

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

March 25, 2008

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro:

Subject: S.B. 2720, S.D. 2 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. 2, which creates two administrative positions for the SFC to enable it to 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. The SFC staff currently consists of only one part-time person funded by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. 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.

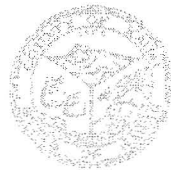
The SFC and the HFD request your committee's support on the passage of this bill.

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

Sincerely,

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:bh



COUNTY OF KAUAI
Fire Department
Mo'ikeha Building
4444 Rice Street, Suite 295
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

March 24, 2008

The Honorable Marcus R. Ohiro, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro:

Subject: S.B. 2720, S.D. 2 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Robert Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC and the KFD support S.B. 2720, S.D. 2, which creates two administrative positions for the SFC to enable it to 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. The SFC staff currently consists of only one part-time person funded by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. 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 KFD request your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2720, S.D. 2.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (808) 241-6500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman".

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld