

SB 1060



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February 26, 2009

Testimony to: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti
Lauren Zirbel
LISH Represents both retailers and wholesalers of fireworks in Hawaii

Re: SB 1060 RELATING TO FIREWORKS

Chairs & Committee Members:

We oppose any increase in firework permit fees for firecrackers. If anything, the existing permit fees should be directed to each county fire department as are the license fees. This can be done by adding the following sentence to 132D-10 of the law, while not increasing the permit fees as the measure dictates. Otherwise the permit fees will continue to go to the general fund of each county.

“The permit fees shall be used solely by each county fire department to pay for the salary of an auditor of fireworks and articles pyrotechnic records and all expenses incurred to fulfill the duties required, including the inspection of inventory and storage facilities, maintenance of required records, and the training of the auditor. “



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
State Fire Council
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kim:

Subject: S.B. 1060 Relating to Fireworks

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support S.B. 1060, which proposes to increase fireworks permit and import license fees.

Fireworks permit and import license fees have not increased for nine years, even though the cost of services provided by fire, police, and emergency medical personnel continues to increase. During New Year's celebrations, the Honolulu Police Department responded to 1,566 fireworks-related incidents in 2007-2008 and 1,361 incidents in 2008-2009. Statewide, fire departments responded to 37 and 33 fireworks-related incidents for the same period, and fireworks injuries totaled 105 for 2007-2008 and 79 for 2008-2009. In addition, the counties bear the cost and responsibility of cleaning the streets and parks that are littered with fireworks debris. Along with the fire departments' responsibility to ensure the public's safety, the number of fireworks display permits and proper accounting of the pyrotechnic inventory items have increased.

The SFC and the HFD request your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 1060.

Should you have any questions, please call HFD Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva".

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:bh