WHEREAS, fireworks are used throughout the state of Hawaii as a means of celebration and festivity for social, cultural, and recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, in many instances residents use illegal fireworks that not only are a public nuisance to residents, but cause serious injury to those who use them improperly or without the necessary knowledge; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the number of illegal fireworks used throughout the state has grown exponentially, with the number of permits to use fireworks legally lessening year by year and last year; and

WHEREAS, in a 2009 arrest the police — working with the Fire Department, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Coast Guard and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives — recovered 589 cases of illegal fireworks weighing 13,400 pounds with a street value of about $150,000 to $200,000; and

WHEREAS, fireworks, especially those that are deemed illegal cause discomfort and distress to young children, individuals suffering from disabilities, pets, senior citizens, and those suffering from asthma and respiratory illnesses; and

WHEREAS, in December of 2009, Honolulu Police Department Chief of Police Louis Kealoha issued a public statement asking for the public's help in catching culprits that are using illegal fireworks; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that each county is requested to establish, through
county ordinance, an illegal fireworks hotline program to report violations of Section 132D-5 of the Hawaii Revised Statues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county make available a confidential an illegal fireworks hotline for the purpose of accepting calls from persons wishing to report use of illegal fireworks, and that an informant calling into the fireworks hotline may pass along information of a violation of this chapter anonymously or not; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there be established within the state fire council for administrative purposes an illegal fireworks hotline to stop the importation of illegal fireworks, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the informant chooses to pass along information of a violation of this chapter anonymously, such information be transmitted to the police department of the county the informant resides in, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is requested to assign one representative whose duty shall include the investigation of firework use violations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Mayor of the County of Hawaii, the Mayor of the County of Maui, and the Mayor of the County of Kauai.

OFFERED BY: [Signatures]