

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Voting Members:

Val A. Okimoto, Chair; Augie Tulba, Vice Chair;
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Andria Tupola

Committee Meeting Held
May 23, 2024

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Safety, which considered Bill 22 (2024) entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE FIRE CODE,"

introduced on April 11, 2024, and which passed first reading at the April 17, 2024, Council meeting, reports as follows:

The purpose of Bill 22 (2024) is to address fireworks use and permitting in the City and County of Honolulu.

At your Committee's meeting on May 23, 2024, the Honolulu Fire Department testified in opposition to this measure.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Phantom Fireworks, TNT Fireworks, Retail Merchants of Hawai'i, and nine individuals.

Your Committee finds that the City and County of Honolulu is the only county in the state that has a consumer fireworks ban. This ban may have led to the illegal proliferation of aerial devices, articles pyrotechnic and display fireworks as people sought alternatives to consumer fireworks. This measure will legalize consumer fireworks which many generations of local families legally enjoyed for decades.

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ADOPTED ON JUN 05 2024

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 185

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Your Committee further finds that the Legislature has failed to effectively enforce Chapter 132D, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), by failing to implement measures to efficiently interdict and hinder the illegal importation of aerial devices, articles pyrotechnic and display fireworks at seaport points of entry. The burden of enforcing Chapter 132D, HRS, in our communities falls upon the officers of the Honolulu Police Department who have not been provided the resources to enforce outdated state laws. Thus, your Committee finds it necessary to legalize consumer fireworks so keiki can finally understand the celebratory joy of sparklers, fountains and ground spinners.

Your Committee on Public Safety is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill 22 (2024) and recommends that it pass second reading, be scheduled for a public hearing, and be referred back to Committee. (Ayes: Dos Santos-Tam, Okimoto, Tulba – 3; Noes: None; Absent: Tupola – 1.)

Respectfully submitted,


Committee Chair

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