



April 19, 2026

Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street Room 103
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT – Right-of-Entry (ROE) for Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics (Hilton Hawaiian Village Fireworks)

Aloha Acting Chair Ryan Kanaka'ole and Members of the Commission,

My name is Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya, I am the grandniece of legendary waterman - Uncle Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, daughter of JoAnne Kamuela Kahanamoku a master artist who helped preserve Hawaiian culture.

My testimony is to express my full support for the ongoing Right-of-Entry (ROE), permit for Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics regarding the Friday night fireworks at the beautiful Duke Paoa Kahanamoku Beach of the grounds of Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki. At one time the Paoa family owned most of the 20 acres which the Hilton Hawaiian Village now occupies, the Duke lived and learned to swim in these waters the old-fashioned way. Some say you can still feel the "mana" (energy-spirit) of Duke and the Paoa family here on their former aina.

This event is a vital part of "family night" in Waikiki. It provides a beautiful space where local families can gather at the lagoon, enjoy dinner with their children and grandchildren, and experience a world-class fireworks show. It brings our community together in a positive, healthy way.

Furthermore, I want to emphasize that Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics has been an outstanding community partner. I have worked with them since 2014 through the City and County's "Sunset on the Beach" programs. They have consistently provided affordable, professional, and legal fireworks shows for our non-profit events, including our 8th Annual Legacy Prince Kuhio Festival held this year on Prince Kuhio Day, March 26th. Their commitment to making these shows accessible for our kupuna and families

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in West Oahu and Hawaiian Homelands at Kalani'ana'ole Beach Park is truly appreciated.

They work hard to ensure the community can celebrate our heritage with joy and pride.

I urge the Commission for your continued support of this company and this program. Many of our culture traditions are being fading away - please do not take away this special community tradition from our community or the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Mahalo Ke Akua,
Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya
89-1101 Pohakupalena Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96702
(808) 723-9161

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Aloha Acting Chair Ryan Kanaka'ole and Members of the Commission,

On behalf of Back to the Beginning, a non-profit organization located along the Waianae Coast, we are writing to express our full support for the ongoing Right-of-Entry (ROE) permit for Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics regarding the Friday night fireworks at the beautiful Duke Kahanamoku Beach.

The weekly Friday night fireworks are a vital part of “family night” in Waikiki. It provides a beautiful space where local families can gather at the lagoon, enjoy dinner with their children and grandchildren, and experience a world-class fireworks show free of charge. It brings our community together in a positive, healthy way.

Furthermore, I want to emphasize that Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics has been an outstanding community partner. They have consistently provided affordable, professional, and legal fireworks shows for our non-profit events, including our 8th Annual Legacy Prince Kuhio Festival held this year on Prince Kuhio Day, March 26th. Their commitment to making these shows accessible for our kupuna and families in West Oahu and Hawaiian Homelands at Kalani'ana'ole Beach Park is truly appreciated.

They work hard to ensure the community can celebrate our heritage with joy and pride. I urge the Commission for your continued support of this company and this program. Many of our culture traditions are being fading away – please do not take away this special community tradition from our community or the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Mahalo,

Randy Harakal

President, Back to the Beginning