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**THE HONORABLE VAL A. OKIMOTO, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber**

June 26, 2024

RE: BILL 22; RELATING TO THE FIRE CODE.

Chair Okimoto, Vice Chair Tulba, and members of the Committee on Public Safety, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu (“Department”) **opposes** Bill 22.

Bill 22 proposes amending the fire code to allow possession and use of consumer fireworks without a permit during designated celebrations. Since 2011, consumer fireworks have been banned on Oahu. The Department is familiar with the challenges in enforcing that ban; it also knows that no law ever guarantees perfect compliance. But the current ordinance still contributes to public safety by offering a significant deterrent.

Honolulu Fire Department Battalion Chief Jean-Claude Bisch recently described to this Council the immediate measurable impact of the ban. On New Year’s Eve of 2010, the last year consumer fireworks were legal on Oahu, the fire department responded to seven structure fires. The following New Year’s Eve, that number was zero.

The battalion chief also warned that consumer fireworks increase the threat of wildfires. The National Weather Service expects this summer will be hotter and drier than usual. After witnessing the devastating wildfires in Lahaina, we should avoid diluting the fireworks ban here.

The Department stands with our firefighters and first responders in urging this Committee not to adopt this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**DEPT. COM. 498
PS**