

HB 685, HD2

Measure Title:

RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL

Report Title:

State Fire Council Package

Description:

Authorizes the establishment of staff positions for the state fire council to accomplish its duties and responsibilities. (HB685 HD2)



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

March 18, 2009

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: H.B. 685, H.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 H.B. 685, H.D. 2, which proposes to allow the SFC to hire personnel to accomplish its duties and responsibilities but recommends revising the effective date in Section 4 to "upon its approval."

The SFC, comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs, 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 primarily uses county fire department personnel to accomplish council duties, thus depriving county fire departments of the time and services of its members. These duties include amending and adopting the state fire code, pursuing and administering federal grants, and implementing and administering a statewide reduced ignition propensity cigarette program. The fees collected from cigarette manufacturers for a reduced ignition propensity cigarette program will be an eventual funding source amounting to approximately \$375,000 triennially.

The SFC's staff consists of only one part-time person funded by the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to which the SFC is administratively attached. In addition, the SFC is a member of the State Building Code Council and participates in the state building code adoption process; coordinates statewide fire training and data collection; and corresponds with national organizations on statewide fire issues.

This bill would greatly increase the SFC's productivity and benefit communities and fire departments statewide.

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair

Page 2

March 18, 2009

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 685, H.D. 2, with an effective date upon its approval.

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

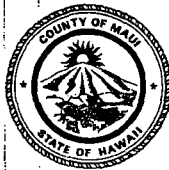
Sincerely,

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

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:bh

**CHARMAINE TAVARES
MAYOR**



**JEFFREY A. MURRAY
CHIEF**

**ROBERT M. SHIMADA
DEPUTY CHIEF**

**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
(808) 270-7561
FAX (808) 270-7919
March 18, 2009

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 207
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: H.B. 685, H.D. 2 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Fire Chief, County of Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety (DOFAPS), and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The DOFAPS and the SFC support H.B. 685, H.D. 2, which proposes to allow the SFC to hire personnel to accomplish its duties and responsibilities. The SFC respectfully recommends revising the effective date in Section 4 to "upon its approval".

The SFC, comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs, 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 primarily uses county fire department personnel to accomplish council duties, thus depriving county fire departments of the time and services of its members. These duties include amending and adopting the state fire code, pursuing and administering federal grants, and implementing and administering a statewide reduced ignition propensity cigarette program. The fees collected from cigarette manufacturers for a reduced ignition propensity cigarette program will be an eventual funding source amounting to approximately \$375,000 triennially.

The SFC's staff consists of only one part-time person funded by the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to which the SFC is administratively attached. In addition, the SFC is a member of the State Building Code Council and participates in the state building code adoption process; coordinates statewide fire training and data collection; and corresponds with national organizations on statewide fire issues.

This bill would greatly increase the SFC's productivity and benefit communities and fire departments statewide.

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Page 2
March 18, 2009

The DOFAPS and the SFC urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 685, H.D. 2, with an effective date upon its approval.

Should you have any questions, please call Honolulu Fire Department's Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

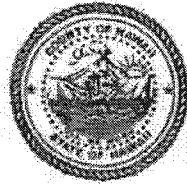
Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief

JAM:rk

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darryl J. Oliveira
Fire Chief

Glen F. I. Honda
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i

FIRE DEPARTMENT

25 Aupuni Street • Suite 103 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 981-8394 • Fax (808) 981-2037

March 19, 2009

TO : SENATOR WILL ESPERO, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

FROM : DARRYL OLIVEIRA, FIRE CHIEF
HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT : HB 685, HD 2, RELATING TO STATE FIRE COUNCIL.
DATE/TIME OF HEARING: MARCH 24, 2009 / 1:30 P.M.

I am Darryl Oliveira, Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department, and Vice Chair of the State Fire Council. Our department and State Fire Council support HB 685, HD 2, which creates administrative positions for the State Fire Council to enable it to meet its statutory responsibilities under Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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 State Fire Council 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.

The Hawaii Fire Department and State Fire Council request your committee's support on the passage of HB 685, HD 2.


DARRYL OLIVEIRA
Fire Chief

DO:lk



Sen. Will Espero

From: Gary [ginouye4@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 5:45 PM
To: Sen. Will Espero
Subject: HB658/ testimony/VIETNAM VETERANS OF MAUI COUNTY(VVMC)

Aloha Will:

As the VVMC President , representing the 5,000 Vietnam Veterans on Maui, WE are asking YOU and Your Committee to continue the support of the Addition of a second "Benefits Counselor" at our "Maui Office of Veterans Services"(OVS)

We have needed this additional Counselor for the last46 years but NOW it has become very Important to have him/her this year ;2009!

WE also estimate that about 1,000 Maui Iraqi Soldiers will become eligible for the services of our State OVS within the next 12 to 18 months. This will add to an already overburden caseload for our only Benefits Counselor.

The Physical and Mental Health of our 14.000 Maui Veterans eligible for using our Maui OVS services hangs in the Balance.!

WE have also collected over a hundred Petitions supportng the need for this HB658 and Our OVS Director Mark Moses has agreed that we need this additional Counselor and told me He supports it as well in a letter I gave to Angus McKelvey for Your Committee!!

Mfahalo for helping us Maui Veterans to get our OVS the additional Counselor we so Urgently NEED!

Mitch Skaggerberg

President VVMC