

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov

February 3, 2023

The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
and Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 442
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 145 Relating to Fireworks

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 145, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

The SFC fully support increased limitations on the use of fireworks by the general public. The widespread use of fireworks endangers the public, not only when it is being used, but also when it is transported and stored throughout the state. In addition, the pervasive use of permitted fireworks by the public encourages the sale and use of illegal fireworks throughout the community. Every New Year's Eve, first responder agencies throughout the state experience high operational tempo from fireworks misuse; with incident call volume occasionally exceeding available resources. A number of serious injuries due to fireworks occurred and a 28 year-old male suffered a fatal head injury from fireworks this past New Year's Eve 2022-2023.

The SFC urges your committee's support on the passage of HB 145.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 808-723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

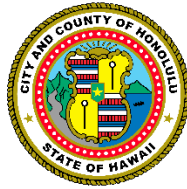
KAZUO TODD
Chair

KT:GL

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 3, 2023

The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
and Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 442
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 145 Relating to Fireworks

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 145, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

The HFD fully supports increased limitations on the use of fireworks by the general public. The widespread use of fireworks endangers the public, not only when it is being used, but also when it is transported and stored throughout the state. In addition, the pervasive use of permitted fireworks by the public encourages the sale and use of illegal fireworks throughout the community. Every New Year's Eve, first responder agencies throughout the state experience high operational tempo from fireworks misuse with incident call volume occasionally exceeding available resources. A number of serious injuries occurred this past New Year's Eve due to fireworks, including an incident involving a 28-year-old male who suffered a fatal head injury from fireworks.

The HFD urges your committee's support on the passage of HB 145.

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 808-723- 7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

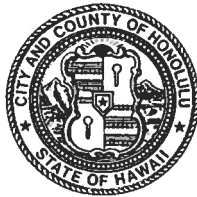
Sincerely,

for SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **GB-TA**

February 7, 2023

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 145, Relating to Fireworks

I am Acting Major Brandon Yamamoto of District 8 (Ewa/Kapolei/Waianae) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.


The HPD supports House Bill No. 145, Relating to Fireworks. This bill will impose a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

From December 1, 2022, to January 3, 2023, there were approximately 2,600 fireworks-related calls to 911. These calls overtax police response and services. Although most of the fireworks being used are illegally entering Honolulu, a statewide limitation may lessen these unnecessary 911 calls.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 145, Relating to Fireworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:


Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

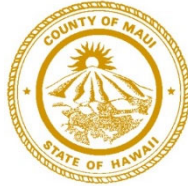

Brandon Yamamoto, Acting Major
District 8

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

KEKUAUPIO R. AKANA
Acting Managing Director

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
www.mauicounty.gov

February 6, 2023

The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 442
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas,

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL (HB) 145 RELATING TO FIREWORKS

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports HB 145 which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

The SFC fully support increased limitations on the use of fireworks by the general public. The widespread use of fireworks endangers the public, not only when it is being used, but also when it is transported and stored throughout the state. In addition, the pervasive use of permitted fireworks by the public encourages the sale and use of illegal fireworks throughout the community. Every New Year's Eve, first responder agencies throughout the state experience high operational tempo from fireworks misuse; with incident call volume occasionally exceeding available resources. A number of serious injuries due to fireworks occurred and a 28-year-old male suffered a fatal head injury from fireworks this past New Year's Eve 2022 – 2023.

The SFC urges your committee's support on the passage of HB 145.

If you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

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. 145; 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. 145.

The purpose of this bill is to discontinue the use of consumer fireworks, aside from cultural practices between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and any licensed professional use of fireworks.

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 an endless barrage of fireworks year-round. Concerns about the incessant noise of these illegal fireworks; their effects on respiratory health and air quality; and effects 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

While a “ban” on consumer fireworks would certainly not be expected to stop the importation or use of illegal fireworks altogether, in and of itself, the Department does believe that this type of statutory change is a critical component to getting the problem under control. The Department applauds the introducer of H.B. 145 for this bold proposition, and stands ready to do its part in enforcing any relevant measures passed by the Legislature.

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. 145. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 4:00:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

MAKIKI/LOWER PUNCHBOWL/TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 10

Making Hawai‘i a Safe & Sane Fireworks State

WHEREAS, fireworks contain toxic chemicals and it spreads heavy metals that contribute to Hawaii'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 were 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



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 145: 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 145, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

Hawaiian Humane supports any attempt to remove fireworks from residential neighborhoods by keeping these dangerous products out of our state entirely and/or enhancing enforcement. As this measure rightly points out, illegal fireworks fill our neighborhoods with unexpected explosions that terrorize pets and people alike and disrupt what should be joyous times for local families.

We support the intent of this measure. Our only concern is the lack of specification about what qualifies for a cultural event permit and whether this might increase the revenue from permit sales without reducing the availability of fireworks.

Mahalo for your consideration of our comments.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:28:00 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 HB145.



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

HOUSE BILL 145 RELATING TO FIREWORKS- OPPOSE

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. **opposes** House Bill 145 which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

While we understand the intent of this measure, we do not believe it will achieve the desired outcome. In 2010, the Honolulu City Council banned nearly all consumer fireworks on Oahu and since that time, consumers have obtained fireworks through the black market.

As it's been reported and observed over the past decade, the proliferation of illegal aerial devices is at an all-time high. Legislation aimed at strengthening enforcement and penalties for the use of illegal aerial devices has not proved successful. With the ban on Oahu proving to be unsuccessful and producing unintended consequences, a similar statewide ban would net the same negative results.

Instead of driving consumers to the black market, a safer alternative should be available. New York, New Jersey, Arizona, Delaware and others have modified their ban on consumer fireworks and allow the sale of consumer fireworks such as fountains and ground spinners, which produce significantly less smoke and noise. Currently, fireworks are allowed in 49 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Hawaii consumers are enamored with fireworks and have a long history of fireworks being an integral part of New Years and July 4th family celebrations.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns.

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

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:12:32 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[HB145](#) imposes a state-wide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events. Hawaiian Humane supports the intent of the measure and has submitted comments requesting greater clarity on what would be considered a cultural event.

We agree with this. Pure entertainment is not usually 'cultural'.

AIA begs to support this Bill.

PHANTOM FIREWORKS

Distributors of Phantom® and Wolf Pack® Brand Fireworks

2445 Belmont Ave
Youngstown, Ohio 44505
Danial Peart, Director of Government Affairs

o. 330.746.1064
dpeart@fireworks.com
www.fireworks.com

February 6, 2023

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
& Hawaiian Affairs
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023

RE: House Bill 145 – Relating to Fireworks
Hearing date: February 7, 2023 at 2:00 pm

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of Phantom Fireworks in **OPPOSITION** to House Bill 145 – Relating to Fireworks. House Bill 145 seeks to ban all fireworks, including consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events. Although Phantom Fireworks supports the intent of the bill to control the spread of illegal fireworks, this bill would not achieve such purpose.

Consumer fireworks are an important part of Hawaii's local culture. In addition to ethnic cultural events such as Chinese Lunar New Year or festivals with dragon dances, locals enjoy celebrating with fireworks on other occasions. In fact, the largest use of consumer fireworks is during New Year's Day and 4th of July celebrations. A statewide ban would not prevent the illegal fireworks from continuing to be sold but would encourage the illegal sale as has continued since Honolulu's ban in 2010. The better approach would be to provide better regulation and increase the enforcement of current laws, including fireworks sales outside of the allowed time periods.

Simply put, the outright ban of all fireworks during the most popular fireworks periods would not serve to address the sale and use of illegal fireworks. We appreciate the willingness of the legislature to tackle the issue of illegal fireworks, and we are thankful to be able to continue to work with the many Representatives and Senators who are committed to finding the appropriate solution. For these reasons, we urge the committee to defer House Bill 145.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Danial Peart



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 145 – 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 145.

The suggestion by some that fireworks is part of our culture or tradition in Hawaii is a misnomer. The ugly reality is that it is only the past 15 to 20 years that the proliferation of illegal fireworks has caused our communities so much terror and trauma. Our ohana – born and raised in Papakolea on Hawaiian homestead – did NOT grow up with illegal fireworks like aerals. We respected our neighbors. Ignited firecrackers ONLY on New Years Eve. Cleaned up the entire street the next morning. And enjoyed the rest of the year without concern. As Hawaiians, we celebrated the 4th of July with our ohana from our homestead in Papakolea - watching the professional fireworks show at Ala Moana Beach Park.

Because of the lack of respect by people who have decided that EVERY DAY is worthy of a NYE celebration – be it a football game, MMA fight, or first birthday luau, it is time to say aloha to consumer fireworks. The few have ruined it for the many. Those of us with pets, or kupuna, or ohana with PTSD.....we have not been able to enjoy NYE for years. But the months leading up to NYE is out of control. First it was Thanksgiving. Then Halloween. Now – for no reason – the bombs start in early October. Every weekend. With no notice. My rescue dogs – so terrified and traumatized – sadly fight each other as they run in fear. Since 2016, three of my dogs have died as a result of unanticipated bombs which I could not properly prepare for. For one dog, I spent \$12,000 trying to save him. I took out a line of credit on my home to pay for his emergency surgery. He died 5 days later. Over the years, I have spent more than \$25,000 in veterinary care for pets affected by illegal fireworks.

People dying. Properties damaged. All in the name of entertainment? Its time for a ban. Please pass HB 145. Aloha to fireworks. And aloha to getting our lives back.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:27:37 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 bill HB145.



February 6, 2023

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

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: HB145: Relating to the State Fire Council Package; Fireworks; Cultural Events;
Prohibitions; Exceptions

Testimony in support.

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports House Bill 145 and the campaign to limit the use of consumer fireworks. Fireworks can cause extreme stress in animals, domestic and wild. The bright lights, strong odor, and harsh sounds can be terrifying. Humane societies, everywhere, prepare on an annual basis for an influx of animals entering their facilities after the fourth of July and New Year's Eve. Pets are more sensitive than their owners to the lights, smells, and sounds causing many to try to escape their homes out of fear and confusion, resulting in multiple lost animals, an increase in animal-vehicle collisions, and distraught pet owners. The stress of the experience can also weaken a pet's immune system resulting in disease.

Wildlife responds in a similar manner abandoning their nests or homes in hopes of escaping the explosions. Birds have been reported to fly for longer, attempting to escape, exhausting themselves beyond recovery while also being exposed to the harmful chemicals in fireworks while flying. The remains of fireworks are also harmful. The materials can pollute the homes of our land and sea animals as well as be toxic when consumed or fed to young.

Though fireworks can be an exciting experience, it is not worth the trauma and terror it causes to pets, wildlife, and residents. We urge you to pass House Bill 145. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully,
Nicole Schafer Crane
Executive Director
Kaua`i Humane Society
nicole@kauaihumane.org

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 2:28:42 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:

Please support this bill to limit fireworks in our residential and other areas. We have never had so many illegal fireworks being set off from dusk to way past midnight.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:28:48 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-145

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 11:25:22 PM

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

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

Comments:

For those of us with respiratory disabilities fireworks are instruments of possible death but definitely health problems. We'd like to see the most restrictive laws possible. Please begin by passing this bill.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:29:47 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 HB145 which will provide statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except as permitted for cultural practices. I am a pet owner and I can vouch that when fireworks are off, my cat is terrified. Please support this bill.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:29:33 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:

All fireworks should be banned except for professional events. Fireworks no matter how small are dangerous to our children, adults and pets. The excuse of "it's tradition," is a load of horse manure!

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 9:47:50 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-145

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:47:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 145. Statewide limitations on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events, must be imposed for the safety of all. The use of illegal fireworks is out of control and there needs to be more monitoring and stricter legislation. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Taurie Kinoshita

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:09:08 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:

This is a much needed bill. There is no reason for pets to run away or be killed, for people to be killed, to be severely injured, for those suffering from PTSD, including veterans, to be terrified, for property to be set on fire so people can get off their jollies by setting off fireworks. This past holiday season I was assaulted by the noise from bombs, fireworks going off, at all hours. It went on for days. This needs to stop. Yes, the aerals are beautiful, but the human cost is too great. Fireworks should only be allowed for cultural affairs and regulated by permit.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:10:56 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 to help animals in Hawaii like my dog, Donny, and my cat, Katie, who suffer from illegal fireworks that are set off in my home community of Mililani mauka.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:16:38 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:

I support the intent of this bill which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events which may need clarifying

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:58:30 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 HB145.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 5:25:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill establishes sensible prohibitions on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events. The documented injuries and trauma, plus the strain on public safety agencies, caused by Hawaii's consumer fireworks arms race must be stopped. You can and should take take decisive action to end the scourge of consumer fireworks.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:24:36 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HARRIET MORRISON	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The only way to stop the illegal assaults on hundreds of thousands of Hawaii residents and animals by illegal explosives is to amend this bill to do away with any right to individual use of explosive fireworks, and to institute a generous reward system to those who provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone possessing, selling or using such devices. No other law will be worth the paper it is printed on.

California classifies firecrackers as “dangerous explosives” because that is what they are. Our communities are in crisis because of fireworks. Legal fireworks have opened the door to year-round homemade bombs and illegal aerials that shatter the peace of our island communities and result in traumatic injuries to our pets’ psyche as well as our own.

Almost all illegal fireworks are exploded in backyards or behind fences preventing any one to witness the perpetrator., making arrests impossible. At the same time, the streets are dangerous because this body has failed to make any laws to prevent the use of explosive fireworks. It doesn’t matter how severe the penalties are if the police are only able to arrest 1 out of 1,000 criminals, while each criminal assaults the psyche of 1,000 or more victims.

1. people claim it is their “cultural tradition”, therefore you should make an exception. Unfortunately for those who want to point to China as the source for their “right” to explode their way into the American New Year, “Fireworks have been banned in most urban areas of China for several years due to environmental and fire hazard concerns.” The Independent Co., U .K. This is a tradition with no proven benefit and a long history of harm in our state.

No type of law enforcement can solve this problem. There are not enough police to cover all our communities and make arrests. There is no time or place for inspection of containers and no way to inspect all mailed parcels. Apparently the Legislature decided that meaningless traditions without ANY proven benefit are more important than the safety of our communities. In making that terrible decision, it ignored the pleas of those responsible for keeping our communities safe. Responsibility for the death of Kenneth Meyers lies properly at the door of this government.

I am providing this testimony because like hundreds of thousands of Oahu residents, I am a victim of illegal explosives and the turmoil produced by those explosions affects me even today. In 1819 King Kamehameha II abolished the traditional Hawaiian kapu system for the benefit of all the people in these islands. He saw that when it comes to actions that have necessary, widespread community benefits, nothing is sacred, not even religion.

The next election will be about who followed the lead of the Hawaiian alii to protect Hawaii's communities. Who wants to protect our communities by outlawing individual use of fireworks? I will encourage people not to vote for any legislator that does not vote to end this thoughtless, useless, deadly practice of people exploding their way into the New Year.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a solution to this enormous problem.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:52:51 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 145 which would limit consumer fireworks except for cultural events. Furthermore, please consider amending this bill to delete this exception. I think prioritizing health and safety is of the utmost importance to the community. Community members need to understand that health and safety outweigh the importance of cultural observations. Furthermore, to support a complete ban on fireworks is to support police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and hospital workers who are community members who risk their lives for our health and safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration in supporting HB 145.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:05:12 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-145

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:54:03 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 Support HB145 that imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

Fireworks use have have increased over the years. I agree that public safety agencies are overwhelmed with fireworks related calls that strains the system to respond to other critical emergencies.

Every year there are serious critical injuries and sometimes fatalities. Fireworks cause pollution to our air, soil, and water with toxic chemicals and debris, much of which is non-degradable. It adversely affects people with health issues such as PTSD, heart conditions, asthma, seizures, and terminal illnesses. It causes destruction to property where victims need to burden the cost if something needs to be fixed or replaced.

There are other ways to celebrate these holidays that are safer that everyone can enjoy. Professional fireworks shows can look at drone shows that are becoming popular and becoming very competitive in costs to fireworks. The Kahala Hotel And Resort put on a drone show this year that had great reviews.

Neighbors can throw block parties with entertainment and pot lucks.

Please support HB145.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:58:53 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 SB145.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:02:28 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 HB809.

HB-145

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:27:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis E. Jamison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Mililani Mauka resident of 16 years and I support HB 145.

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Submitted on: 2/7/2023 11:23:02 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 HB145. 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.