

To: PSM Committee
From: Tom McAuliffe
Subj: Testimony on HR #126 (Smoke Detectors)

I whole heartedly support HR 126 and the goal of having a Smoke detector in every Hawai'i home by 2010 and providing low income and public housing residents with free smoke detectors in exchange for a free fire safety inspection.

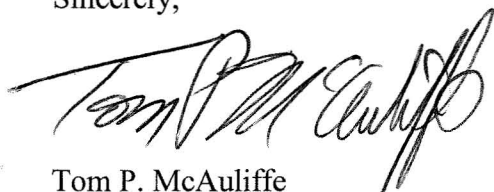
Numerous studies have shown that smoke detectors can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 50%. And the cost for these simple smoke detectors has dropped radically in recent years. I saw one in City Mill last week for under \$5!

With the overall costs fire has to our communities both from the expense of having the fire department come put out a fire and the resulting, sometimes toxic, aftermath, a smoke detector in every Hawaii home is simply a wise and cost effective investment. Making Hawaii's residents aware of how important this can be is half the battle and having a specific day to check the smoke detectors operation (April 15th Tax day?) is also essential in this effort.

For those low income families in Hawaii that can not afford smoke detectors for the home I and others, working with the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association or other umbrella organizations, are willing to volunteer our time to canvass donations from smoke detector manufacturers.

I hope the PSM Committee, the House and the Senate can see the wisdom of passing this simple resolution. Coming from a family of firefighters with my Grandfather being the first Fire Chief of Southfield, Mi. and responsible for helping to bring Paramedics into the city of Detroit back in the early 60's, as well as being a past volunteer firefighter myself, I understand the importance of fire prevention. I welcome any questions and would be happy to testify in person if needed.

Sincerely,



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