

BILL022(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 172

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 17, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 6

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Michael Iosua	Email: miosua@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96813-3818
Representing: Phantom Fireworks	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 02:57 PM
Name: Maile Tavares	Email: cross@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Te'eao Te Turama	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 03:00 PM
Name: Shanelle Hughes	Email: cross@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hanap'a Keiki Hunting Club	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 03:01 PM
Name: Jonelle Fukushima	Email: cross@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Tutu Ohana Quilts	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 03:05 PM
Name: Chad Cloutier	Email: anakama@wik.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: TNT Fireworks	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 16, 2024 @ 08:57 AM
Name: marc britos	Email: mbritos46@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 17, 2024 @ 08:48 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Councilmembers. As a resident of the county of Honolulu and a father, I, Marc Britos, wholeheartedly endorse Bill 22. I believe it to be a beneficial proposal for our city and our families.</p> <p>Many of us, including yourselves, I'm sure, have cherished memories of our childhood when we would delight in the crackling of firecrackers, the shimmer of sparklers, and the grandeur of fountains during New Year's festivities with our loved ones. These days of innocent joy are now a thing of the past.</p> <p>Despite the ban, aerial exhibitions have been on the rise annually. It's clear that eradicating them completely is a challenge. However, Bill 22 offers a compromise by allowing the limited use of specific fireworks. This not only promotes safety and reduces accidents and fires but also presents a significant economic opportunity for the city and county to generate revenue through taxation. Ultimately, this proposal, I believe, strikes a harmonious balance between safety concerns and the preservation of our cherished fireworks tradition.</p> <p>My primary argument for the implementation of this law is to prevent the loss of our cultural and family traditions that were once revered and celebrated during New Year's festivities. By allowing families to once again partake in these special consumer fireworks, we cannot only revive but also preserve these traditional practices, a responsibility that we all share.</p> <p>I have confidence in your support for this legislation. We need to reevaluate the ban on enjoying New Year's memories legally and safely. Bill 22, and myself believes that this proposal are beneficial for Honolulu.</p>		

PHANTOM FIREWORKS

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April 17, 2024

Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair
Members of the Honolulu City Council

Re: Bill 22 – Relating to the Fire Code
Meeting: Wednesday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina and Members of the City Council.

My name is Danial Peart, Director of Government Affairs for Phantom Fireworks in Youngstown, OH. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 22.

The prospect of legalizing the sale and use of ground-based consumer fireworks is exciting for several reasons, but chief among them are the two reasons I will discuss today.

Principally, with no legal consumer fireworks able to be purchased and used in Honolulu, the illegal market is left to flourish. I will not suggest that Bill 22 will completely eliminate illegal fireworks in Honolulu, but we've seen in other states that the inclusion of a legal option for consumer fireworks shows a downturn in illegal usage as early as year one. Many consumers will opt for the legal variant for the peace of mind it offers while still being able to celebrate their favorite holiday or religious event.

Currently, Phantom Fireworks works only with non-profit groups in Hawaii. Not only has this been good for Phantom, but selling fireworks is the biggest fundraiser of the year for many of the groups that we work with. These relationships tend to be long-term and mutually beneficial. With the ability to expand to Honolulu, we would be able to add more non-profit groups to our operations and ultimately grow both our footprint and theirs.

Legal, responsible, and safe consumer fireworks usage is the trend across the U.S., with injury rates plummeting while usage has soared in recent years. The inclusion of ground-based consumer fireworks should help to ease some of the illegal market while helping various non-profit groups at the same. For this reason, I respectfully urge the council to vote "yes" on Bill 22.

Sincerely,

Danial Peart

Maile Tavares
P.O. Box 2084
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

April 14, 2024

Dear Consideration Committee,

I am writing to you as a proud member of Te'ea Te Turama, a Tahitian Hula club that is more than just a dance group - it is a vibrant community and a vital part of our cultural heritage.

Our club is a place where tradition meets passion. We are dedicated to preserving the beautiful art of Tahitian Hula, a dance form that is not just a performance, but a powerful expression of our history, our values, and our connection to the natural world.

The funds raised from firework sales over the firework seasons have been instrumental in our efforts. They have allowed us to host regular classes, provide costumes and equipment, and organize performances that bring our community together. More importantly, they have enabled us to share the joy and beauty of Tahitian Hula with a wider audience.

Without these funds, we would struggle to continue our work. The cost of maintaining our club, providing for our dancers, and organizing events is significant. The loss of this funding would be a blow to our club, and to the cultural life of our community.

But it's not just about the money. It's about what we can achieve with it. It's about the young people who discover a passion for dance, the audiences who are moved by our performances, and the sense of pride and belonging that comes from being part of a cultural tradition.

We believe that the return of ground fireworks on Oahu could provide similar benefits for your community, supporting local heritage programs and providing much-needed funds for non-profit organizations.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We wholeheartedly support the return of ground fireworks on Oahu and look forward to the positive impact it could have on local communities.

With warm regards,

Maile Tavares

Shanelle Hughes
11-2258 Ohialani Drive
Volcano, HI 96785

April 12, 2024

Dear Oahu Firework Committee,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as a representative of the Hanap`a Keiki Hunting Club, a club deeply rooted in our community's culture and traditions.

Our mission is to teach our keiki the time-honored practices of hunting and fishing safely, ensuring that these vital skills continue to be passed down through generations. The funds raised from firework sales have been instrumental in our efforts, enabling us to organize more training sessions, provide necessary equipment, and promote safe hunting practices.

But our work goes beyond teaching practical skills. We are also committed to fostering a sense of community and spreading awareness about the importance of hunting and fishing in our culture. The funds have allowed us to reach out to more members of our community, sparking conversations, and strengthening communal bonds.

The potential reinstatement of ground fireworks on Oahu represents more than just a commercial opportunity. It is a chance to invigorate local non-profit organizations, enabling many to further each mission and make a positive impact on our communities.

We believe that every community thrives when its cultural heritage is valued and preserved. The return of ground fireworks could provide a significant boost to our efforts, helping us to continue our work and contribute to the cultural richness of our community.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We wholeheartedly support the return of ground fireworks on Oahu and look forward to the positive impact it could have on local communities.

Best regards,

Shanelle Hughes

JoNelle Fukushima
1785 Waianuenue Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720

April 14, 2024

Dear Oahu Fireworks Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Tutu Ohana Quilts, based in the Big Island. Our mission is to preserve and promote our rich cultural heritage by providing much-needed Hawaiian blankets to our local community.

Our organization has been fortunate to benefit significantly from firework sales. The funds raised have been instrumental in allowing us to fulfill our mission. They have enabled us to source quality materials, run workshops, and reach more members of our community than would have otherwise been possible.

Without the funds from firework sales, our ability to operate effectively would be severely compromised. We would struggle to provide the same level of support to our community, and our efforts to preserve and promote our cultural heritage would be hindered.

The impact of these funds extends beyond our organization. The individuals and families who receive our blankets feel a stronger connection to their heritage. The workshops we run foster a sense of community and shared identity that is invaluable.

We believe that reinstating ground fireworks on Oahu could provide similar opportunities for your community. The funds raised could support local nonprofits in carrying out their valuable work, just as they have supported us.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We wholeheartedly support the return of ground fireworks on Oahu and the positive impact it could have on local communities.

Sincerely,

JoNelle Fukushima



April 17, 2024

Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair
Honolulu City Council

RE: BILL 22 (24) Relating to the Fire Code
Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Members of the Council:

Thank you for allowing TNT Fireworks ("TNT") to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Bill 22 – Relating to the Fire Code. 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.

Bill 22 seeks to amend the state Fire Code to permit consumer fireworks such as fountains and sparklers while keeping aerial fireworks unlawful. The proliferation of illegal aerial devices is at an all-time high and legislative efforts aimed at strengthening enforcement and penalties for the use of illegal aerial devices have not proved successful. In the absence of an alternative, the proliferation of black market access will only continue.

In 2010, the Honolulu City Council banned consumer fireworks except for firecrackers with a permit. The unintended consequence of this action was an inadvertent surge in black market activities as consumers sought alternative sources for consumer fireworks. The City and County of Honolulu is the only county in the state that prohibits consumer fireworks and, not a surprise, has the undesirable outcome with illegal aeriels lighting up Honolulu skies on New Years Eve.

Instead of driving consumers to the black market, a safer alternative should be available. New York, New Jersey, Arizona, Delaware and others have modified their ban on consumer fireworks and allowed the sale of consumer fireworks such as fountains and

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ground spinners, which produce significantly less smoke and noise. Currently, fireworks are allowed in 49 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Hawaii consumers are enamored with fireworks and have a long cultural history of fireworks being an integral part of New Years and July 4th family celebrations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. We look forward to working with all interested stakeholders to address this issue of reducing illegal aerals out of our communities while providing a safer alternative to celebrate.

Brian Trim, Vice President