
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE
REQUIREMENT THAT AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLERS BE INSTALLED IN
NEW ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS.

1 WHEREAS, the State is concerned with the health, safety,
2 and welfare of its citizens; and
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4 WHEREAS, the State is concerned with providing fire
5 protection to its citizens and property, and is concerned with
6 protecting the safety of those fire fighters who respond to
7 emergencies in the State; and
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9 WHEREAS, fire departments in the United States responded to
10 an estimated 399,000 home structure fires in 2007, and these
11 fires caused 2,865 civilian deaths, 13,600 civilian injuries,
12 and \$7,400,000,000 in direct damage; and
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14 WHEREAS, approximately eighty-four per cent of all civilian
15 fire deaths in 2007 resulted from home structure fires, and an
16 average of eight people died in U.S. home fires every day; and
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18 WHEREAS, in the City and County of Honolulu alone there
19 were one hundred twenty home structure fires in 2007, resulting
20 in two civilian deaths, twenty-three civilian injuries, and
21 \$9,600,000 in direct damage; and
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23 WHEREAS, in the City and County of Honolulu, one hundred
24 per cent of all fire deaths, seventy-seven per cent of the fire
25 injuries, and fifty-one per cent of the fire-related dollar loss
26 in 2007 resulted from home structure fires; and
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28 WHEREAS, automatic fire sprinklers are a proven life-saving
29 system that responds quickly and effectively to the presence of
30 a nearby fire; and
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32 WHEREAS, the presence of sprinklers in the home reduces the
33 chance of death in a fire by approximately eighty per cent; and
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1 WHEREAS, people in homes with sprinklers are protected
2 against significant property loss, as sprinklers reduce the
3 average property loss by seventy-one per cent per fire; and
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5 WHEREAS, two international building codes, the
6 International Residential Code 2009 edition and the National
7 Fire Protection Association 5000 Building and Construction and
8 Safety Code 2009 edition, mandate fire sprinklers in new one-
9 and two-family construction; and
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11 WHEREAS, the operation of just one sprinkler head contains
12 fires approximately ninety per cent of the time; and
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14 WHEREAS, new construction is the most cost-effective method
15 to install fire sprinklers; and
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17 WHEREAS, the State Building Code Council is studying the
18 various issues related to implementing the requirement that
19 automatic fire sprinklers be installed in new one- and two-
20 family dwellings; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
24 of 2011, that the State Building Code Council is requested to
25 adopt the requirement that automatic fire sprinklers be
26 installed in new one- and two-family dwellings, in compliance
27 with the latest editions of nationally recognized safety codes;
28 and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller, the Chairperson of
32 the State Building Code Council, the Chairperson of the State
33 Fire Council, and the Fire Chief of each county.
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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names: Ryan, J. C., H. D., Sarah, Marilyn B. Lee]