

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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February 9, 2011

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 326  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads:

Subject: H.B. 965 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. 965, which proposes to allow the SFC to hire two full-time personnel to accomplish its responsibilities.

The SFC, which is 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 its duties, thus depriving the county fire departments of the time and services of its members. These duties include amending and adopting the state fire code, applying for and administering federal fire-related grants, and implementing and administering a statewide reduced ignition propensity cigarette program.

The SFC staff consists of only one part-time person and is funded by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, to which the SFC is administratively attached. The SFC is a member of the State Building Code Council and participates in the state building code adoption process. The SFC also coordinates statewide training, data collection,

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
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education, and corresponds with national organizations on statewide fire issues. In addition, the SFC advises the Governor and the legislature on fire- and life-safety matters.

This bill would greatly increase the SFC's productivity and benefit communities and fire departments statewide. The SFC and the HFD urge your committees' support on the passage of H.B. 965.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151.

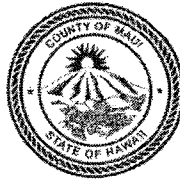
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping tail.

KENNETH G. SILVA  
Chair

KGS/LR:cn

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
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  
EMAIL: fire.dept@mauicounty.gov

February 8, 2011

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
The House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 310  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
The House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 326  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Rhoads:

Subject: H.B. 965 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD) and a Member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The MFD and the SFC support H.B. 965, which proposes to allow the SFC to hire two full-time personnel to accomplish its responsibilities.

The SFC, which is 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 its duties, thus depriving the county fire departments of the time and services of its members. These duties include amending and adopting the state fire code, applying for and administering federal fire-related grants, and implementing and administering a statewide reduced ignition propensity cigarette program.

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The Honorable Henry Aquino and Karl Rhoads, Chairs  
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This bill would greatly increase the SFC's productivity and benefit communities and fire departments statewide.

The MFD and the SFC urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 965.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
Fire Chief