

Date: 05/11/2023

Attention: Board of Land and Natural Resources Members

Regarding: Agenda Item D-6 - Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From May 26, 2023 to May 24, 2023. Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021

Dear Chairperson Chang and Board Members,

My name is Justinn Acosta, and I am submitting this testimony not only as a spectator who has watched many shows, but also as a current employee of Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. Being both a spectator and a current employee, I have the opportunity to experience the show from both sides and it has given me a better perspective of things.

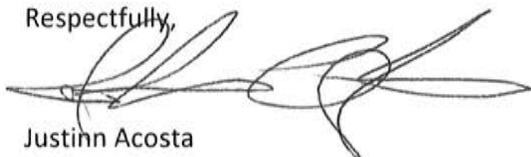
As a spectator, whether is it a person trying to impress their date (I am guilty of this, happy to say that it worked because I have been with my better half for many years now and we have 3 children), having dinner at one of the many restaurants that share the view of the fireworks, or just going to relax after a long and stressful work week, having the fireworks every Friday is something people look forward to. It brings out locals and tourists alike and I know it helps the local business thrive whether it's our hotels, restaurants, vendors, and even our dinner boat cruises.

As a bonus, I am one of many local employees that work for this local small business. I know first-hand what it takes to put on this show and what goes on afterwards. We start by roping off an area and politely asking beachgoers to vacate that part of the beach as a safety measure before we even start setting up. Majority of them are hesitant to leave at first because they don't know what's going on but when we tell them that we will be setting up for the weekly Friday fireworks show, they are more than willing to move, often showing signs of excitement and anticipation. Fifteen minutes to showtime, we "lockdown" areas again as a safety measure and at either 7:45pm or 8pm the show starts. Once the first shot fires off into the sky I hear "Oohs" and "Aahs" from the spectators, with smiles on their faces. Majority of them have their phones out recording the show for memories and without fail, after the very last shot everyone claps and cheers. As an employee I receive comments like, "Great show!" and "Thank you, that was awesome!" Then it's cleanup time. There are a couple of workers suited in waders whose job it is to go into the water with nets and a headlamp to clean up any and all debris they can find. On land workers are collecting any and all debris we see. We don't only pick up the fireworks debris on the sand, but we also pick up trash left behind by beachgoers which includes plastic forks, spoons, cups, plastic bags, condiment packets, Band-Aids, and other trash.

As a local small business, with local employees, Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. genuinely want our beaches and oceans clean. It is our Kuleana to try our best to do our part.

In conclusion, I feel it is a win-win decision to issue the permit and to continue this long-lived Friday night firework tradition.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justinn Acosta', written over a horizontal line.

Justinn Acosta

From: [Kelvin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for BLNR Meeting (5/12/2023)
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:32:05 AM

Aloha,

I'd like to submit the following testimony for item D-6 on the Land Board agenda for May 12, 2023.

I would like to start by saying thank you to all board members for the management of Land and Natural Resources in the State of Hawaii. I do understand public concerns with issuing these Right of Entry Permits for Aerial Fireworks displays. I am in support of the issuance of these Right of Entry Permits for Aerial Fireworks Displays.

I have been to sites in which Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics have done firework displays the day after and weeks, to include the Duke Kahanamoku Beach site, and have found very little debris left behind from their fireworks. I have also gone diving in the waters fronting Duke Kahanamoku Beach site where they do their fireworks display every Friday night and found very little debris. This being said I think Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics is doing a great job either using environmentally friendly products that leave minimal debris or cleaning up after themselves, or a combination of both. I have seen with my own eyes their clean up crew working on a Saturday morning with guys in and out of the water cleaning up what they missed cleaning the night before. The crew I have met is locals who enjoy working for Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics to make money and support themselves and their families, but also take the responsibility of taking care of the land and waters in which they work and live. Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics has shown their concern for the Land and Natural Resources, being a locally owned and operated company, by not only up after themselves but I have seen them at other organized clean up events with their bright orange T-shirts.

In addition, promoting and supporting fireworks displays hosted and conducted by professional fireworks companies such as Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics is better for the State of Hawaii and it's communities because:

- In regards to Public Health and Safety these Aerial displays by these companies require an established perimeter in which fireworks are viewed from a safe distance mitigating the chance of injury and smoke inhalation. Private parties who use the same Aerial fireworks at home do not establish this type of perimeter and safety zone.
- Environmentally- if 1,000 people(which is a small estimate) are able to get their fireworks celebration from viewing a public fireworks display done by such a company instead of purchasing and "playing" with their own fireworks it reduces the debris from fireworks that much more.
- If the State were to support and promote public fireworks displays conducted by professional companies it could potentially reduce the amount of blackmarket fireworks and private fireworks displays, which could potentially help reduce the strain on medical personnel responding to medical emergencies due to the influx of private fireworks displays. Not to mention the cost to the State for these medical services.
- Fireworks companies also are held to procedures to mitigate possibility of fires by conducting firework displays in approved locations and weather conditions, whereas, private

party displays are conducted with no regulation but date and time which is not adhered to and very hard for authorities to enforce.

◦ Fireworks companies are also held responsible to cleaning up debris after fireworks displays, which is an environmental benefit, unlike private party fireworks.

In closing, fireworks displays and celebrations have been around longer than each and everyone of us here today. There have been attempts at fireworks bans and we can all see that the black market of "illegal fireworks" has grown to the point that on any given day I can hear fireworks from my home and more aerial fireworks are visible on New Years from private parties within neighborhoods than all professional firework displays on the same night. Let's support these professional fireworks companies such as Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics, who are applying for these permits to do these displays in a legal and regulated way, by issuing them the permits for the safety of our community and our environment.

Mahalo,
Kelvin Andrade
(808)333-9660

From: [Richard Davison](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: chicodavison1@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Friday Night Fireworks
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:51:05 PM

Date: 5/11/23

To: DLNR Land Board at blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 97809

From: Richard and Kylee Davison
41-585 Poalima Street
Waimanalo Hi 96795

Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From May 26, 2023, to May 24, 2024, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the Friday Night Fireworks at Waikiki Beach.

This Fireworks show is an important part of our family's weekend activities and we look forward to it every weekend. Please vote to continue this show for us locals and visitors alike.

Mahalo

Rich and Kylee Davison
Waimanalo Hi

From: [Britni Delaney](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From May 26, 2023, to May 24, 2024, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:08:30 AM

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the Friday Night Fireworks at Waikiki Beach.

This Fireworks show is an important part of our family's weekend activities and we look forward to it every weekend. Please vote to continue this show for us locals and visitors alike.

Mahalo

Britni Delaney
Kailua, HI

From: [Andres Delmonte](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for Yearly Fireworks Permit for Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc.
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:18:22 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

As a business owner in the community and a frequent attendee of the Friday night weekly firework show, I strongly urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to support Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. in obtaining their yearly permit for the firework show.

Not only does the firework show bring joy and excitement to residents of all ages, but it also provides a significant boost to the surrounding businesses, including my own. The increased foot traffic brought in by the firework show has been instrumental in helping to keep our doors open and our employees paid.

Furthermore, the firework show has become a staple of our community, bringing us together in a way that few other events can. It's a time for neighbors to come out and enjoy the beautiful display, to catch up with one another, and to celebrate our shared love for our city.

Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. has been a trusted and reputable provider of pyrotechnic services for many years, and their expertise has contributed to the safe and successful execution of the firework show. Their professionalism and commitment to safety are unparalleled, and I believe that their yearly permit should be granted without hesitation.

The firework show has become a beloved tradition in our community, bringing joy, excitement, and economic benefits to the surrounding businesses. It has become an integral part of our culture, and the continued support of the DLNR in granting Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. their yearly permit is crucial in ensuring that this tradition can continue for years to come.

I understand that there may be concerns about the noise and safety of the firework show, but I firmly believe that these concerns can be addressed through proper regulation and oversight. Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. has a proven track record of executing the firework show in a safe and responsible manner, and I am confident that they will continue to do so in the future.

In conclusion, I urge the DLNR to support Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. in obtaining their yearly permit for the firework show. Let's work together to ensure that this beloved tradition can continue to bring joy, excitement, and economic benefits to our community for years to come.

Sincerely,

Andres Delmonte
CEO - Go Tours Hawaii

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Andres Delmonte
Chief Executive Officer, Go Tours Hawaii

| 808-657-2178 | a.delmonte@gotourshawaii.com | gotourshawaii.com |

From: [Bob Hampton](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding Land Item 6 "IssuanceofRight-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics,Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach"
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:28:42 PM

Aloha Chairperson Chang and Honorable Board of Directors:

I'm Bob Hampton and I have worked in Waikiki since we were a Territory. I started out as a tour car driver in 1958 while attending UH.

Since the early 90's, many of my classmates (Roosevelt HS Class of 56') and I have enjoyed many of the Friday Night Fireworks shows. This show is a proven benefit to our residents. This is evidenced by the huge crowds of local Ohanas occupying Magic Island and Ala Moana Park, most are there just to see the fireworks show.

Conducting the Aloha Friday Fireworks show from the Duke Kahanamoku Beach, (Hawaii's Ambassador of Aloha), is so appropriate.

I believe our state should give Hilton a shout out for their generosity in conducting this popular event for the last three decades.

Mahalo for your kokua,

Aloha

Bob Hampton
7007 Niumalu Loop
Honolulu, Hawaii
96825
(808) 470-9947

Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc.

P.O. Box 1244
Keaau, HI 96749-1244
hepinc@hipyro.com
(808) 968-0600



State of Hawaii
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Re: Item D-6, May 12, 2023 Testimony

Aloha,

When evaluating a right-of-entry permit allowing the commercial use of State unencumbered lands, the DLNR Land Board ultimately has to decide whether the impacts of any intended use outweigh the substantial community and economic benefits. Since 2015, the members of the Board have been mulling over this question in evaluating the approval of the right-of-entry for the weekly fireworks display in Waikiki. The board has historically expressed concerns regarding any cumulative adverse impacts created by the display. To address these perceived impacts, in 2022 the board required us to create a sustainability plan and to undertake activities that would potentially offset any adverse impacts. We have provided 2 documents in response to these requests: a Sustainability Program that analyzes and defines ways we can move towards more sustainable practices across our operation, and an Impact Mitigation Report that specifically addresses the impacts of the weekly fireworks display on the subject parcel. The mitigation report also provides possible measures and actions that can be taken to reduce any adverse impacts and discusses means of implementation where appropriate.

It is important to note that the basis of the adverse cumulative impacts presented by the board are primarily anecdotal and speculative. Within the past year's permit period, the applicant is not aware of any complaint, report or other information that would specifically indicate the presence of a cumulative adverse impact.

The impact mitigation report highlights several key findings:

- 1.) The impact of the emissions from the fireworks display can fairly be characterized as minor to minimal, especially in comparison to other common emission sources.
- 2.) Given the findings of other studies performed for long periods and for fireworks displays of much larger quantities and greater frequency, there is no expectation for adverse cumulative impacts on either water quality or soil, exposed or submerged.

It is likely that any tests or studies of water or soil would not produce any findings of significance or causation.

- 3.) The impact of the inert cardboard debris produced by the aerial devices, while biodegradable, could potentially produce adverse impacts if allowed to accumulate.

Given these findings, in our opinion the most important area to focus mitigation efforts on is inert debris retrieval. Our report highlights the methods in which we are measuring the debris collected, training our employees, and implementing management practices that help us attain 100% recovery. As with any process, the results are imperfect and the outcome remains a goal. In the 8 years since the issue was brought to our attention, we have not discovered any evidence of significant accumulation. What we can state is that our cleaning activities at Kahanamoku beach routinely collect a wide range of non-fireworks debris, much of it plastic. In that sense we believe our operations are having a positive impact on the subject area.

We would also like to take the opportunity to respond to and clarify a number of comments made by Staff within the “remarks” section of the prepared submission.

“The Sustainability Program and Impact Mitigation Report does not provide any commitment to modify the Applicant’s operations that would result in a reduction of emissions or debris created by the fireworks display” and, “The documents contain much information that is speculative or not relevant to the use of the subject State lands for fireworks displays.” (p. 4)

We believe this is a misrepresentation of the information we have provided to Staff. The Sustainability Program is a living document that evaluates the company’s social and economic factors in order to provide guidance towards becoming more sustainable. Particularly since this is a program at the launch of its implementation, the document is meant to be holistic and goal-oriented. Future reports will be more specific regarding the evaluation and implementation of our stated goals. The 2021 board asked us to think in broad terms, which is exactly what the program does.

Malama Hawaii (p. 4)

Staff questions the example of the Malama Hawaii initiative within the economic analysis section of our Program. Staff is misinterpreting the relevance of our citation. The Malama Hawaii initiative was used as one example of how tourism-oriented entities can better engage with visitors in promoting sustainable practices. MCI providers have similar opportunities to closely engage with visitors, and therefore represent a segment of the industry that can effectively promote the sustainability movement. Whether or not we participate in this particular initiative is immaterial to the point we’re making: the MCI market provides an opportunity to educate visitors on sustainability initiatives. We are not a member of the Malama Hawaii program and have never claimed to be.

Particulate Emissions (p. 4-5)

Page 8 of the Impact Mitigation Report and Exhibit I specifically addresses the minimal presence of perchlorates in the byproducts present in the weekly display. It would therefore provide minimal improvements to the mitigation of display emissions. While the benefits of removing perchlorates from pyrotechnics at the industry level are addressed in our submission, they should not be considered a matter of high significance.

Currently, low-perchlorate pyrotechnic formulations are found in devices designed for theatrical or proximate use, which is where we currently utilize them. Neither of these categories of devices have a particular use in the weekly display. The low-perchlorate formulations are starting to appear in some consumer grade fireworks which, given the large amount of particulate emissions generated by public use on holidays, is a promising development. However, given the complexities involved with synthesizing the high-nitrogen compounds, their cost remains high, which keeps adoption rate low. We hope to see greater incorporation of these formulations in the future of aerial pyrotechnics but as of now, they just aren't available.

Best Management Practices Policy (p. 5)

Staff addresses the implementation of our Best Management Practices, which specifically targets the primary area of our impact mitigation: post-display site cleanup. This policy has been adopted in response to the concerns regarding debris collection expressed by past board members. Why their implementation across the wide range of displays—including the weekly display—Hawaii Explosives produces would not be relevant is puzzling. It does not “reflect any verifiable new actions or concrete future planning” because it is assumed that the comprehensive implementation of these best practices will be effective at eliminating the stated impact. The “new” actions undertaken are: developing a written policy, formally training employees on its implementation, and verifying compliance through reporting. The document further states that as new data is collected, the practices can be modified to ensure compliance with the conditions of the right of entry.

Regulatory Compliance Entities (p.5)

The entities primarily tasked with the regulatory compliance of our operations are the Honolulu Fire Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the US and Hawaii Departments of Transportation, and the Federal Aviation Administration. These entities are concerned with security and the safe utilization of explosive devices and fireworks. They do not provide any direct oversight over the environmental impacts, and so are not directly relevant entities to incorporate into a sustainability plan. It is our current understanding that agencies tasked with air and water quality standards have determined that our operations do not require any special permits or monitoring at this time. If that should change, we will evaluate what measures will become necessary to operate in compliance with regulatory standards.

Staff was “unable to locate the DOH [Clean Water Branch] review in the materials provided by the Applicant.” (p. 6)

The “materials” in question are publicly available data on the DOH Clean Water Branch website, which has an archive of water quality testing results for numerous locations throughout the state, including Duke Kahanamoku Beach. Link to the data table is provided below, you would need to filter location to: 000155 Kahanamoku Beach, Waikiki.

<http://cwb.doh.hawaii.gov/CleanWaterBranch/WaterQualityData/Default.aspx>

“It seems that crews do not perform dives or other underwater activities but that “periodic cleanups” of the deepest, central section of the bay are performed.” (p. 7)

This is an incorrect assessment. Our crews survey and clean the entire firing range at least two times each week. The area of the bay that is within the firing range is particularly shallow, mostly 3 feet or less. Our crews examine the submerged portion of the firing range and collect any debris discovered, whether floating or submerged. This activity does not require “diving.” Since we have determined through our monitoring activities that a small portion of the debris can be carried outside of the firing range by water currents, we periodically (between 30 and 90 days within the current permit period) dive the rest of the bay to assess and recover any of this material. The impact report states we will be increasing these wider areal assessments to at least every 30 days going forward. The independent dive assessments that have been conducted on our behalf by Sea Engineering are independent studies intended to provide verification of the results of our activities. We have contracted one of these dives within the current permit period. Prior to that, there were no weekly fireworks displays for 26 months, therefore we did not arrange any independent dive assessments. Again, our debris is a paper product, and is both biologically inert and it degrades over time. Our cleanup activity focuses on both the collection of this inert debris and any other trash, particularly plastics, that are discovered within the subject area. In this respect, we believe our activities have a net positive impact on the subject area.

Carbon Offset Initiatives. (p. 7)

The May 2022 board hearing saw a free-ranging discussion regarding methods in which to offset any perceived impacts by engaging in other activities that benefit the community as a whole, with particular attention paid to the Ala Wai Canal. Furthermore, sustainability programs traditionally include activities that have a positive impact on the community at large and in ways that are not exclusively environmental. In determining the overall net benefits of the display, we feel it is relevant to consider the positive impacts our sponsor brings to the community, particularly as they can marshal far greater resources than our small organization. The Hilton Hawaiian Village plays an important and integral part in maintaining the natural resources adjacent to its property, which includes the subject parcel. The Hilton Hawaiian Village also applies significant resources towards improving and enhancing the community. As the sponsor, the Hilton Hawaiian Village has a vested interest in the success of the display and the condition of the adjacent shoreline. For approvals involving the use of other State unencumbered parcels such as Kahala and the

Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon, Staff relies on these interests to provide accountability for applicant's post-display cleanup efforts through the use of a certification document. We are unsure why Staff does not find that interest relevant in this case.

Hawaii Explosives has a historical record in providing benefits to the community, both directly and indirectly. We have provided a list of a number of these activities to staff, however, it may not have been submitted in time to make it into the application documentation. Our community outreach activities have previously not been particularly environmentally focused, but we are working to shift our focus as resources allow.

We appreciate that Staff has taken considerable time to analyze and remark on our submissions. The 2022 board was not particularly specific in its guidance when it required "a status report on a sustainability plan" by the next renewal. A sustainability plan can mean many different things depending upon context. Hawaii Explosives has tried our best to respond with a plan that addresses the many topics of discussion during that meeting and others. We readily acknowledge the Land Division's role in holding us accountable for the impacts of our activities and have always maintained a desire to collaborate with the Board and Staff to ensure our impacts are as minimal as possible. We hope that the Board reflects on that partnership when deciding whether the overall benefits to the community from our activity outweigh any of the impacts.

Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc.

Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc.
Officers & Staff - Community Outreach Projects

Listed below are some of the more recent and notable projects that we have contributed to and care for deeply.

Camp Agape Hawaii

First started in 2006, an annual, four-day event filled with a series of activities and events for children of incarcerated parents at no cost. The goals are to foster positivity and promote the qualities of love, trust, forgiveness and hope.

Camp Agape – Mokulē‘ia, O‘ahu - Pastor Roy Yamamoto

Charlene & Stephanie Pascual – Volunteers

Assisted with supervision of children and activities throughout the 4-day camp
Annual 4-day camp for children of incarcerated parents.
2011, 2012, and 2013

Camp Agape – Mt. View, Big Island – Pastor Charlie Kama

Pascual Ohana and HEP, Inc. Staff – Volunteers

Assisted with supervision of children thru all camp activities, monitored check in and out of other volunteers
Annual 4-day camp for children of incarcerated parents. Provided accommodations for the support volunteers and the use of our facility to conduct daily activities, evening programs and meals.
2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and upcoming 2023

Wounded Warriors - Kaneohe - Pastor Steve Jensen

Pascual Ohana, HEP, Inc. staff – Volunteers

Provided activities & special lunch for Wounded Warriors at Big Island facility
2013, 2014, 2015, 2019

Salvation Army Family Intervention – JoAnne Medeiros

Pascual Ohana & HEP, Inc. Staff – Volunteers

Provided accommodations for staff and use of our facility for activities
2018

Word of Life ~ Blessing Crew – Tammy & Warren

Pascual Ohana and HEP, Inc. Staff – Volunteers

Provided housing, meals, and activity space
Supported Blessing Crew thru Big Island community outreach projects

LightHouse Outreach Center - Pastor Joe Hunkin

Pascual Ohana and HEP, Inc. Staff – Volunteers

Provided housing, meals, and space for conduct of outreach activities
Supported Big Island Camp and many O‘ahu outreach activities

Project Grad – Moanalua High School

Pascual Ohana and HEP, Inc. Staff - Volunteers

Supported activities for seniors on the Big Island

From: [Pam Yagi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony submittal: May 12, 2023 BLNR Meeting
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:08:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Hilton Fireworks Permit_Hilton Grand Vacation.pdf](#)

Aloha,

RE: Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach every Friday from May 26, 2023 to May 24, 2024, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.

Please see attached testimony. Mahalo for your consideration.
Mahalo,

Pam Yagi
General Manager
HGV Hilton Hawaiian Village

T 808-983-7901 C 808-265-5500
1811 Ala Moana Blvd.
E pam.yagi@hgv.com W hiltongrandvacations.com

Hilton
GRAND VACATIONS



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May 10, 2023

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, H 196813

Re: Testimony of Linda Rodrigues on the Hilton Hawaiian Village Permit

Dear Chairperson Chang,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Hilton Hawaiian Village permit for the Friday Night Fireworks.

The Friday Night Fireworks are one of the few traditions that is favorite for both visitors and locals. Many local families enjoy watching the fireworks on Friday evening as a special kick off to the weekend. At Hilton Grand Vacations our 515,000 members, dream off experiencing Hawaii and the iconic Hilton Hawaiian Village fireworks show from their balconies.

The impact that this has had on local businesses has been monumental. Restaurants, catamaran companies and real estate companies have offered specific activities and views as a result to this tradition. This all ultimately leads to stronger job demand and opportunities for local workers in the hospitality and restaurant industry.

To cancel the Friday Night Fireworks would ultimately be a detriment to local businesses that are only now beginning to recover from the pandemic.

Very truly yours,

Linda Rodrigues
SVP of Marketing, Hawaii Region

From: [Amy Bloch](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Friday Night Fireworks
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 5:26:17 PM

Aloha,

Please continue the Friday night fireworks. They are so pretty! It makes my work week! :)

Best,
Amy Horikoshi

Date: 5/11/23

To: DLNR Land Board at blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 97809

From: Pam Sumimoto
46-261 Kahuhipa St A312
Kaneohe, HI 96744

RE: Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From May 26, 2023, to May 24, 2024, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the Friday Night Fireworks at Waikiki Beach.

This Fireworks show is an important part of our family's weekend activities and we look forward to it every weekend. Please vote to continue this show for us locals and visitors alike.

Mahalo

Pam Sumimoto

Pam Sumimoto
Kaneohe, HI

5/8/2023

Agenda Item D-6: Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From May 26, 2023, to May 24, 2024, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.

Dear Chairperson Chang and Board Members:

I respectfully request that you grant this permit to allow continuation of the iconic Friday evening public fireworks displays.

Enjoyed by countless visitors and residents for over 30 years, the weekly Hilton Hawaiian Village fireworks displays have become a hallmark/symbol of Waikiki – benefitting numerous hotels, restaurants, and shops. Continuing this tradition reassures visitors and our community that tourism is rebounding and thriving (hopefully helping to stem the migration of families to the mainland).

Opposition to the permit is centered around fireworks debris falling on the beaches and into the ocean. Family-owned Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics and employees are very committed to our environment – diligently retrieving debris from fireworks (as well as cups, straws, cigarette butts, food wrappers) from the shore and water the evenings after displays and early the following mornings, followed by midweek scans and debris retrieval. All our beaches should be as well-kept.

As are many visitors and residents, my family and guests are always in awe of the spectacular fireworks displays – please allow this tradition to continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kisan Jo', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kisan Jo

From: [Chie Koto-Mughal](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HHV Fireworks
Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 1:40:48 PM

I love weekly Friday night Fireworks at Hilton Hawaiian Village.
My customers are enjoying too !
Please continue !!

Mahalo,
Chie Koto-Mughal

May 12, 2023 | 9:15am

Written Testimony of Kekoa Lancaster

LAND DIVISION

#6 Testimony in **SUPPORT** of Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From May 26, 2023, to May 24, 2024, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.

Aloha, my name is Kekoa Lancaster. Born on the island of Oahu, I am Native Hawaiian with a strong commitment to our Hawaiian culture. Today, I respectfully and humbly submit written testimony in FULL SUPPORT of Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. and its dedication to Hawai`i with its weekly Aerial Fireworks Display in Waikiki, Hawaii. This event is the only weekly show that successfully brings together Hawai`i's local and tourist population alike to celebrate what has become a tradition in Hawai`i. While I am employed full time elsewhere, I am fortunate to also be a part of the Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics team because not only do I enjoy all of the in's and out's of pyrotechnics, and this environment allows me to be hands-on legally while learning how to do so safely, it also allows me to continue to live in Hawai`i where the cost of living pretty much requires its residents to have more than 1 job just to survive. Our weekly Friday shows give me an opportunity to see Hawai`i from another perspective, one that puts memorable smiles on people's faces and shows me as well as all of those around me that Hawai`i is truly the melting pot of the world. A place where diversity comes together to enjoy each other's company, as one people. That in itself, is worth all the work involved with fighting traffic to get to Waikiki on Fridays, setting up our show, talking to the crowd and making sure they are safe at all times, and at the end, working together to mālama the `āina to ensure that our beaches are safe for future generations. All of us who work at Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. are committed to Hawai`i and we want to be a part of the solution that helps to preserve the tradition of our weekly Aerial Fireworks Display for years to come. Our team, understands how important it is for us to be as thorough as possible after our shows, during our clean up process and if our company is granted a permit for another year, we commit to putting in the necessary time to do more research and work together to consider all of the options available to develop a clean up plan that is acceptable and that protects Hawai`i's people, environment and especially our oceans.

Mahalo for your consideration.

From: [Robert Martin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 12, 2023 BLNR Agenda Item: FRIDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS ON DUKE'S BEACH
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 2:17:11 PM

TO THE HONORABLE BLNR MEMBERS:

My name is Robert Martin, and I serve the Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort in my capacity as President and CEO of Waikiki Beach Activities, Inc.

For the past 30 years my duties at Hilton have included the oversight of Pool, Beach and Pier operations on-and-adjacent-to Duke's Beach.

Consequently, I have observed hundreds of fireworks shows and can report the following:

1. I have never once been approached by either a guest or a local resident with a single complaint about the fireworks show, whether due to noise level, perceived pollution, disruption of quiet enjoyment, disturbance of animals, or cultural inappropriateness.
2. To the contrary, I have witnessed that at the end of each and every show, the viewing audience, consisting of both visitors and local families, always applauds and vocalizes their approval and enjoyment for about 30 seconds.
3. Following the closure of Hilton for nine months during the Covid lockdown, I was present for the restart of the weekly fireworks show in mid-December of 2021,. That particular show (attended by many hundreds of people on Duke's Beach) was filled with local families and individuals of all ages. The beach area between the Lagoon and Pier was packed with jubilant watchers, yet Hilton had not yet returned to normal occupancy, so the make-up of the crowd was mostly local residents who came out in support.
4. Insofar as Friday Night Fireworks has become a tradition much anticipated by residents and visitors alike, and thanks to Hilton's willingness to host it at no cost to the public, it is my belief that this tradition is good for Waikiki, good for Honolulu, good for the general public, and good for our visitors.
5. I petition the Board to please allow Hilton to continue this beloved public service as a way for those of us who work on-and-around our precious beaches to give back to our Hawaiian hosts for their continued support.

Mahalo nui loa,

Rob Martin

Aloha BLNR,

I am writing a testimony regarding D6 [Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From May 26, 2023, to May 24, 2024, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: \(1\) 2-3-037: portion of 021.](#)

In my personal honest opinion, we should keep Hilton Hawaiian Village Fireworks because it has become a weekly tradition of bringing families together. It has also brought many customers to the small businesses around the surrounding areas. Every Friday night, the bars surrounding the fireworks area get packed while other days it's quiet and not many people visit those bars and surrounding areas.

Growing up in Oahu, I always looked forward to these Friday fireworks shows and it has been a tradition of my family since 2005. We have been going ever since, supporting the wonderful people of Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics. This weekly tradition also gave me the opportunity to have a unique career path and pursue my dream of creating art in the sky when I turned 18.

When everything started to open after COVID and the Friday fireworks were on halt still, many tourists and locals were wondering when the fireworks were coming back or if there was even hope of the show returning. Yes it's a 4 minute show, but it brings so much happiness to so many people and for us Oahu residents, it symbolizes the start of our weekend. What happens if the fireworks stop? Many small businesses will suffer in the surrounding area, including dinner cruises will feel the effects if we lose Friday night fireworks.

Waikiki is so lucky to have such a unique and special weekly tradition. I believe it's one of the many different things that makes us stand out from anywhere else in the world, which is why I strongly believe we should keep Hilton's Friday night fireworks.

Thank you for your time,

Gabriel Miyashiro

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Before the State BLNR Land Board
Public Hearing on May 12, 2023, Agenda Item D-6

**Written testimony in support of weekly fireworks Show in Waikiki sponsored by the
Hilton Hawaiian Village**

The Friday evening fireworks display at the Hilton Hawaiian Village has become a highly anticipated experience enjoyed by both local families and visitors alike. During the shutdown of tourism in Hawaii, I vividly recall the event's absence sadly evident throughout our community. Many local families have for years gathered to enjoy a meal and watch their children play on the beach with excited anticipation of this show. Likewise for our visiting population, the memory of watching the fireworks over Waikiki is something that leaves a lasting impression and undoubtedly adds to their reasons to return.

For business owners like myself, a local family company in business since the 1920's, this show brings an increase in customers to our doors, a fact that cannot be undervalued as we all continue to recover from the devastating economic impact of the shutdown. A free event such as this is more valuable than ever in generating revenue for local businesses which equates to a bolstered economic benefit for all concerned.

Please consider the fantastic positive impact of allowing this great tradition to continue for everyone to enjoy. Please support the weekly fireworks show in Waikiki sponsored by the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Sincerely,



Ed Sultan
CEO

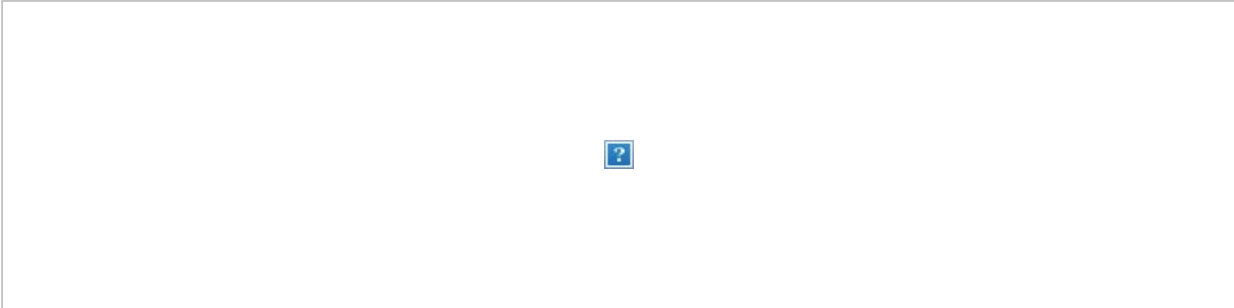
From: [Rona Young](#) on behalf of [Shigeki Yamane](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Agenda Item D-6 Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. Permit Extension
Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 4:44:56 PM
Attachments: [DLNR_Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics Petition_05.08.23.pdf](#)

Dear Chairperson Chang and Board Members:

On behalf of Prince Resorts Hawaii and the Prince Waikiki, I respectfully request that you continue to allow Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. to continue with the iconic Friday evening public fireworks displays.

Sincerely,

Rona Young | Exec Asst to President | Corp Marketing Manager
Prince Resorts Hawaii
100 Holomoana Street
Honolulu, HI 96815
808.944.4433 Direct |
www.PrinceWaikiki.com | www.MaunaKeaBeachHotel.com | www.WestinHapunaBeach.com



*Travel + Leisure #2 Prince Waikiki, #8 Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, #13 Westin Hapuna Beach Resort in Hawaii
Conde Nast #2 Prince Waikiki in Hawaii, #25 Mauna Kea Beach Hotel in Hawaii
Tripadvisor #3 Prince Waikiki on O'ahu*



Prince Resorts Hawaii

May 8, 2023

RE: Agenda Item D-6: Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From May 26, 2023, to May 24, 2024, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021.

Dear Chairperson Chang and Board Members:

On behalf of Prince Resorts Hawaii and the Prince Waikiki, I respectfully request that you grant the above permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. allowing the continuation of the iconic Friday evening public fireworks displays.

As a weekly event, for over 30 years, the weekly Hilton Hawaiian Village fireworks displays have become a hallmark/symbol of Waikiki – benefitting numerous hotels, restaurants, and shops. It was so wonderful when the first Friday fireworks were set off post covid! Continuing this tradition reassures visitors and our community that tourism is rebounding and thriving.

Opposition to the permit is centered around fireworks debris falling on the beaches and into the ocean. Family-owned Hawaii Explosives and Pyrotechnics and employees are very committed to our environment – diligently retrieving debris from fireworks in addition to other debris polluting our shores, after displays and early the following mornings. They have been providing us with the added service of midweek scans and debris retrieval. Thanks to them our beaches are cleaner than might otherwise be the case.

As many of our guests, residents and visitors alike, are always in awe of the spectacular fireworks displays – please allow this tradition to continue.

Sincerely,

Shigeki Yamane
President
Prince Resorts Hawaii

From: tyamaki@rmhawaii.org
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May 12th Hearing Testimony for ISSUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT TO HAWAII EXPLOSIVES & PYROTECHNICS, INC. FOR AERIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT DUKE KAHANAMOKU
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:20:10 PM
Attachments: [Hilton Fireworks 2023 May 12.pdf](#)

Aloha!

Attached, please find the Retail Merchants of Hawaii's testimony for the May 12th hearing in STRONG SUPPORT of

- **ISSUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT TO HAWAII EXPLOSIVES & PYROTECHNICS, INC. FOR AERIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT DUKE KAHANAMOKU BEACH EVERY FRIDAY FROM MAY 26, 2023, TO MAY 24, 2024, WAIKIKI, HONOLULU, OAHU, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: PORTION OF 021.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to ring my bells. Wishing you a fabulous Happy Aloha Tuesday .

A Hui Hou Kākou

Tina Yamaki

President

Retail Merchants of Hawaii

3610 Waialae Ave

Honolulu, HI 96816

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**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII**

May 12, 2023

Re: ISSUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT TO HAWAII EXPLOSIVES & PYROTECHNICS, INC. FOR AERIAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT DUKE KAHANAMOKU BEACH EVERY FRIDAY FROM MAY 26, 2023, TO MAY 24, 2024, WAIKIKI, HONOLULU, OAHU, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: PORTION OF 021.

Good morning, Chair Chang, and members of the State of Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources Board of Directors. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between. The retail industry supports 27% of the jobs in Hawaii.

We are in strong support of the *Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday From May 26, 2023, to May 24, 2024, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu, TMK: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021*. This has been a tradition in Waikiki at the Hilton Hawaiian Village for over 35 years that is enjoyed by not only the visitors but our Kama`aina as well. We are aware that the cost of the fireworks has continuously been paid by the Hilton Hawaiian Village and it is a very expensive display to have every Friday. Because of the Hilton's generosity, visitors and locals alike get to enjoy a FREE fireworks show every Friday night like clockwork. This weekly event brings many local families together as they can be seen picnicking with their ohana not only on Waikiki beach but Magic Island, Ala Moana Beach Park, and beyond as well waiting for fireworks. We have seen marriage proposals with the fireworks lighting up the sky. And we see the joy and happiness it brings to so many who can see it even outside of Waikiki. The fireworks is a great way to celebrate pau hana Friday and kick off the weekend.

Retailers are one of the hardest hit industries due to the pandemic. We have seen sales are down and awfully slow for many of our retailers who are dependent on foreign customers who are currently NOT traveling to Hawaii. Stores continue to endure astronomical increases in shipping costs and in the price of goods from manufacturers and wholesalers. And last year with the unexpected increase in employee wages at the end of the year when the minimum wage was raised. Many retailers are still struggling to pay back the debt incurred during the pandemic. We have seen how the fireworks at the Hilton Hawaiian Village attracts many customers into the businesses before and after the fireworks display. This includes retail stores, restaurants, and attractions not only in Waikiki but the Ala Moana area as well as the fireworks can be seen there. There are so many local businesses who benefit from the weekly firework show.

We urge your support to continue the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Friday Night Firework show. This is one of the very few FREE events offered that visitors and our locals can enjoy. It would be very sad and devastating to many if this tradition and island staple went away.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

From: [Janelle Wong](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Friday Night Fireworks
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:37:17 AM

Good morning,

I am writing in support of the Friday Night Fireworks at Waikiki Beach.

This Fireworks show is great for both local families and visitors alike. Please vote to continue this show.

Thank you!

Janelle Wong
Hawaii Kai