

MAR - 7 2024

SENATE 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
21

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

19
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

24
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

30
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

36
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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 2 WHEREAS, the effects of illegal fireworks are significant
 3 and wide-ranging, including the physical injuries to and
 4 psychological effects on individuals, to the displacement of
 5 pets, and the negative impact on wildlife; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
 8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
 9 that the Department of Law Enforcement, fire departments and
 10 police departments of each county, humane societies in each
 11 county, and media organizations throughout the State are urged
 12 to collaborate to create and disseminate public service
 13 announcements to highlight the dangers of, and advocate against
 14 the use of, illegal fireworks in order to protect the health and
 15 safety of the community, pets, and wildlife; and
 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Law Enforcement;
 19 Fire Chiefs of the Honolulu Fire Department, Hawaii Fire
 20 Department, Maui Fire Department, and Kauai Fire Department;
 21 Police Chiefs of the Honolulu Police Department, Hawaii Police
 22 Department, Maui Police Department, and Kauai Fire Department;
 23 President and CEO of the Hawaiian Humane Society; President of
 24 the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Island Humane Society; CEO
 25 of Maui Humane Society; Executive Director of Kauai Humane
 26 Society; President and General Manager of Hawaii News Now;
 27 General Manager of KHON2; President & General Manager of KITV;
 28 President & General Manager of Hawaii Public Radio; head of
 29 iHeartMedia in Honolulu; President & Publisher of the *Honolulu*
 30 *Star-Advertiser*; Editor and General Manager of Honolulu Civil
 31 Beat; editor of the *Hawaii Tribune Herald*; editor of *West Hawaii*
 32 *Today*; Publisher of *The Maui News*; and Editor of *The Garden*
 33 *Island*.
 34
 35
 36

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