

April 22, 2026

Regarding: Agenda Item D-8 - Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosive & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for Aerial Fireworks Display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach Every Friday from June 5, 2026, through May 28, 2027, Waikiki, Honolulu, Oahu. Tax Map Key: (1) 2-3-037: portion of 021

Dear 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 it is a person trying to impress their date (I am guilty of this and happy to say that it has worked because I have been with my better half for many years now with children), having dinner at 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 the locals and tourists alike and I know it helps the local businesses thrive whether it's our hotels, restaurants, vendors, and even the dinner boat cruises.

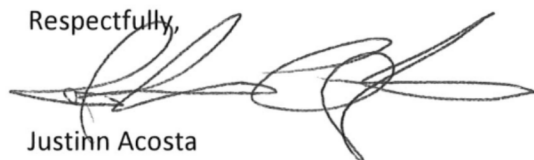
As a bonus, I am one of many local employees that work for this local small business. I know first-hand what it takes to put on this show and what goes on afterwards. Safety First! We start by roping off an area that meets/exceeds NFPA regulations for the setup for an aerial display while kindly asking for any person in that zone to relocate to another part of the beach. For the most part, when they ask "Why?" and we let them know it's for the fireworks, we get a response of excitement. Twenty to Thirty minutes to showtime, we "lockdown" the perimeter and make sure we have the public at a safe distance for firing an aerial firework show. Once the first shot is fired until the last, all you hear is "Oohs" and "Aahs" with smiles on their faces. Majority of them have their phones out recording the show for memories and to share on social media (free advertisement) and without fail, at the end of the show, you can hear cheers, clapping, and of course the "CHEEEHOOOO!"

After the show, it's pack up and clean-up time. This is where we "Shine". While some of us pack up the truck with all equipment used to shoot the show, a handful of the team starts the clean-up. Something many of the public don't realize happens. A couple of the team suits up in waders and starts removing any floating debris from the water, while others start raking the sand. We not only pick up firework debris, but we also pick up any trash left behind by beachgoers (i.e. plastic cups, plastic utensils, plastic sand toys, and other trash).

As a local small business with local employees, Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. genuinely want our beaches and oceans clean often volunteering in clean-ups around the island. 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-standing Friday night firework "tradition".

Respectfully,

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

Justinn Acosta