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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2193, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Before the Senate Committee on

Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Monday, March 11, 2024; 3:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

Testifier: Jordan Lowe or Michael Vincent

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports**, House Bill 2193, House Draft 1.

Act 67, Session Laws of Hawaii'i, 2023, established the Illegal Fireworks Task Force to ". . . plan, coordinate, and engage in law enforcement operations to interdict illegal fireworks; develop a comprehensive strategic plan to stop the importation of illegal fireworks and explosives into Hawaii; promote compliance with the state fireworks control laws; and ensure the safety and security of the airports, harbors, and other facilities and institutions in the State against the discharge of illegal fireworks and explosives."

The Illegal Fireworks Task Force has been operational for a very short time, but following the organization of the partner agencies, appropriate training, and law enforcement operations, almost 200,000 pounds of illegal fireworks have been taken off the streets of Hawaii and operations and investigations continue. This bill establishes a series of provisions to address some of the weaknesses identified by the Illegal Fireworks Task Force which include requirements for licensing, recording, and reporting of fireworks related commodities; inspection and disposal authorities for state and

county agencies; and a mechanism to recover costs associated with the storage and disposal from those responsible for any illegal fireworks confiscated by authorities.

The appropriation is crucial for the Illegal Fireworks Task Force to continue to successfully operate. The appropriation is necessary for the hiring of necessary administrative support staff for the Task Force, operation of the Task Force, and reimbursement of funds to law enforcement agencies for Task Force-related law enforcement operations, including law enforcement personnel, overtime and other salary-related payments, charges for fuel, equipment, and storage and disposal of confiscated fireworks.

DLE requests \$1,200,000 is the amount of the needed appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

LATE

Date: March 11, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Glenn Wakai
Vice Chair Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante
and Members of the Committee on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

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

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2193, HD1: Relating to Fireworks
Monday, March 11, 2024, 3:00 p.m., Room 225 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 2193, HD1, which authorizes law enforcement and fire officers to enter and inspect any licensee's or permittee's premises, under certain conditions, to verify compliance with the State's Fireworks Control Law; establishes procedures for the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct administrative inspections of controlled premises; requires certain licensees and permittees to keep records and maintain inventories; requires licensees and permittees to report any stolen fireworks or articles pyrotechnic; authorizes a law enforcement agency or county fire department to safely dispose confiscated fireworks and articles pyrotechnic; requires violators to be held liable for storage and disposal costs; specifies that each type of prohibited firework constitutes a separate violation; authorizes the Department of Law Enforcement, in addition to the counties, to enforce the Fireworks Control Law; and appropriates funds.

Hawaiian Humane has lobbied for increased protections from illegal fireworks for years, finally seeing progress with the passage of Act 67 by this body in 2023. In just a year, the Illegal Fireworks Task Force has succeeded in keeping more than 75 tons of destructive material off the local black market. That is the equivalent of nearly four full shipping containers worth of dangerous explosives.

We commend the resolve of law enforcement to interdict illegal fireworks and prevent the bombardment of our neighborhoods by illegal explosives. We support the tools offered by HB 2193, HD1, toward advancing that work. Please pass this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2193-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 3:46:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly support** the passage of HB 2193, HD 1 this session. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of this bill.

HB-2193-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 6:13:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please do something about all of the pollution from fireworks. This bill is a good start but we must do more. Please support this bill. Mahalo.

HB-2193-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 8:41:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm in Favor of Bill 2193 HM Relating to fireworks

With this bill in place Law enforcement and Fire Officials can act upon those who say they have a permit or licensee's. This will be one step closer to go to those who light off illegals or "Permitted" fireworks and make sure they are in compliance with the law or not.

Law officials need more power to help control the community and this is a stepping stone in the right direction.

I love fireworks when they are lit on the NYE and 4th of July. All the other days throughout the year is unfair for many of us that have to deal with it. I have a dog that runs into my walk-in-closet drools and shakes, because she is so scared. I can't sedate my dog 362 out of 364 days a year, because someone in the neighborhood decides to light off bombs on the two days they are legally allowed to light them.

Please pass Bill 2193 to help fight against the fireworks that disrupts our communities and help cut down on those without permits.

HB-2193-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 8:17:01 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kirk Southcott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This should get full support. My only complaint is the fines are not high enough to be a deterrent given the revenue these illegal fireworks dealers make. Most of this bill seems to be direct to legal permit holder and inspections of them. Those are not the people we should be concerned about. We need to focus on stopping them from getting here in the first place. Container x-ray machines, more container inspections, explosive sniffing dogs etc

HB-2193-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 8:22:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need to do whatever we can to stop illegal fireworks and bombs. They are a danger to society and freak out our pets. Let's finally put a stop to this crazy escalation. Maybe have on 7/4, 12/31 and Chinese New Years, but that's IT! We can use drone lights for the public celebrations now, no need to continue the loud, polluting fireworks we have had in the past.

HB-2193-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 10:55:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Committee Members,

I Strongly Support HB 2193 HD1.

The Department of Law Enforcement’s Illegal Fireworks Task Force has been making excellent progress in seizing illegal fireworks at the ports. I was impressed that three containers of illegal fireworks were seized at the ports during the month of December in such a short time. Add to this, a recent seizure of 200,000 pounds of professional grade fireworks that occurred on 2/15/24. This indicates the flow of illegal fireworks coming in not just for holidays, but throughout the year. It also supports the need for the provisions this bill establishes and additional appropriations to continue successful operations.

The amount of illegal fireworks this past New Year’s Eve indicates the magnitude of the problem and the need to continue funding this multi-agency task force capable of handling what may be linked to criminal networks or organizations. I have read the 2024 report submitted to the Legislature by Director Jordan Lowe and am pleased with the results. I am grateful for the updates to the public on the illegal fireworks seized, and what is forthcoming.

While not all areas of the Island may have experienced a significant difference yet, I have noted a difference in the area where I live in the months prior and after New Year’s Eve. There was also less debris to pick-up in my yard from aials. I belong to a group on NextDoor called “Stop All Illegal Fireworks”. What started with just 100 members has grown to 396 members from different neighborhoods. Many tell their stories of how illegal fireworks continue to affect their lives, to include property damage, health issues, disputes with neighbors, and traumatized pets. Stolen Stuff Hawaii has posts of pets that have run away spooked by fireworks.

Please support HB 2193 HD1 that can further enhance the Department of Law Enforcement's and the Illegal Fireworks Task Force’s efforts to reduce the amount of Illegal Fireworks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2193-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 12:10:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It appears the deck is stacked against law enforcement and the people. This bill is an important tool in combatting illegal fireworks. Please pass.

I also urge the legislature to stop playig games and to delete the deffective effective date.

LATE

HB-2193-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 12:50:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Violation of the Constitution of AMERICA What youare proposeing is Communizum!!!!