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KE KIA'ĀINA



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Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

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 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 52
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.

Before the Senate Committee on
Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Wednesday, April 17, 2024; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

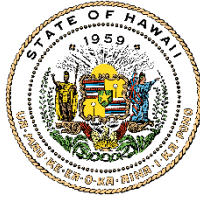
The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **supports** this resolution urging the DLE and others to collaborate to create and disseminate public service announcements to highlight the dangers of illegal fireworks.

The use of public media, social media, public service announcements, and other options for educating the public of the dangers illegal fireworks pose in our community is a valuable tool to increase the health, safety, and welfare of our communities. The DLE looks forward to working with partners in the struggle with illegal fireworks in Hawai'i.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
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FIRST DEPUTY
DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 17, 2024
3:05 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 52 HOUSE DRAFT 1
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 TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND
SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY, PETS, AND WILDLIFE

House Concurrent Resolution 52 House Draft 1 urges the Department of Law Enforcement, fire 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 to protect the health and safety of the community, pets, and wildlife. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The widespread use of illegal fireworks endangers the public in the form of direct injury, house fires, and wildfires. Members of the public experienced firework-related injuries during recent New Year's Eve celebrations about a month ago in Honolulu. In 2023, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to at least eight incidents, including eye injuries, severe 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, five fatalities resulted from an accidental fireworks explosion at the Waikele Self Storage facility in Waipahu, Hawai'i.

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 (HFD) responded to 23 fireworks-related fires from 8 a.m. on December 31st and 8 a.m. on January 1st. The HFD 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 Hawai'i. Messaging to the public on the dangers of fireworks needs to come from a united front. To protect the public, property, and the environment, the Department urges your committee's support in the passage of this resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

HCR-52-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 6:18:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/17/2024 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please do something about the fireworks issue. Those of us with respiratory disabilities are in agony during the holidays. Definitely no way for us to celebrate!