

**SR-205**

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 3:14:57 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

**SR-205**

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 8:30:51 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael A. Cobb Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Stop wasting taxpayer money.

**LATE**

**SR-205**

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 6:06:48 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie Johnson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chairs Elefante, Wakai and Vice Chair Wang,

My name is Rosemarie Johnson and I am a seasoned engineer, researcher and strategist as well as the Director of the Hawaii Search and Rescue (SAR) Conference. Since 2019 have been researching and collecting data on our states incidents, prevention, safety, training and technologies for all emergency services.

I am in full support of SCR229 and SR 205 to utilize a proven technology and best practices used in over 90 cities nationally to purchase and deploy ShotSpotter to enable law enforcement officers to instantly detect and locate the geographic origin of explosions caused by gunfire or illegal fireworks.

In addition I would like to see prevention of these explosives making there way onto the islands. One way to do this would be to have a **State SAR Coordinator** as one of the main responsibilities nationally from this role is to coordinate asset management for all mass casualties, missing persons, and **enacting some type of state security for our ports.**

Other opportunities for having a State SAR Coordinator is:

Utilizing best practices from around the country.

Decreasing call outs and incidents.

Increased lines of communication prior to, during and after an incidents

Decrease cost of SAR and EMS in the state

Increase probability of successful rescues and decrease the states missing persons statistics.

Improving safety for the residents and tourists statewide by:

- Creating efficiencies in processes and procedures to improve rescue outcomes and reduce costs.
- Coordinating statewide training programs to ensure consistency and decrease spending.

- Unified command between government, federal, state, county, and volunteer agencies to streamline communication.

A State SAR Coordinator would also be aware of, capable of and responsible for:

- Ordering and tasking mutual aid federal, state and local resources
- Resource opportunities
- Budget process
- Ensure proper certifications and trainings statewide
- Streamlining statewide training preserving resources
- Owner of standard approval process
- Improving processes and procedures
- Formal mutual aid dispatching
- Legislative authority responsible for making sure that each missing persons case is adjudicated fairly.

TESTIMONY OF  
**LARRY S VERAY**

**LATE**

COMMITTEE'S ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS &  
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

***IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR229 / SR205***

**REQUESTING EACH COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE AND DEPLOY  
EXPLOSION DETECTION TECHNOLOGY TO LOCATE AND RESPOND TO EXPLOSIONS  
CAUSED BY THE ILLEGAL USE OF FIREARMS AND FIREWORKS**

March 21, 2025

Aloha, Chair's Elefante and Wakai, Vice Chair's Wakai and Chang and committee members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I am submitting this testimony representing our board as a whole. The board passed two resolutions on Illegal Aerial Fireworks on January 25, 2022 and January 28, 2025. We also passed our 2025 legislative priorities stating a requirement for reduction in crime taking guns away from criminals. The Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 support the Honolulu Police Department coupled with Federal agencies to integrate technology to rapidly geolocate illegal gun fire and fireworks explosions in our neighborhoods. This technology to Detect, Find, Fix, Locate, Collect, Identify and Arrest criminals and other violators of our laws employing a fulling integrated system that requires funding and to be built.

**I am in STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR229 / SR205 with further amendments:**

To successfully and rapidly prosecute illegal gun fire and fireworks, an engagement plan requires design with a fully integrated system to rapidly cut the timeline down to lead to an arrest of these bad actors. What is required:

- Tactical Situational Awareness System integrated at HPD Headquarters with large screen display that will allow HPD operator to monitor all strategic areas where potential explosions are predicted and reported
- Multiple Explosion Detection Systems (EDS) portable systems strategically placed around Oahu with mission to: Rapidly Detect, Find, Fix, Locate and then handoff to remote drone sensor. Detection time is less than 500 milliseconds with automatic commands sent to remote drones nearest to the target explosion.
- Multiple HPD Drones strategically positioned, portable landing pads, in planned areas of the city and responsive to remote control from Master Headquarters Control, tipped by the EDS and on target in less than 3-5 minutes.
- Drone, receives commands from EDS and then loiters over the target providing video, audio streaming data to Headquarters while HQ dispatch direct patrol officers on the law breaker.

The Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21 requires the State Legislature to fund this technology to detect and locate explosions. To achieve success in mitigating these explosions, a fully integrated system in needed.

**Please approve SCR229 / SR205. Mahalo!**

*Larry S. Veray*

# SHOPO



# LATE

STATE OF HAWAII ORGANIZATION OF POLICE OFFICERS

Robert Cavaco  
State Board President

" A Police Organization for Police Officers Only "  
Founded 1971

Term of Office  
1-2022 to 12-2025

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **SR 205 / SCR 229 – Requesting Each County Police Department to Purchase and Deploy Explosion Detection Technology to Locate and Respond to Explosions Caused by the Illegal Use of Firearms and Fireworks**

Dear Chairs Elefante and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Wakai and Chang, and Honorable Committee members:

I serve as the President of the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers ("SHOPO") and write to you on behalf of our Union in support of SR 205 / SCR 229, which requests each county police department to purchase and deploy explosion detection technology to locate and respond to explosions caused by the illegal use of firearms and fireworks. This resolution is a critical step towards enhancing public safety and addressing the persistent challenges faced by law enforcement in managing illegal fireworks activities.

As you know, illegal fireworks have long posed significant public safety risks and health hazards in Hawaii, leading to traumatic impacts on our communities. Despite existing laws prohibiting aerial fireworks since 2000 and most consumer fireworks on O`ahu since 2011, enforcement has been challenging due to the cumbersome nature of these laws and the difficulty in gathering evidence. The recent tragic incident on New Year's Eve, which resulted in six fatalities, underscores the urgent need for improved enforcement measures.

Law enforcement agencies in Hawai`i have struggled to effectively enforce fireworks laws due to several factors:

*Cumbersome Legal Definitions:* Current legal definitions require forensic testing and expert testimony, which complicates the prosecution of fireworks-related offenses. This complexity often results in a lack of evidence, especially when fireworks have already been ignited.

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*Limited Resources:* The enforcement of fireworks laws is resource-intensive, and current funding levels are insufficient to support comprehensive enforcement efforts. The proposed container inspection program, for instance, requires significant financial investment, including the use of specialized detection dogs.

*Community Engagement:* Effective order maintenance requires proactive community engagement, which has been lacking through no fault of the police departments. As you know, the county police departments are experiencing a critical staffing shortage. The absence of police presence and community involvement has contributed to the persistence of illegal fireworks activities.

The deployment of explosion detection technology, such as ShotSpotter, offers a promising solution to these challenges. This technology has been successfully used in over ninety cities nationwide to detect and locate gunfire, leading to faster response times and more accurate crime scene identification. Its application in detecting illegal fireworks can similarly enhance law enforcement's ability to respond swiftly and effectively to fireworks-related incidents.

In conclusion, SHOPO strongly supports these resolutions. The adoption of explosion detection technology is essential for improving the enforcement of fireworks laws and ensuring the safety and security of Hawaii's residents. We urge the Senate to pass this resolution and provide the necessary resources to equip our police departments with the tools they need to address this pressing public safety issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT CAVACO  
SHOPO President

RC: ja

**LATE**

**SR-205**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 9:26:59 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Akau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Jodi Akau supports SCR229