



Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

On behalf of the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in response to the comments submitted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding potential beach impacts and public safety considerations associated with permitted firework events.

We submit this written testimony on behalf of the applicant, in which we respectfully acknowledge OHA's concerns related to crowd presence, beach sand conditions, and general public safety during large gatherings. While the project is appropriately exempt from Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343 review, we wish to clarify that these concerns are actively and thoughtfully addressed through established operational practices, including a robust and ongoing beach maintenance and sand management program.

The beachfront area is subject to consistent, routine maintenance designed to preserve sand quality, distribution, and public safety. This program, conducted by the Hilton Hawaiian Village, includes regular mechanical sand raking to mitigate compaction, redistribute displaced sand, and maintain safe and walkable beach conditions following periods of high use.

To further enhance these efforts, the Hilton Hawaiian Village has recently invested in the purchase of a dedicated beach raking tractor, specifically selected for appropriate and environmentally responsible beach maintenance. This equipment allows for:

- Consistent grooming of the sand surface
- Removal of debris and foreign objects resulting from normal beach use
- Redistribution of sand affected by foot traffic or natural movement
- Improved efficiency and responsiveness following high-attendance events

Beach raking is conducted by trained personnel of the Hilton Hawaiian Village and in coordination with environmental best practices, ensuring that maintenance activities are performed responsibly and without unnecessary disturbance to the coastal environment.

Attendance associated with fireworks displays and similar events occurs intermittently and for short durations. Following such events, post-event inspections and remedial beach grooming are conducted as part of standard operating procedures. These actions ensure that sand conditions are promptly restored to customary standards and that the beach remains safe and accessible for public use.



It is important to note that beach use and foot traffic are inherent and ongoing aspects of a public beachfront, irrespective of special events. The outlined maintenance program is designed to address both routine daily use and temporary increases in activity.

With respect to public safety, this remains a priority during all events. Crowd flow management measures - including staffing, coordination with designated security, and established emergency protocols—are already in place and adjusted based on expected conditions. These practices are refined over time based on operational experience and provide a framework that supports both guests and the general public during periods of increased attendance.

In closing, the we respectfully submit this testimony to reflect that the existing beach maintenance program, combined with the investment in specialized equipment and established operational protocols, adequately addresses the concerns raised regarding beach sand condition and public safety. These efforts demonstrate a proactive commitment to stewardship of the shoreline and to responsible management of permitted activities.

For these reasons, we believe that additional conditions or reconsideration of the exemption is not warranted. We remain committed to working collaboratively with regulatory agencies and stakeholders to ensure continued care of the beach and a safe, enjoyable environment for all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Anger

Kyle Anger
Hotel Manager
Hilton Hawaiian Village
April 24th, 2026



April 24, 2026

Re: Support for Right-of-Entry Permit – Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. (PSF No. 260D-035)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Julie Heckman, Executive Director of the American Pyrotechnics Association. I am writing in support of the request by Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. for the continued issuance of a Right-of-Entry Permit for the weekly Friday fireworks display at Duke Kahanamoku Beach.

From an industry perspective, HIPyro's operations reflect strong alignment with established Best Management Practices, including site-specific planning, controlled operations, and comprehensive post-event cleanup. These practices are designed specifically for sensitive environments such as coastal public spaces.

Importantly, this event has been conducted at this location for over 30 years without documented significant environmental impact. Current operations go further, incorporating structured sustainability efforts, including measurable goals to reduce emissions, debris, and operational waste.

Independent findings show that fireworks-related debris is minimal, while cleanup efforts routinely remove substantial amounts of non-firework-related trash from the area. This reflects not only responsible operations, but a net positive contribution to site conditions.

Concerns regarding crowd flow and beach conditions are appropriate for consideration. However, these factors are already addressed through established safety zones, limited event duration, and coordinated on-site management. The long operational history without documented issues further supports this.

The Waikiki fireworks display remains a valued, no-cost community event that supports local businesses, enhances visitor experience, and contributes to the public's enjoyment of this shared space.

For these reasons, I respectfully support approval of this permit.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie L. Heckman
Executive Director

Preserving & Promoting an American Tradition

4891 Long Beach Rd., SE, Suite 3, Box #291 • Southport, NC 28461 • (301) 907-8181 • info@americanpyro.com



April 24, 2026

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: Support for Right-of-Entry Permit – Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. (PSF No. 26OD-035)

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Board,

I am writing in strong support of the issuance of the Right-of-Entry Permit to Hawaii Explosives & Pyrotechnics, Inc. (HIPyro) for the continuation of the weekly Friday fireworks displays at Duke Kahanamoku Beach.

As the Executive Director of the American Pyrotechnics Association (APA), I am familiar with the industry's Best Management Practices (BMPs), which emphasize safety, environmental responsibility, site-specific planning, and post-event accountability. HIPyro's operations, as documented in their 2025–2026 Sustainability Report, reflect a clear alignment with these standards and demonstrate a professional commitment to continuous environmental improvement.

HIPyro has implemented a structured and measurable sustainability framework, including its "30 by 30" initiative, which targets reductions in emissions, debris, waste generation, and energy use. These goals are supported by operational practices already in place, including careful product selection, controlled setup procedures, and comprehensive post-event cleanup and recovery efforts.

Importantly, these practices are not theoretical. Independent findings indicate that fireworks-related debris is minimal, while HIPyro's cleanup efforts consistently result in the removal of substantial amounts of non-firework-related waste from the surrounding beach and ocean areas. This reflects a net positive contribution to site conditions and reinforces the company's commitment to environmental stewardship in coastal environments.

The concerns raised regarding crowd flow management and potential impacts to beach conditions are valid considerations for any public event. However, these factors are inherently addressed within APA Best Management Practices and HIPyro's established operating procedures. These include defined safety zones, controlled event durations, coordinated crew

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deployment, and post-event site inspections and restoration. Additionally, the event's long history—spanning more than 30 years at this location—has not resulted in documented issues related to crowd control or adverse environmental effects.

Where appropriate, continued documentation of attendance patterns and site conditions could further strengthen transparency and public confidence. HIPyro's demonstrated commitment to structured environmental management and continuous improvement positions them well to incorporate such measures as part of their ongoing operations.

Beyond environmental considerations, the weekly Waikiki fireworks display provides significant public and economic benefits. It is a longstanding, no-cost community event that contributes to resident enjoyment, supports local businesses, and enhances Hawai'i's global visitor experience.

Based on the applicant's proven track record, alignment with APA Best Management Practices, and ongoing investment in sustainability and environmental accountability, I respectfully support the approval of this permit.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Julie L. Heckman
Executive Director