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February 21, 2008

Committee on Ways & Means

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair / Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President

Re: SB 2720, SD1 RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL

Chairs & Committee Members:

We support SB 2720, SD1 as long overdue. The DLIR is home for the State Fire Council by default. DLIR however has not felt the need to fund the State Fire Council for its duties. This measure effectively accomplishes that purpose. The Fire Council serves an important purpose in government.

Linda Lingle
Governor

Darwin L.D. Ching
Director



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

February 20, 2008

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

Dear Chair Baker:

Subject: S.B. 2720, S.D. 1 Relating to the State Fire Council

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 S.B. 2720, S.D. 1, which creates two full-time administrative positions to enable the SFC to more effectively meet its statutory responsibilities under Chapter 132 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and to identify the funding source for said positions.

The SFC was created in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's Office, which was a fully-funded state agency. Under the present organization, the SFC has had difficulty in amending the state fire code; pursuing and administering federal grants; and coordinating statewide training, data collection, and other council duties because such work must be performed by county fire department personnel, thus depriving the county fire departments of the services of its members.

This bill would greatly increase the productivity of the SFC and benefit fire departments statewide.

The SFC and the HFD request your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2720, S.D. 1.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

Sincerely,

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:cn