



# CITY COUNCIL

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 28, 2009

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### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: GIVE THE CITY FIREWORKS REGULATION POWER**

Today, the City Council is expected to approve Resolution 09-02, introduced by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), asking the Legislature to give the counties the power to regulate fireworks.

"Today, the City Council sent a strong message to the Legislature that the increasing proliferation of illegal aerial fireworks, once only used by licensed professionals, and widespread disregard for the time limits on fireworks usage is a major problem in Honolulu," stated Councilmember Djou. "Because the counties bear the cost for 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. The limited enjoyment of fireworks does not outweigh the serious dangers and real cost to City taxpayers."

The 2009 Legislature is examining legislation to return the power to regulate fireworks back to the counties.

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