

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

January 30, 2024

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) 1888 Relating to Fireworks

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB1888, 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 illegal fireworks endangers the public. Members of the public experienced firework-related injuries during recent New Year's Eve celebrations about a month ago in Honolulu. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to at least eight incidents, including eye injuries, serious burns, and more. Six out of the eight cases resulted in permanent disfigurement, involving the loss of limbs and eyesight. The age of victims ranged from six-years old to senior citizens. A 28 year-old male suffered a fatal head injury from fireworks on New Year's Eve 2022-2023. On April 8, 2011; 5 fatalities resulted from an accidental fireworks explosion at the Waikele Self Storage facility in Waipahu, Hawaii.

Indeed, 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. The Honolulu Fire Department responded to 23 fireworks-related fires from 8 a.m. on Dec. 31 and 8 a.m. on Jan. 1. The department responded to eight fireworks-related blazes during the same time period of 2022 to 2023. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks cause more than 19,500 fires each year.

Fireworks are known ignition sources for building fires and wildfires in Hawaii. To protect the public, property, and the environment; the SFC urges your committee's support on the passage of HB1888.

The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair

Page 2

January 30, 2024

Should you have 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 "Kazuo Todd", written in a cursive style.

KAZUO TODD
Chair

KT:GL

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA KINAI AHI O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

636 SOUTH STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 723-7139 • FAX: (808) 723-7111 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF
LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
HOPE LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

January 30, 2024

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

Dear Chair Tarnas:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1888 Relating to Fireworks

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 1888, 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 illegal fireworks endangers the public. Members of the public experienced firework-related injuries during recent New Year's Eve celebrations about a month ago in Honolulu. The Honolulu Emergency Services Department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division responded to at least eight incidents, including eye injuries, serious burns, and more. Six of the eight cases resulted in permanent disfigurement and involved the loss of limbs and eyesight. The age of victims ranged from six-years-old to senior citizens. A 28-year-old male suffered a fatal head injury from fireworks this past New Year's Eve. On April 8, 2011, five fatalities resulted from an accidental fireworks explosion at the Waikele Self Storage facility in Waipahu.

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. The HFD responded to 23 fireworks-related fires from 8 a.m. on December 31, 2023, to 8 a.m. on January 1, 2024. The Department responded to eight fireworks-related blazes during the same time period in 2022 to 2023. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks cause more than 19,500 fires each year.

The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair
Page 2
January 30, 2024

Fireworks are known ignition sources for building fires and wildfires in Hawaii. To protect the public, property, and the environment, the HFD urges your committee's support on the passage of HB 1888.

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

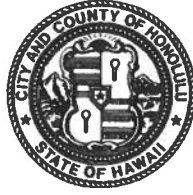
Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn

POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • WEBSITE: honolulu.police.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE GB-RG

February 1, 2024

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. 1888, Relating to Fireworks

I am Major Gail Beckley of District 8 ('Ewa/Kapolei/Wai'anae) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.


The HPD supports House Bill No. 1888, Relating to Fireworks. This bill will impose a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

From December 1, 2023, to January 3, 2024, there were approximately 2,600 fireworks-related calls to 911. These calls overtaxed police response and services. Although most of the fireworks being used are illegally entering Honolulu, a statewide limitation may lessen these unnecessary 911 calls.

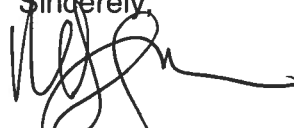
The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 1888, Relating to Fireworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police

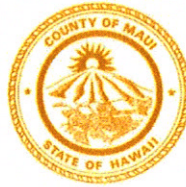
Sincerely,

for Gail Beckley, Major
District 8

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
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
January 31, 2024

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) 1888 RELATING TO FIREWORKS

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department. The SFC supports HB1888, 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 illegal fireworks endangers the public. Members of the public experienced firework-related injuries during recent New Year's Eve celebrations about a month ago in Honolulu. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to at least eight incidents, including eye injuries, serious burns, and more. Six out of the eight cases resulted in permanent disfigurement, involving the loss of limbs and eyesight. The age of victims ranged from six-years old to senior citizens. A 28 year-old male suffered a fatal head injury from fireworks on New Year's Eve 2022-2023. On April 8, 2011; 5 fatalities resulted from an accidental fireworks explosion at the Waikele Self Storage facility in Waipahu, Hawaii.

Indeed, 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. The Honolulu Fire Department responded to 23 fireworks-related fires from 8 a.m. on Dec. 31 and 8 a.m. on Jan. 1. The department responded to eight fireworks-related blazes during the same time period of 2022 to 2023. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks cause more than 19,500 fires each year.

Fireworks are known ignition sources for building fires and wildfires in Hawaii. To protect the public, property, and the environment; the SFC urges your committee's support on the passage of HB1888.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

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

January 31, 2024

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 2024

RE: House Bill 1888 – Relating to Fireworks
Hearing date: February 1, 2024 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 1888 – Relating to Fireworks. House Bill 1888 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 1888.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Danial Peart



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

HOUSE BILL 1888 - RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 325

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

American Promotional Events, Inc. **opposes** House Bill 1888. The measure proposes a statewide restriction on consumer fireworks which we firmly believe that it will not yield the anticipated results.

In 2010, the Honolulu City Council banned most consumer fireworks. The unintended consequence of this action was a surge in black market activities as consumers sought alternative sources for fireworks that had lit up the skies for years.

Fast forward to today, and we find ourselves amidst an unprecedented proliferation of illegal aerial devices. Despite numerous legislative attempts to bolster enforcement and penalties, the situation remains largely unchanged. A near-total ban, rather than curbing the use of fireworks, has inadvertently fueled the black market and led to unintended consequences. As such, a similar statewide near-ban would likely lead to the same undesirable outcomes.

Instead of pushing consumers towards the black market, we should be exploring safer alternatives. We can take a cue from states like New York, New Jersey, Arizona, and Delaware, which have revised their bans on consumer fireworks. These states now permit the sale of less disruptive fireworks such as fountains and ground spinners.

Currently, fireworks are permitted in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. It's clear that people across the nation, including Hawaii, have a deep-seated love for fireworks. They are a cherished part of our New Years, 4th of July, and cultural celebrations. Therefore, it's crucial that we find a balance that respects this tradition while ensuring the safety and peace of our communities.

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



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
FEBRUARY 1, 2024
RE: HB 1888 RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

Good afternoon, Chair Tarnas and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We have some major concerns regarding HB 1888 Relating to Fireworks. This measure imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for use at cultural events.

This type of legislation will not curtail the use of illegal fireworks in Hawaii. Aerial fireworks have been banned for a number of years in the state and yet we continue to see them year after year lighting up the skies from people's residence. People for years after the ban of aerals have found ways to purchase them illegally and they will do the same for fireworks. A ban on fireworks will only lead people to purchase them on the illegal black market.

Hawaii's Asian culture is steeped deep into the tradition of using fireworks in belief that it wards off evil and welcome in good luck and happiness. This is practiced by many during the New Year at midnight to bring in good luck and happiness for the new year. We have already seen that time limits on the use of fireworks are overlooked as we continue to hear fireworks – many illegal ones – weeks before they are allowed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Jan. 31, 2024

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

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1888: Relating to Fireworks
Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, 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 support for House Bill 1888, which imposes a statewide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.

Hawaiian Humane supports any attempt to restrict fireworks from residential neighborhoods. As this measure points out, illegal fireworks fill our neighborhoods with unexpected explosions that terrorize pets and people alike while disrupting what should be joyous times for local families.

By limiting the issuance of fireworks permits to cultural events, this measure has the potential to reduce what are now legal fireworks sales and thereby make importing illicit supplies more difficult.

HB 1888 highlights the perennial nature of this issue. In fact, the problem only seems to get worse. Hawaiian Humane has long educated our community about keeping pets safe from the terror of fireworks around New Years and July 4, but these bombs increasingly go off for months at a time without warning. 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, mental and physical health. Neither people nor animals should have to take tranquilizers just to survive the impacts of their neighbors' illegal behaviors.

We urge the committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:04:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We beg to support HB1888 Relating to Fireworks which imposes a state-wide limitation on consumer fireworks, except by permit for use at cultural events.

We would also support time limits on the legally permitted events and - ideally - a ban on the loudest to protect both vulnerable people, companion animals - and, very importantly, your precious wildlife, who cannot be protected.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:29:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Sato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee on Judiciary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in opposition to this HB 1888. While I understand the premise for this bill and the need to curtail the use of illegal aerial fireworks, I do not believe this is the answer. A complete ban on consumer fireworks has been attempted in the City and County of Honolulu in the past under then-Mayor Eileen Anderson. That ban failed miserably and resulted in the proliferation of a black market similar to what occurred when prohibition was enacted. Granted, the ban was only applicable to Honolulu but I believe the same will occur but on a larger, statewide level should this measure be enacted.

The demand for fireworks by the general public in Hawaii is evident, as can be witnessed by the numerous videos posted to YouTube and Instagram. Anecdotal evidence also seems to indicate that the use of aerial fireworks, on Oahu at least, exploded when the City and County instituted a ban on things like sparklers, fountains, and the like. In my opinion, legalizing the smaller items once again will result in a further reduction in the use of aerial fireworks.

Do individuals get hurt using fireworks? Yes. But nothing in life is free of risks. We get hurt simply walking down the street or driving down the road or going to the beach.

Rather than enacting a ban, laws currently in place should be vigorously enforced. The Fireworks Task Force should also be allowed to continue doing its work. It did a nice job of getting a large amount of aerial fireworks off the streets this year and I am confident that more will be confiscated next year.

As a 70-year-old retired physician and lifelong resident of Hawaii of Chinese/Japanese ancestry, I can say that I've seen a lot in my lifetime. I've seen the joy in a family tradition of setting off strings of firecrackers in front of our Nuuanu home for the entirety of my life (yes, even when there was a ban back in the 1980s), a tradition that dates back to my grandparents who came to Hawaii from China. I have passed the tradition on to my kids, and now grandkids. Please reconsider passage of this measure and allow a part of my family tradition and Chinese culture to remain alive.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments in opposition to HB 1888.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:44:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEITH TAKEDA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in defiance of HB 1888. Growing up in Hawaii, and being of Chinese descent, we have always had both firecrackers and "novelties" from small kid time.

The whole island will be "punished" with a bill that will take away what the majority of the public has been able to use legally for the most part safely and enjoyably for decades.

The real problem is the black market for the illegal aeriels and other items is a big business. You are only punishing us, the people that want to celebrate legally.

Families that pay the \$25 tax per permit to buy firecrackers and do the right thing will have nothing to do for new years.

The only other option is to go the black market route to buy the same items that could easily buy before at the supermarket. The prices

are probably super inflated. This also opens up the possibility of thus buying the more dangerous aerial types. I know there's also a lot of pressure from the Fire Department and Police but nothing is being done about the illegal items. You are taking away my heritage.

New Years is the big holiday for us to celebrate with these items.

For the rest of the nation, July 4th, is that day. How is it that you can take away our freedom to use what was legal all these years to celebrate my culture while the rest of the nation can? Why take that away from us?

My mother and uncles and aunties are older but still want to celebrate their culture and history legally and this bill will take that away from us and the thousands of others who abide by the law.

Again i highly oppose this bill and your infringement on my cultural rights.

Thank you for your time.

Keith Takeda

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:22:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Gravener	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of HB1888. I am a rescuer and a dog owner. Please, can we put a ban on all fireworks in the State of Hawaii. I've lived in Hawaii all my life, and never before, has the disrespect of using fireworks in our communities gotten out of control. It's no longer traditional to pop them on 4th of July and on New Year's Eve. They are being lit at all times of the year. For weddings, MMA fights, Super Bowl, Funerals, etc. Where does it stop? When will this stop?

Banning fireworks and not allowing consumer enjoyment has to come to an end. Respect for others doesn't exist. The argument is, "Its Tradition, It's Cultural" I'm sorry, in my 55 years of living in Hawaii, this was never the case. In my teenage years, we were respectful and abide by the rules of using fireworks on their proper days. Today, that has been abolished by disrespectful users.

Being a rescuer, and part of the admin on Paw Posse Ohana Facebook page, we spend countless hours helping the community and owners find their lost pets. Everytime fireworks go off in communities there are dogs who get loose and run because they are scared. This year, there were many pet casualties due to being hit by cars and every year our count goes up.

Unless we put a ban on all fireworks, this will continue in our communities all year around. Its not fair for those who have PTSD, Veterans, Kupuna with health problems, those with pets to constantly have be on guard every night.

Thank you

Jackie

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:14:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

So many people who fight for the use of fireworks say it is cultural. Well, there is a way here by permit to buy and use fireworks for cultural practices, such as, New Year's Day, Chinese New Years and July 4th. Other than this, there is no reason to legally set off fireworks and frighten people and animals.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:32:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong favor of HB 1888. Fireworks scare native birds, cause the city to be blanketed in smoke, and are harmful to animals and people. For everyone's protection, fireworks should be limited. A permit to use fireworks at cultural events is acceptable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:34:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly in favor of this legislation. The year-long blowing off of fireworks, small and very large, is harmful to human and other animal life. With each blast, the people in my household are alarmed, the dogs on my street start howling and if in the yard, make a run for it and often cannot be found, my cat is frightened and seeks shelter for hours after each blast. The amount of noxious smoke released on big days such as New Year's Eve is enough to choke the birds (which you can sometimes find dead on the ground the next day) and all other life on our island.

If we truly respect the land and all life on it, fireworks must be seriously curtailed. Ideally, I'd like to see them 100% banned but given that this is unlikely, this bill is the least that can be done to address this serious problem.

Anyone who votes for this will have my unabiding goodwill.

Thank you!
Nandita Sharma

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:14:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Virginia M Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of bill HB1888.

Just in my neighborhood alone (Liliha), from the end of November to early January, fireworks are constantly going off. Sometimes, random ones just pop off like last night and many other nights. It ruins the holidays for anyone who have pets in their household like mine. The island is so small and neighborhoods are cramped, the amount of illegal fireworks per household popping off at once is not only a nuisance but a major safety issue due to houses being so close together.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:40:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Gollero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All fireworks should be banned. Hawaii is failing in its duty to protect our legal right to breathe clean air. Our state has a legal mandate to do so. Yet, every year we are forced to inhale toxic chemicals - people can't breathe, are hospitalized, we're bombarded by noise pollution that far exceeds the legal decibel limit, people have been severely burned and seriously injured, and even died; we are at risk of mishandled projectiles killing us, homes have burned to the ground, our pets, vets with PTSD, are traumatized, the dispersed toxins pollute our ocean and environment. What more has to happen to convince you lawmakers that ALL fireworks are dangerous to our well being, safety, and health. The police tell you so, the firemen tell you so, emergency response tells you so. Like the recent lawsuit against Montana that the teenage plaintiffs had won, Hawaii can be sued for violating its citizens right to breathe clean air, and to live in a healthy and peaceful environment. I am a native of Hawaii, reside in Palolo, and am sick and tired of all the smoke, noise, illegal bombs, that turn our neighborhoods into a war zone.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:43:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a health provider, I have seen the detrimental affects that result from firework injury. They include

* bodily injury, including widespread and severe burn injuries, as well as loss of limb and life

* mental and emotional deterioration from devastating injury

* adverse economic impact as many individuals lose their ability to earn a living and often are disabled

Please pass this bill

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:46:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Fireworks are a menace to all animals in Hawaii, pets and wildlife (in addition to humans).

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:53:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Illegal fireworks causes significant harm to animals and people who have respiratory illnesses and PTSD.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:43:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please put a stop to them! Hawaii has the highest incidence of asthma in the country. We also had the highest incidence of asthma deaths at one point. The toxic smoke associated with fireworks can kill us. Please work on a total ban! At the very least, pass this bill and enforce it!! Mahalo.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:40:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Please support House Bill 1888 which would impose statewide limitation on consumer fireworks except for cultural events.

This is a good bill that would be a great one if it did not make an exception for cultural events. Fireworks should be banned outright. Fireworks bills fail again and again due to lack of support. Please support hospital workers, law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, the people who are at the forefront of caring about our safety and health.

Again, please support House Bill 1888.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:02:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support keeping neighborhoods safe from illegal fireworks

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:03:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:27:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Kerver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alexis Kerver and I strongly support HB1888 regarding statewide limitation on consumer fireworks. Illegal fireworks are not only hazardous to our environment, but also pose extreme stress to our animals and wildlife.

Many environmental organizations and research studies have shown the harmful effects of fireworks, including the increases of harmful gaseous concentrations such as carbon monoxide (toxic by hindering a living organism's ability to transport oxygen throughout its body), and nitric oxide (toxic by inhalation and skin absorption). Amongst these ongoing research studies and publications are from The International Organisation for the Protection of Animals (OIPA), University of Amsterdam's Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, National Geographic, The Humane Society of the United States, to name a few.

Given Hawai'i's unique and critical habitats, it is imperative that action is taken to eliminate the use of recreational illegal fireworks.

Thank you for your time,

Alexis Kerver

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:27:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members,

I Support Bill HB 1888.

While I doubt this Bill has a chance of passing, I do support it because of the high risk of fires, injuries, pollution, and the trauma it causes to pets and people with health conditions. Many today also do not follow laws to use fireworks within the allowed times. Some take apart fireworks to make homemade devices. Children innocently watching fireworks may be injured from flying debris. This past year several children were injured because of fireworks, some with life changing injuries. I also feel for police, firefighters and emergency medical services who have to respond to the many calls especially on New Year's Eve.

Last year I watched a Youtube video of a toddler walking in the middle of a street to ignite an aerial firework with a torch lighter. If people cannot respect the laws, especially with the use of illegal fireworks, this may be the only recourse to take in the future.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:57:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawne Schmidt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

USED FOR CULTURAL PURPOSES AND NEW YEARS CELEBRATION ONLY

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:59:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do everything possible to keep fireworks out of the hands of the sadistic people who set them off all year, at all hours. The stress of living in something akin to a war zone is not something we need, ever. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:30:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1888 will improve the peace and tranquility of the island neighborhoods. For years, fireworks go off for no apparent reason. Safe displays will still continue and the rest of the time we all can enjoy not living in environments that sound like war zones.

LATE

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:47:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Josypenko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Helen Josypenko, I am a resident of Kaneohe. I do not oppose cultural celebrations as outlined in this bill. These celebrations are a valued aspect of our community. Having lived in Kaneohe for over 30 years, I have seen these wonderful traditions become marred by the outrageous use of illegal fireworks, malicious use days before and after holidays, and observed the carnage left behind after their use.

The noise is deafening, early morning walks the morning after these "celebrations" are silent from the normal song of the waking birds. The ground shakes from illegal fireworks thrown in the drainage under our townhouse community.

You can hear gunshots intermittently amongst the noise. How do I know? Twenty-one years in the Marine Corps, I can tell the difference between a gun shot and the other noises. Yes, PTSD, what about our Veterans?

My dog is terrified when she hears the first firework in the distance. Even when medicated she is frozen. When taken outside to do her business, she is frozen, legs stiff, and will not walk. She will not go to the bathroom; she will not walk. She must be carried back and forth to the house, all 54 pounds; legs locked straight down, body frozen in fear.

Enough is enough. It is time for action. What law enforcement has done is NOT working, it is time to stop this insanity. We all should enjoy living in Kaneohe. We should not dread the upcoming holidays when we know there will be ILLEGAL FIREWORKS. Not joyful celebrations of patriotism or happiness to bringing in the New Years.

Please pass this bill.

LATE

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:15:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandie Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure. Pls. pass it out. Thank you.

HB-1888

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:55:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, and members,

Also in strong support of this measure and any others that will address the danger posed by the local terrorists who jeopardized the safety of all our citizens.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Miliani Resident who has been hearing bombs go off every evening in our woodlands. Wildfire waiting to happen!

LATE

HB-1888

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 6:41:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Collins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. This year, it seemed the amount of fireworks was worse than ever leading to PTSD for animals and humans. Many animals were lost and many people suffered days of loud explosions which were similar to being in a war scene. Many of my animals suffered from labored breathing and one even had an episode similar to a heart attack.

We don't need fireworks to make holidays a celebratory event when it causes so much suffering.

LATE

HB-1888

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 6:49:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilene Cohen Harrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ilene Harrington. I am the president and co-founder of Domestic Violence Hurts Animals and People. We launched a program called the Fireworks Awareness Partnership to help educate the public about the dangers caused by fireworks. Some of them include:

Firework's explosions trigger people with stress disorders

Their noise causes people, pets and wildlife to suffer

Some people can't breath and they cause fires that kill our native species and forests

Their litter is eaten by our pets and wildlife causing sickness and death plus they pollute our aina and ocean

We understand that certain cultures believe it is important to celebrate using fireworks. However, given the tragic outcome for our people, wildlife, domestic animals, native species and more, it is time for these cultures to put aside what they believe are their rights and understand the horrible outcome of the continued use of fireworks. Most people in our state are sick and tired fireworks. Please pass this bill to support a healthy Hawaii. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-1888

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 11:56:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

the few moments of fun can't compare to the fear and suffering of animals and people who inevitably are affected by fireworks. We need to grow up and be a more responsible community who care about others.

thank you very much for your kind consideration to do what's in the best interest of the majority and not the selfish whims of the few.