

Linda Lingle
Governor



3:46 pm
1-23-08

Darwin L.D. Ching
Director

LATE
Testimony

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
State Fire Council
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 23, 2008

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Green:

Subject: H.B. 2059 - Relating to Cigarettes

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support H.B. 2059, which proposes to prohibit the sale of cigarettes in Hawaii that are not reduced ignition propensity or "fire-safe" beginning July 1, 2009, and also sets civil fines and requires the attorney general to adopt rules to enforce the law.

H.B. 2059 will help reduce the number of fire incidents, dollar loss, and injuries statewide. Between 2003 and 2005, 216 fires were caused by cigarettes and resulted in \$283,570 in property damage and three injuries.

The SFC and the HFD request your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 2059.

Should you have any questions, please call Acting SFC Administrator William H. Melemai III at 723-7152.

Sincerely,

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/WHM:jl