
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF SMOKE DETECTORS IN EVERY
HAWAII HOME BY 2010.

1 WHEREAS, fire safety in the state and the safety of its
2 citizens are of great concern to every legislator, public
3 servant, and first responder; and
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5 WHEREAS, after prevention, smoke detectors are the first
6 line of defense against fire and can cut nearly in half the risk
7 of death in a house fire; and
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9 WHEREAS, in recent years, approximately three-fifths of
10 house fire deaths occurred in homes without smoke detectors; and
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12 WHEREAS, in 2006, a total of 2,580 people died in 412,500
13 house fires that resulted in more than \$11,000,000,000 in
14 property damage; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Fire Department, the 16th largest fire
17 department in the nation, responds to over 10,000 fires
18 annually; and
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20 WHEREAS, with a house fire occurring in this country every
21 86 seconds, the diligence, determination, and devotion of
22 Hawaii's firefighters can be supported by the installation of a
23 smoke detector in every Hawaii home; and
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25 WHEREAS, inexpensive household smoke detectors can mean the
26 difference between life and death by sounding an early warning
27 in the event of a fire and alerting people before they are
28 overcome by smoke and other poisonous gases; and
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30 WHEREAS, most low-income families in Hawaii cannot afford
31 home smoke detectors; and
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33 WHEREAS, low-income families are defined as families
34 qualifying for the State's general assistance program or the
35 federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program; and



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2 WHEREAS, low-income families in Hawaii deserve the
3 protection that smoke detectors can provide; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's senior citizens are also a vulnerable
6 population when it comes to house fires, and sometimes need
7 assistance with installing or maintaining a smoke detector; and
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9 WHEREAS, in states that observe daylight savings time, the
10 day used to convert to daylight savings time is also used to
11 check smoke detector batteries and ensure the safe operation of
12 smoke detectors; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
16 Session of 2008, that this body supports the installation and
17 use of smoke detectors in every Hawaii home by 2010; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that fire departments throughout
20 Hawaii are urged to designate April 15 as the day to remind
21 Hawaii's residents to check the batteries in their smoke
22 detectors and to make sure they operate effectively; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Fire Chiefs
25 Association and Hawaii State Fire Council are requested to
26 investigate the possibility of donating and distributing smoke
27 detectors to low-income families; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local fire departments are
30 requested to consider implementation of a program to provide
31 free smoke detectors in exchange for a free on-site fire safety
32 inspection of low-income family homes; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Public Housing
35 Authority is requested to consider installing smoke detectors in
36 all public housing projects in Hawaii and requiring a working
37 smoke detector as a requirement of residency; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local fire departments and the
40 Hawaii State Fire Council make every effort to develop an
41 outreach program with senior citizen-focused organizations to
42 educate people about the need for our senior citizens to be
43 safeguarded with a smoke detector properly installed and
44 maintained in their home; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's fire departments and senior citizen advocate groups and organizations are urged to designate a day during Fire Prevention Week, which occurs ever October, as "Fire Safe Senior Day," for the purpose of educating seniors about the need for these life-saving devices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to all county fire chiefs, the Chair of the State Fire Council, Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Director of the Executive Office on Aging, and President of AARP Hawaii.

