

**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 999, RELATING TO FIREWORKS .

BEFORE THE:
SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

DATE: Thursday, February 5, 2025 **TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Brenton A. Inouye, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Elefante and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the purchase, use, and sale of consumer fireworks in Hawaii, and to establish civil penalties for selling or using consumer fireworks in violation of this prohibition. The bill also creates a special fund to support fireworks education and adds fireworks education as a mandatory penalty for a consumer fireworks violation.

SPECIAL FUND (page 1, line 13, to page 2, line 2)

The bill at page 1, line 13 to page 2, line 2, creates the Fireworks Forfeiture Special Fund to provide for community safety education programs. Section 37-52.3(1)(C), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), requires that the Legislature, in establishing a special fund, shall ensure that the special fund serves a need, as demonstrated by an explanation "why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process." We suggest amending section 1 of the bill to add the required explanation.

PERMITS (page 5, line 7)

The bill prohibits the purchase, use, and sale of consumer fireworks and requires permits for those fireworks that are still allowed. We recommend amending section 7 of the bill at page 5, line 7, to replace the reference to "section 132D-5," with "section

132D-6," which lists the types of consumer fireworks still allowed with valid permits under the bill, such as in movie, television, and theatrical productions.

FINES (page 8, lines 18-20)

Page 8, lines 18-20, of the bill establishes a \$500 fine for "setting off, igniting, or discharging" fireworks without a permit, with the fine doubling every three months until paid. To avoid unduly punishing indigent defendants or potential constitutional concerns, we recommend a fixed fine amount that does not automatically double. Section 706-642(1), HRS, allows a court to order fines to be paid "within a specified period of time or in specified installments" based on a defendant's financial situation. Additionally, section 706-644, HRS, allows a court to order a non-paying defendant to serve jail time if it finds the defendant's nonpayment "contumacious."

FIREWORKS EDUCATION (page 9, lines 3-12)

Page 9, lines 3-12, of the bill states that if an offender does not meet fireworks education requirements, a community service requirement begins accruing, starting at two hours and doubling every three months until the requirement is met. Instead of automatically doubling the community service requirement, we suggest amending the proposed section 132D-14(a)(6)(C) at page 9, lines 3-12, of the bill to allow the courts to increase the requirement as follows:

Shall complete two hours of fireworks education to be administered by the department of law enforcement[;], within a set period of time designated by the court; provided that ~~[should]~~ if the two hours of required fireworks education is not [be met,] completed within the designated time, the court may impose an additional sentence of two hours of community service ~~[shall begin accruing starting with two hours and doubling every three months];~~ provided further that the court may continue imposing an additional two hours of community service every six months thereafter until the [penalty] fireworks education requirements are satisfied; provided further that if the person is a minor, the penalties provided in this subparagraph shall apply to the minor's parents pursuant to section 132D-13.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

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, Hawai'i 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 999
RELATING TO FIREWORKS
Before the Senate Committee on
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 9:30 AM
State Capitol Conference Room 229, & Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chairs Keohokalole, Elefante, Vice Chairs Fukunaga, Wakai, and members of the Committees:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 999, which proposes to repeal all permissible uses of consumer fireworks and establish comprehensive civil actions for violations of the Fireworks Control Law. DLE is supportive of the bill because of the deterrence that the bill would create if enacted into law.

The establishment of civil actions, including nuisance abatement proceedings and asset forfeiture provisions, provides several tools that will enhance capability to deter violations. Additionally, the creation of the Firework Forfeiture Special Fund will ensure dedicated resources for community education programs. When combined, these tools will create new deterrence that will reduce the illegal fireworks problem in the community. Illegal fireworks users may think twice if they know that their property may be subject to legal proceedings if they use illegal fireworks.

For the reasons listed above, DLE supports SB 999.

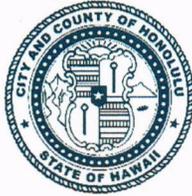
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HONOLULU 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: www.honolulu.org

LATE

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 JP-HR

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
and Members
Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety and
Military Affairs
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Elefante and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 999, Relating to Fireworks

I am Jerome Pacarro, Captain of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 999, Relating to Fireworks.

The HPD supports this bill, which seeks to clarify the definitions of fireworks and improve enforcement.

The HPD also believes that better enforcement of the fireworks control laws is essential not only to safeguard property from preventable fire damage, but also to protect the community from injuries related to fire and explosions, respiratory issues caused by air pollution, and ongoing trauma experienced by individuals due to loud explosions.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 999, Relating to Fireworks. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Approved

Sincerely,


Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police


Jerome Pacarro, Captain
Narcotics/Vice Division



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

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

SB 999 - Relating to Fireworks – Oppose

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chairs Elefante and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Wakai and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees:

TNT Fireworks (“TNT”) **opposes** SB 999 which repeals all permissible uses of consumer fireworks.

TNT is the largest distributor of fireworks in the US and an importer and seller of legal and safe consumer fireworks in Hawaii. TNT has had a presence in Hawaii for over 20 years and we partner with retailers such as Longs Drugs, Marukai, Don Quijote, Costco, Foodland, Malama Market, Food Pantry, Times Supermarkets and many others.

While we acknowledge the intent of this measure, we do not believe it will achieve the desired outcome. In 2010, the Honolulu City Council banned nearly all consumer fireworks on Oahu with the purpose of reducing injuries and smoke. Since that time, illegal aerial explosives have found its way into consumers’ hands through the lucrative black market.

The proliferation of illegal aerial explosives is at an all-time high. With the ban on Oahu proving to be unsuccessful and producing unintended consequences, a similar statewide ban would net the same negative results.

TNT Fireworks has worked to create a variety of education materials to help educate the public about the safe and proper use of legal consumer fireworks. Resources are also available to inform the public about the difference between legal consumer fireworks and illegal aerial explosives. These resources are available in print form, digital content and videos.

AMERICAN PROMOTIONAL EVENTS, INC.
2120 MILWAUKEE WAY • TACOMA, WA 98421
TACOMA (253) 922-0800 • FAX (253) 830-2930
www.tntfireworks.com



Enforcement is a critical component but must be in conjunction with prosecution of offenses along with safety and education on handling consumer fireworks and safer alternative products.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and respectfully ask that you hold this measure.

Tad Trout

**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 5, 2025
SB 999 RELATING TO FIREWORKS**

Good morning, Chair Keohokalole and Chair Elefante and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Senate Committee on Public Safety & Governmental & Military Affairs . I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting 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, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We oppose SB 999. This measure repeals all permissible uses of consumer fireworks and makes conforming amendments to the Fireworks Control Law; establishes civil penalties for the use and sale of consumer fireworks, including nuisance abatement proceedings and forfeiture of assets used in the commission of the illegal use or sale of consumer fireworks; establishes the Firework Forfeiture Special Fund to deposit asset forfeiture proceeds and to provide for community safety education programs.

We want to make it clear that we do not support the selling of illegal fireworks, including bombs and aerials. Consumer fireworks include sparklers and firecrackers containing less than 50 milligrams of flash powder and comes in a pack that contains up to 10,000+ on a single string – these are the pop pop fireworks that many of us grew up with.

Firecrackers hold profound cultural significance, especially within the Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino communities in Hawaii. They are an integral part of celebrations such as Chinese New Year, New Year's Eve, and other traditional festivals, symbolizing the warding off evil spirits and the ushering in of good luck and happiness. These celebrations are essential for preserving our rich cultural heritage and fostering a sense of community.

The use of fireworks during festivals and holidays brings people together. Families, friends, and neighbors gather to celebrate, creating lasting memories and strengthening community bonds. These shared experiences are vital for maintaining the unique spirit of aloha that defines our state. Allowing retailers to sell legal consumer fireworks and enabling the community to celebrate with these fireworks would be appreciated.

The sale and use of consumer fireworks like firecrackers and sparklers contribute significantly to the local economy. Prior to the ban, retailers, distributors, and small businesses used to see a substantial increase in revenue during the festive seasons. This economic boost is especially important for small business owners who rely on seasonal sales to sustain their livelihoods. Many legitimate retailers depended on the sale of legal fireworks like sparklers and firecrackers, knowing that buyers must obtain a permit before purchase. The ban on fireworks imposed an additional financial burden on these law-abiding retailers, many of whom are still struggling to stay afloat. Nonprofits and churches also relied on the seasonal pop-up sales of legal fireworks. Allowing the sale of consumer fireworks would support the economic health of these retailers and community organizations.

Since the ban on Oahu, we continue to see more and more “bombs” and aerials lighting up the sky’s weeks before the actual holiday from people’s residences, from the street fronting people’s homes, and at beaches. Banning consumer fireworks did not eliminate their use on Oahu and has NOT proven



to be a viable solution as people still find ways to obtain them illegally, making those in the black-market richer and the state does not collect any taxes on these black-market transactions. It is also important to remember that illegal fireworks are unregulated and pose significant safety risks.

We should be finding other means to enforce the laws and penalties on those who use illegal aerials and “bombs” and who also bring them into the islands. We need to ensure that the Illegal Fireworks Task Force that includes state narcotics agents, deputy sheriffs, county police officers, the Department of the Attorney General, and federal agencies including Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has the tools and laws needed to apprehend those who are bringing in, distributing/selling and using the already illegal fireworks.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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*

Senate Bill 999

Good afternoon Chair Keohokalole, Chair Elefante and members of the committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Military Affairs . My name is Dan Peart, Director of Government Affairs for Phantom Fireworks, one of the leading retailers of consumer fireworks in the country and I thank you for the opportunity to present our comments on Senate Bill 999.

SB 999 aims to eliminate Hawaii’s current consumer fireworks law that allows the sale and use of ground-based consumer fireworks and firecrackers.

Clearly, Phantom Fireworks understands the importance of tackling the illegal fireworks market and we have supported a number of those efforts each year. We’ve had great relationships with our enforcement officials and our inspection history is pristine. SB 999 does nothing to gain information or control of the illegal fireworks market, but instead punishes those that do play by the rules.

SB 999 should be opposed because it imposes an unnecessary ban on consumer fireworks, depriving residents of a long-standing tradition that is deeply rooted in cultural celebrations coveted throughout Hawaii. Fireworks play an important role in marking significant occasions such as New Year’s Eve, Chinese New Year, and the Fourth of July, bringing families and communities together in celebration. A total ban would unfairly penalize law-abiding citizens while failing to address the root cause of the problem—illegal aerial fireworks, which pose the greatest danger to public safety and property. Rather than a complete ban on all fireworks, which hasn’t worked for aerials in the years since the ban, the legislature should instead focus on responsible regulation and enforcement.

Additionally, the bill's approach ignores the real issue: the failure to enforce illegal aerial fireworks use. By expanding the ban on all fireworks, officials would be required to divert limited resources to punish those using consumer fireworks, thereby neglecting the more important problem of stopping the proliferation of the aerial fireworks. Instead of penalizing residents who follow the rules, the legislature should strengthen measures to detect and intercept illegal fireworks and provide the proper resources for better enforcement of existing laws.

For these reasons, Phantom Fireworks unequivocally opposes Senate Bill 999 and we urge the committee to vote “no” today.

Thank you for your time.

Danial Peart



Hawaii Representatives & Senators:

On behalf of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, I am writing to express our strong opposition to any prohibitions and enforcement measures targeting fireworks. We believe Hawaiians have the right to pursue and engage in any activities that bring them joy and fulfillment.

Fireworks prohibitions and regulations infringe upon the freedom of our citizens to partake in this time-honored custom, diminishing the spirit of celebration and unity that fireworks bring.

Implementing strict enforcement measures to crack down on fireworks usage would only serve to burden law enforcement resources, and divert needed attention away from more pressing issues. Prohibitions and heavy enforcement will lead to unnecessary conflict between police and citizens, eroding trust and creating an atmosphere of fear and animosity. Causing harm against another person is already illegal, and crimes can already be prosecuted without these new tyrannical enforcement measures.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii stands firm in our support of individual freedom and opposes any measures that encroach upon our citizens' rights.

In Freedom,

Abbra Green

Executive Secretary, Libertarian Party of Hawaii

lphisecretary@gmail.com



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 3, 2025

To: Chairs Sens. Jarrett Keohokalole and Brandon J.C. Elefante
Vice Chairs Sens. Carol Fukunaga and Glenn Wakai
and Members of the Committees on Commerce and Consumer
Protection; and Public Safety and Military Affairs

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 999: Relating to Fireworks
Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, 9:30 a.m., Room 229 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 999, which repeals all permissible uses of consumer fireworks and makes conforming amendments to the Fireworks Control Law; establishes civil penalties for the use and sale of consumer fireworks, including nuisance abatement proceedings and forfeiture of assets used in the commission of the illegal use or sale of consumer fireworks; establishes the Firework Forfeiture Special Fund to deposit asset forfeiture proceeds and to provide for community safety education programs.

Hawaiian Humane supports any attempt to restrict fireworks from residential neighborhoods. After the tragic deaths and injuries on O'ahu this year, it should be clear to our community that lighting off explosives in our neighborhoods poses an unacceptable risk. 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.

This comprehensive measure has the potential to press reset on an activity that has gotten wildly out of hand. Banning consumer fireworks should dramatically reduce the amount of fireworks imported into the state and make it easier to interdict illicit supplies before they make it to the black market and threaten our neighborhoods.

Please pass SB999 and prevent future tragedies. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-999

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 6:25:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/5/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Kawasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fireworks testimony

I am in support of a total fireworks ban including firecrackers.

I do suggest that consumer novelty fireworks items should be returned to legal use with a permit.

The permit should be available online after reviewing a safety video and be of nominal cost (i.e., \$5).

Legal consumer novelty items would include paperless firecrackers which would satisfy cultural practices, be less impactful to health, and reduce environmental concerns.

We cannot risk our medical system becoming overwhelmed again with another fireworks mass casualty event as happened this year.

SB-999

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:42:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/5/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of every bill which will work to stop the lawlessness of illegal fireworks. We need to take a holistic approach to the problem, to make the community safe from the horrific noise, injuries, death of what clearly is not cultural behavior, to save those with PTSD from more trauma, and to spare our pets from this terror. Please support all fireworks bills, throw the book at those using illegal fireworks and increase enforcement.

SB-999

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:43:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/5/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon B. Lindsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB999

SB-999

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:06:20 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/5/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Elefante, Vice Chairs Fukunaga, and Wakai and Committee Members,

I Support SB999 that repeals all permissible uses of consumer fireworks and makes conforming amendments to the Fireworks Control Law. Establishes civil penalties for the use and sale of consumer fireworks, including nuisance abatement proceedings and forfeiture of assets used in the commission of the illegal use or sale of consumer fireworks. Establishes the Firework Forfeiture Special Fund to deposit asset forfeiture proceeds and to provide for community safety education programs.

There is an abundance of monies that support the constant flow of illegal fireworks, and current laws and penalties have not provided deterrence. Illegal fireworks have been out of control for years and SB999 imposes the tougher laws higher fines and penalties that are needed to send a strong message to wholesalers, retailers, and other violators.

Display or commercial type of fireworks that include more powerful bombs, aerials, cakes, shells, and homemade devices create dangerous situations in our neighborhoods as evidenced by the recent Aliamanu tragedy. It is scary to think individuals are storing large amounts in their homes. After a notable decrease of illegal fireworks in the year 2023 due to large seizures at the ports by the Illegal Fireworks Task Force, 2024 proved to be a comeback year. The need to provide additional support to the Task Force along with other pending Bills such as those that target end-users are also needed to tackle this tough problem.

The Aliamanu tragedy was sad, and it is hopeful that the lives lost and those suffering from life-changing critical injuries were not in vain but will provide the wake-up call to take the use of illegal fireworks seriously. This all starts with legislators creating laws to invoke stiffer penalties and higher fines, and allows enforcement to the fullest extent of the law to instill a fear of getting caught and induce deterrence. This may require more appropriations committed this year to be effective, but how do you put a price on lives lost, life-changing deformities, and psychological issues that may require medical attention for the rest of one's life? Yes, enough is enough.

Please **pass SB999** to prevent something like the Aliamanu tragedy from happening again.

LATE

LATE

SB-999

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:52:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/5/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of SB 999 "Relating to Fireworks." The bill clarifies the definition of fireworks and improve enforcement to safeguard property from preventable fire damage, our residents from injuries related to fire and explosions, respiratory problems caused by air pollution, and ongoing trauma experienced by individuals and our pets, due to loud explosions.

Most of all risking our medical system to become overwhelmed with another fireworks mass casualty. Long term disability and death of the community are not acceptable for using illegal fireworks without bearing the consequences of those actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide witten testimony in strong support of SB 999.

SB-999

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:33:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/5/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony for SB999: Fireworks restrictions.

Dear Senators,

Please do not pass this highly restrictive bill that punishes law abiding citizens. My family enjoy firecrackers and follow the current laws, firecrackers did not cause the damage on New Years Eve. People as individuals need to be held accountable for their actions, stop blaming stuff, it is the individual plain and simple. We need to allow sparklers and other novelty fireworks again. I used them as a child and I still have all my fingers and toes. I do not support this legislation.

Thank you.

SB-999

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:13:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/5/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I submit this testimony in strong **OPPOSITION** to SB999, which seeks to impose a blanket ban on consumer fireworks in Hawaii and establish stringent penalties for violations. This bill represents an unjustified expansion of government power at the expense of individual liberty, property rights, and community traditions.

1. Personal Responsibility and Freedom of Choice

A free society is built on the principle that individuals should have the right to make personal choices, so long as they do not directly harm others. Fireworks, when used responsibly, are a time-honored tradition that bring families and communities together. Rather than outright prohibition, policymakers should focus on enforcing existing laws against reckless or negligent behavior.

2. Overcriminalization and Excessive Punishment

SB999 imposes severe penalties, including asset forfeiture, doubling fines, and felony charges, for what is fundamentally a victimless act. Criminalizing fireworks possession and use at this level will disproportionately impact working-class families and law-abiding individuals who seek to celebrate cultural and national holidays. The inclusion of civil nuisance abatement further threatens property rights, allowing authorities to take action against homeowners based on accusations alone.

3. Government Overreach and Unintended Consequences

History has shown that prohibition does not eliminate demand—it merely drives activity underground. A ban on consumer fireworks will likely create a black market, making enforcement more difficult while diverting law enforcement resources away from addressing real crime. Instead of blanket bans, a more practical approach would involve safe use education, streamlined permitting, and targeted enforcement against reckless behavior.

4. Erosion of Cultural and Community Traditions

Fireworks are deeply rooted in Hawaii’s cultural celebrations, particularly among local and immigrant communities. By banning consumer fireworks, SB999 disregards these traditions and imposes a one-size-fits-all solution that does not reflect the values or needs of Hawaii’s diverse population.

In conclusion, SB999 is an overreaching, punitive measure that undermines personal freedoms, burdens law enforcement, and disrupts cultural traditions. Rather than penalizing responsible individuals, the Legislature should focus on balanced solutions that prioritize education, personal responsibility, and community engagement. I urge you to reject this bill and consider policies that respect individual liberty while addressing legitimate public safety concerns.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Zehr

SB-999

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:04:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/5/2025 9:30:00 AM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas H Takara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considerring my testimony. I strongly oppose this bill. Although done with considerations to past tragedies, I do not believe this bill addresses the underlying issues when it comes to illegal fireworks. Punishing the masses for the wrongdoings of a minority of individuals is not how we can peacefully resolve this issue.

Again, thank you for having my testimony.