

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



KENNETH G. SILVA  
FIRE CHIEF

ALVIN K. TOMITA  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

March 20, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 425  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Evans:

Subject: H.C.R. 147/H.R. 126 Supporting the Installation and Use of Smoke Detectors  
in Every Home by 2010

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports the intent of H.C.R. 147/H.R. 126, which would support the installation and use of smoke detectors in every Hawaii home by 2010. The HFD provides fire safety education for households through various media venues and group presentations. Via grant funds, we are presently developing a smoke alarm installation program targeting senior citizens. Senior citizens are an identified at-risk group for fire tragedies, along with young children and persons with disabilities. Practicing a family escape plan to ensure that everyone knows exactly what to do when a smoke alarm sounds also contributes to surviving a fire. The HFD is willing to explore the possibility of donating and distributing smoke alarms to low-income families.

Smoke alarms play a vital role in reducing deaths and injuries from fire and have contributed to an almost 50% decrease in fire deaths since the late 1970s. The HFD is a strong advocate for the use and maintenance of smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are an early warning device that alerts occupants of a fire condition and allows time to evacuate the premises before conditions become untenable. Designating a day to remind Hawaii residents to replace the batteries in their smoke detectors to ensure they operate properly is an excellent component of this resolution. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms save lives and protect against injury and loss due to fire.

The HFD requests your committee's support on the passage of H.C.R. 147/H.R. 126.

The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair  
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Should you have any questions, please call HFD Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva".

KENNETH G. SILVA  
Fire Chief

KGS/LR:bn