

Great Committee

From: KR Hotmail <k_bade@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Great Committee
Cc: "k_bade@hotmail.com; aaronkekoa"@gmail.com
Subject: Illegal fireworks: breaking the established precedents of normalcy

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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May 31, 2021,

Dear Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency, (GREAT) Committee

I am glad to hear that this committee will be discussing the issue of illegal fireworks in Maui on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. I have been in contact with state representatives and our local representatives since July 2020 about this issue. I would like to provide suggestions for the county to consider in addition to requesting that the county police department enforce state law about the use of illegal fireworks.

First my suggestions for a positive community effect: Provide a safe, remote and monitored location for residents of Maui to utilize aerial fireworks by permit and with oversight from local police, fire and medical personnel. I do not know where to suggest as I am not familiar with all areas of Maui that can accommodate a large crowd to view and set off such an aerial display. I do know that the state of Hawaii is the largest private land owner and the county also owns private lands and I am hoping these government agencies can coordinate to find suitable locations to hold these public events. The logistics of this would involve a permit fee for entrants to engage in aerial fireworks display, a per person or per family entry fee, and possible prizes for different categories of displays. The best part is that this allows for the most revenue generation for the county coming from the retention of proceeds from the sale of aerial fireworks sold by the county. The cost of police, medical and fire personnel could be offset by the fees collected from permits and sales of aerial fireworks. Additionally, if permittee's want to bring their own aerial fireworks, they would have to be ordered and delivered through the county. This solution brings the revenue to the county instead of the illegal sellers of aerial fireworks and their local distributors AND it alleviates neighbors having to turn in neighbors for such illegal activity.

This first suggestion helps all local Maui residents who are PTSD sufferers, pet owners and those who just want peace and quiet, even during state and federal holiday seasons.

My second suggestion, is really just a request to remove the long standing precedent of not enforcing current law. The statistics after each holiday where fireworks are permitted are pathetic for the number of violations issued, given the extreme amount of abuse and disregard of the law island wide. Representative Hashimoto announced prior to the 2020 July 4th weekend celebrations that enforce state law, HB89CD1 relating to the sale, possession, use and removal of illegal fireworks could result in a class C felony and up to \$2,000 per incident fine. It would be fine if this was actually enforced by our police department.

As I have mentioned in the past to Chair Ms. Alice Lee, when I have called the Maui police department about illegal aerals being used in my neighborhood in Waiehu-Waihee, I have either received: 1) no response with no follow up, no in person visit or, 2) if an officer responded at my door, rolled their eyes, and proposed that I did not possess enough knowledge to determine what an illegal firework is and, 3) then shrugged their shoulders. Leaving me with the opinion that the issue was not of concern to them, the police department nor the county administration.

My last correspondence with state and local Maui representatives on 12/29/2020 replied back to me that "the County Council, being the legislative branch, does not have enforcement authority, which has been the concern expressed by

our residents, the lack of enforcement. We can only refer these concerns to the administration, which includes the Mayor, his Chief of Staff, and the Police Commission, and have requested they look into the matter.”

Therefore, it is imperative that our local police department enforce the law instead of continuing to encourage the long-standing precedent that the law is NOT TO BE ENFORCED when it is about the use of illegal fireworks. I am hoping with a new police chief to be installed for Maui county, among the many challenges that person may address, be the enforcement of HB89CD1 and that that person encourages enforcement within the department, with the goal of changing the cultural norm that the use of illegal fireworks is allowed by our police and local residents. This can be accomplished with your assistance and implementation of my first suggestions above.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

Kathren Rosales

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Great Committee

From: Gayle Long <geegayle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2021 6:41 PM
To: Great Committee
Subject: Fireworks testimony

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Percussion fireworks are making a war zone environment in my neighborhood during New Years and July 4, with other illegal fireworks noise as well.

The last two years shootings started late afternoons and lasted til 2 am. There are no warnings for the grenade like sounds and bomb noises when they happen, and they sound like real bombs. "Practice" starts a few days before intermittently, and it is horribly nerve wracking.

Last year there were even small children using glass bottles in the street for props for fireworks... and rules in place are not working and unenforceable.

I request that all fireworks usage be illegal for personal use, designated to cultural events only.

Every year there are parties on my street of up to 40 or 50 people and illegal fireworks used for entertainment.

This year I feel I necessary to rent a hotel room so I can protect my pets from getting ill and my nerves.

There are many kapuna in our area afraid to speak out and it is not right for the county to ignore this issue. Please take action.

We deserve a safe place to live.

Residents who are required to video offenders and go to court against neighbors are open for retaliation so this is neither working nor a successful route for deterring illegal activity.

Please ban fireworks use, and take injury and health risks away from our homes and stop fireworks and sales for personal use.

Thank you for your support.

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