorney's office threw out the charges.

I know most people do NOT want to report their neighbors. So this bill could provide the public with SOME level of peace of mind that more is being done by the police to investigate and prosecute illegal fireworks users. For many of us – our quality of life has deteriorated because the bombs are blown year round – and especially from October through New Years. Please support SB 821. It really is a small price to pay.

SB-821

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 3:40:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good start. Please support this bill.

SB-821

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 8:02:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

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.

LATE

SB-821

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:44:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2023 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Jones/Zeb Jones	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

We present this testimony in COMMENTING on SB821, which requests up to \$1,000,000 in funding for drones to monitor illegal fireworks usage. While drones could prove valuable tools in determining the origins of AND monitoring illegal fireworks usage in Hawai`I, our concerns, among others, are that this equipment could in fact be seriously damaged by aerial fireworks in the course of their operations.

Funding for drones should perhaps be folded into Gov. Green's administration's bills SB1339 or HB1041, which would establish illegal fireworks Task Force 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 Hawaii, promote compliance with the state 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.

Another concern is that these fireworks are but a mechanism to import an array of other illegal substances, like narcotics. So, while the intention of employing drones to monitor illegal fireworks is admirable, funds would be better spent on appropriations for SB1339 and/or HB1041.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony regarding SB821.

Warm aloha,

Nancy Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792/Email: nancyhydroalt@gmail.com