
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY AND COSTS OF INSTALLING AND RETROFITTING RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY WITH AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION AGENCY STANDARDS.

1 WHEREAS, according to the United States Fire
2 Administration, in 2005, there were 396,000 residential fires
3 that caused 3,055 deaths, 13,825 injuries, and \$6,900,000,000 in
4 property damage; and

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6 WHEREAS, the health, safety, and welfare of elderly
7 residents who live in residential care homes in Hawaii is of
8 paramount importance to the State; and

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10 WHEREAS, a crucial component of ensuring the safety of
11 elderly residents and their property is the provision of
12 adequate and effective fire protection in residential care homes
13 in which these elderly residents live; and

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15 WHEREAS, compared to younger people, elderly residents
16 generally are not as physically mobile and do not hear as well;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, these deficiencies expose them to increased danger
20 when reacting to a fire alarm to evacuate a residence during a
21 fire; and

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23 WHEREAS, residences in which there is a high concentration
24 of elderly people are particularly in need of adequate and
25 effective fire protection; and

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27 WHEREAS, it is the official position of the Federal
28 Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration
29 that all Americans should be protected against death, injury,
30 and property loss resulting from fire in their residences and



1 that all homes should be equipped with smoke alarms and
2 automatic fire sprinklers; and

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4 WHEREAS, smoke alarms can only alert occupants of a fire
5 whereas automatic sprinkler systems can actually extinguish
6 fires; and

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8 WHEREAS, studies by the United States Fire Administration
9 indicate that the installation of residential fire sprinkler
10 systems could have saved thousands of lives, prevented many
11 injuries, and eliminated hundreds of millions of dollars in
12 property losses; and

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14 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that residents in
15 residential care homes for the elderly are adequately and
16 effectively protected from death and injury from fires; now,
17 therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the State Fire Council is
22 requested to examine the feasibility and costs of installing and
23 retrofitting residential care homes for the elderly with
24 automatic sprinkler systems in accordance with National Fire
25 Protection Agency standards; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Fire Council is
28 requested to include the estimated costs of installing automatic
29 sprinkler systems in new construction and retrofitting existing
30 buildings with automatic sprinkler systems; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Fire Council is
33 requested to report its findings and recommendations, including
34 any proposed legislation, with respect to the feasibility and
35 costs of installing and retrofitting automatic sprinkler systems
36 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
37 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

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H.C.R. NO. 243

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to fire chiefs of the
3 counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and the City and County of
4 Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 18 2009

