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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF HARBOR INSPECTION  
PROCEDURES OF STATE DEPARTMENTS FOR SHIPPING CONTAINERS TO  
PREVENT THE IMPORTATION OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS INTO THE  
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, in 2011, the City and County of Honolulu imposed a  
2 partial fireworks ban on pyrotechnics use, making the possession  
3 and use of aerial fireworks and certain other consumer fireworks  
4 illegal; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, despite the ban, there continue to be numerous  
7 instances of illegal firework use, which have caused physical  
8 injuries and property damage; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, established  
11 the Illegal Fireworks Task Force to develop strategies and make  
12 recommendations to the Legislature to address the illegal  
13 importation and use of fireworks in the State; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the Illegal Fireworks Task Force recommended in  
16 its January 2011 report an increase in random inspections for  
17 illegal fireworks by expanding the inspection authority for  
18 state departments and focusing cargo inspections to make the  
19 inspections more manageable; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 184, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,  
22 the Legislative Reference Bureau updated the findings and  
23 recommendations of the January 2011 report; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the 2019 Legislative Reference Bureau report,  
26 *Blast From the Past: An Update to the Report of the Illegal*  
27 *Fireworks Task Force to the Legislature for the Regular Session*  
28 *of 2011*, indicated that the "majority of respondents to the  
29 [Legislative Reference] Bureau's Survey appeared to agree that



1 the issues and challenges presented by the Task Force in its  
2 2011 report remain relevant today."; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the state harbors system consists of ten  
5 commercial harbors, all of which are under the authority of the  
6 State; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, over ninety-nine percent of the more than two  
9 hundred thousand shipping cargo containers that arrive in Hawaii  
10 each year come through the State's commercial harbors, and only  
11 a small fraction of these shipping containers are inspected by  
12 government agencies; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the lack of sufficient cargo inspections increases  
15 the opportunity for illegal fireworks to enter the State; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, an audit of current harbor inspection procedures  
18 of state departments for out-of-state and interisland arrivals  
19 of shipping containers would:

- 20  
21 (1) Outline current inspection procedures at state  
22 harbors;  
23  
24 (2) Identify any shortcomings in the current procedures;  
25  
26 (3) Determine whether the recommendations of the January  
27 2011 Illegal Fireworks Task Force report and the 2019  
28 Legislative Reference Bureau update to the Task  
29 Force's report relating to harbor inspections have  
30 been implemented and to what extent; and  
31  
32 (4) Determine any necessary changes that would reduce the  
33 volume of illegal fireworks being imported into the  
34 State; now, therefore,

35  
36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
38 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to  
39 conduct an audit of current harbor inspection procedures of  
40 state departments for shipping containers to prevent the  
41 importation of illegal fireworks into the State; and  
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
2 include in its audit:

- 3
- 4 (1) A review and description of current harbor inspection  
5 procedures for illegal fireworks, including  
6 inspections of out-of-state and interisland cargo;  
7
- 8 (2) A description of whether and to what extent  
9 recommendations made in the January 2011 report of the  
10 Illegal Fireworks Task Force and the Legislative  
11 Reference Bureau's 2019 update to the report are being  
12 implemented; and  
13
- 14 (3) Any recommendations, including any proposed  
15 legislation, to reduce the importation of illegal  
16 fireworks into the State; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
19 submit a report, including any findings, recommendations, and  
20 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
21 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and  
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of  
25 Transportation, Director of Agriculture, Director of Public  
26 Safety, and Police Chiefs of the City and County of Honolulu,  
27 County of Hawaii, County of Kauai, and County of Maui.

