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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS OF EACH COUNTY, HUMANE SOCIETIES IN EACH COUNTY, AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO COLLABORATE TO CREATE AND DISSEMINATE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO HIGHLIGHT THE DANGERS OF, AND ADVOCATE AGAINST THE USE OF, ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY, PETS, AND WILDLIFE.

1           WHEREAS, illegal fireworks in Hawaii pose a significant  
2 safety, environmental, and health issue and this body finds it  
3 necessary for agencies across the islands to place a public  
4 service announcement (PSA) concerning fireworks safety; and  
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6           WHEREAS, past PSAs have been effective in changing  
7 attitudes and behaviors regarding tobacco, and this body seeks  
8 to do likewise with a fireworks PSA; and  
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10           WHEREAS, fireworks are viewed in many communities in Hawaii  
11 as merely harmless fun; and  
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13           WHEREAS, in just one day, from December 31, 2023, to  
14 January 1, 2024, the Honolulu Fire Department responded to  
15 twenty-three fireworks-related fires; and  
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17           WHEREAS, during this period, Honolulu Emergency Medical  
18 Services also responded to seven fireworks-related injuries,  
19 including to keiki and kupuna, that were disfiguring and will  
20 have life-long consequences for the injured individuals; and  
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22           WHEREAS, during December 2023 alone, the Department of Law  
23 Enforcement confiscated sixteen tons of illegal fireworks and  
24 since its inception, the Department has seized 35,000 pounds of  
25 fireworks; and  
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27           WHEREAS, fireworks can also trigger a military veteran's  
28 post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as seven percent of all



1 veterans on average will suffer from PTSD during their  
2 lifetimes; and

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4 WHEREAS, however, of the more recent veterans of the  
5 Persian Gulf war, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation  
6 Enduring Freedom, thirty percent will experience PTSD during  
7 their lifetimes; and

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9 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of  
10 Veterans Affairs, fireworks may cue memories of combat or  
11 explosions and may be reminders of intense fires or gun  
12 violence; and

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14 WHEREAS, according to The Humane Society of the United  
15 States, during holidays involving fireworks, pet animals are  
16 often frightened from the noise and commotion of fireworks,  
17 causing them to flee from familiar environments, often becoming  
18 lost; and

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20 WHEREAS, the bright lights from fireworks frequently cause  
21 animals to run into the streets, and wildlife rehabilitation  
22 centers are often flooded with all sorts of wildlife affected by  
23 fireworks; and

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25 WHEREAS, during the 2022 New Year Celebration, the Hawaiian  
26 Humane Society indicated that twenty percent of pets are lost  
27 during celebrations involving fireworks and that during that  
28 time, it received seventy to eighty animals after the New Year;  
29 and

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31 WHEREAS, as an isolated archipelago, Hawaii is home to many  
32 unique and endemic species of wildlife, including twenty-six  
33 forest bird species, and most of these species are considered  
34 vulnerable, near-threatened, threatened, endangered, or  
35 critically endangered; and

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37 WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
38 Administration has stated that the trash from fireworks poses  
39 major risks to animals, because sea birds and marine animals can  
40 mistake this debris for food, resulting in malnutrition,  
41 internal injuries, intestinal blockage, starvation, and even  
42 death; and



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WHEREAS, the effects of illegal fireworks are significant and wide-ranging, including the physical injuries to and psychological effects on individuals, to the displacement of pets, and the negative impact on wildlife; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that the Department of Law Enforcement, fire departments and police departments of each county, humane societies in each county, and media organizations throughout the State are urged to collaborate to create and disseminate public service announcements to highlight the dangers of, and advocate against the use of, illegal fireworks in order to protect the health and safety of the community, pets, and wildlife; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Law Enforcement; Fire Chiefs of the Honolulu Fire Department, Hawaii Fire Department, Maui Fire Department, and Kauai Fire Department; Police Chiefs of the Honolulu Police Department, Hawaii Police Department, Maui Police Department, and Kauai Fire Department; President and CEO of the Hawaiian Humane Society; President of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Island Humane Society; CEO of Maui Humane Society; Executive Director of Kauai Humane Society; President and General Manager of Hawaii News Now; General Manager of KHON2; President & General Manager of KITV; President & General Manager of Hawaii Public Radio; head of iHeartMedia in Honolulu; President & Publisher of the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*; Editor and General Manager of Honolulu Civil Beat; editor of the *Hawaii Tribune Herald*; editor of *West Hawaii Today*; Publisher of *The Maui News*; and Editor of *The Garden Island*.

OFFERED BY:



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MAR - 5 2024

