



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3065/Telephone 547-7000

Charles K. Djou

Councilmember, District IV

Chair, Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Committee

Phone: (808) 768-5004 / Facsimile: (808) 768-5011

Email: cdjou@honolulu.gov

Web: www.honolulu.gov/council/d4

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For More Information, Please Contact:
Councilmember Charles K. Djou
Phone: (808) 265-2858

COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: COUNTIES SHOULD REGULATE FIREWORKS

This afternoon, Executive Matters and Legal Affairs Committee will hear Resolution 09-02, introduced by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu). This proposal asks the Legislature to give the counties the power to regulate fireworks.

"The past New Year's Eve saw an increasing proliferation of illegal aerial fireworks - once only used by licensed professionals - and widespread disregard for the time limits on fireworks usage. This a problem we must address," stated Councilmember Djou. "Because the counties bear the burden of enforcement and responding to emergencies created by fireworks, the counties should have the authority to regulate and restrict fireworks use. While I respect the more rural neighbor island communities may have a different perspective from the more urbanized Oahu, this past New Year's Eve again showed the problems and dangers with fireworks in Honolulu. The police are not able to effectively enforce existing fireworks legislation and the already dangerous environment of late night New Year's Eve parties mixed with the smoke-generated fog of fireworks makes the City roads very dangerous. I am not convinced the benefit of fireworks outweigh the serious dangers and real cost to City taxpayers."

Councilmember Djou is chair of the Executive Matters and Legal Affairs Committee. If Djou's resolution passes committee this afternoon, it will go to the council floor for final passage on January 28.

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