

Harry Kim
Mayor



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FIRE DEPARTMENT

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April 1, 2008

LATE

VIA FACSIMILE 1-800-586-6659

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker:

**SUBJECT: HB 2376, HD 1, RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL
HEARING DATE: APRIL 2, 2008, 10:25 A.M.**

As the Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department, I would like to ask for your support of HB 2376, HD1, which will require the State Fire Council to develop a statewide brushfire mitigation plan and appropriate funding to implement a public education program on brushfire prevention and safety.

Large wildland fires continue to plague the state, endanger lives and property, tax fire protection resources for communities, and destroy the environment and irreplaceable plan and wildlife. The plan will seek to identify private and public methods of brushfire reduction, develop public education and prevention programs, and explore additional resources to prevent and mitigate the effects of brushfires.

In order to accomplish these objectives, an appropriation for funds to staff the State Fire Council is necessary. It is hoped and desired that should this measure be adopted, the establishment and location of these positions will ensure that each County has a fair and equitable representation and oversight.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration on this matter as it will greatly increase the State Fire Council's productivity and benefit communities and fire departments statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Darryl Oliveira in black ink.

DARRYL OLIVEIRA
Fire Chief

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