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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 11:07 PM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** web@cartoonistforchrist.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR54 on 3/16/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for HSG/WLO 3/16/2011 9:30:00 AM HCR54

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lee McIntosh  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [web@cartoonistforchrist.org](mailto:web@cartoonistforchrist.org)  
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources:  
Aloha, my name is Lee McIntosh. I live in Kau on the Big Island. I am not in favor of HCR 54, which makes fire sprinkler systems mandatory in new homes. The major flaw in this bill is the assumption that all homes in Hawaii have access to water, which is not true on the Big Island. In fact, a majority of homes do not have access to County water on the Big Island. This will also increase the cost of a new home at a time when the economy is bad, create unnecessary maintenance problems for new home owners, and cause extensive water damage for small fires or false triggers. It is better to build homes with materials that are fireproof or designed to slow the spread of fire. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 54.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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March 15, 2011

The Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 442  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 435  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Cabanilla and Chang:

Subject: H.R. 47/H.C.R. 54 Requesting the State Building Code Council to Adopt the Requirement That Automatic Fire Sprinklers be Installed in New One- and Two-Family Dwellings

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.R. 47/H.C.R. 54 and offer the following comments:

1. Home fire sprinkler systems respond quickly to reduce heat, flames, and smoke from a fire, thus giving residents valuable time to escape. The risk of dying decreases by 80% when sprinklers are present. Installing home fire sprinklers significantly reduces property loss in the event of fire and homeowner insurance premiums and supports local fire service efforts. By requiring these life-saving devices in new homes, residents can enjoy the same level of safety found in offices, schools, apartments, and public buildings.
2. Beyond the life safety benefits of home sprinklers, there are other incentives for jurisdictions that mandate sprinklers in new homes. By mandating sprinkler requirements, cities can reduce the strain on fire

The Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair  
The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair  
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service personnel, limit property damage, and help conserve municipal water resources (fire fighting hoses use more than eight times the amount of water used by automatic fire sprinklers).

The most economical time to install fire sprinklers is during new construction. The Fire Protection Research Foundation recently issued a Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment report, which revealed that the cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages \$1.61 per square foot for new construction. The Hawaii State Building Code Council is researching the sprinkler installation cost for Hawaii homes.

3. Home fire sprinkler systems are much like home plumbing systems. When installed and maintained properly, there is a low risk of leaks. Over the last 50 years, records indicate that the likelihood of leaks from automatic sprinkler systems is remote. Each sprinkler is designed and calibrated to activate only when it senses a significant heat change. In the event of a fire, only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate and spray water directly on the fire, thereby leaving the rest of the house dry and secure. Ninety percent of the time, just one sprinkler operates to control the fire.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committees' support on the passage of H.R. 47/  
H.C.R. 54.

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

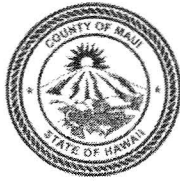
Sincerely,



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

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March 15, 2011

The Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 442  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 435  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Cabanilla and Chang:

Subject: H.R. 47/H.C.R. 54 Requesting the State Building Code Council to Adopt the Requirement that Automatic Fire Sprinklers be Installed in New One- and Two-Family Dwellings

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety (MFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The MFD and the SFC support H.R. 47/H.C.R. 54 and offer the following comments:

1. Home fire sprinkler systems respond quickly to reduce heat, flames, and smoke from a fire, giving residents valuable time to escape. The risk of dying decreases by 80% when sprinklers are present. Installing home fire sprinklers significantly reduces property loss in the event of fire and homeowner insurance premiums and supports local fire service efforts. By requiring these life-saving devices in new homes, residents can enjoy the same level of safety found in offices, schools, apartments, and public buildings.

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2. Beyond the life safety benefits of home sprinklers, there are other incentives for jurisdictions that mandate sprinklers in new homes. By mandating sprinkler requirements, cities can reduce the strain on fire service personnel, limit property damage, and help conserve municipal water resources (fire fighting hoses use more than eight times the amount of water used by automatic fire sprinklers). The most economical time to install fire sprinklers is during new construction. The Fire Protection Research Foundation recently issued a Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment report, which revealed that the cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages \$1.61 per square foot for new construction. The Hawaii State Building Code Council is researching the sprinkler installation cost for Hawaii homes.
3. Home fire sprinkler systems are much like home plumbing systems. When installed and maintained properly, there is a low risk of leaks. Over the last 50 years, records indicate the likelihood of leaks from automatic sprinkler systems is remote. Each sprinkler is designed and calibrated to activate only when it senses a significant heat change. In the event of a fire, only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate and spray water directly on the fire, thereby leaving the rest of the house dry and secure. Ninety percent of the time, just one sprinkler operates to control the fire.

The MFD and the SFC urge your committee's support on the passage of H.R. 47/  
H.C.R. 54.

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

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
Fire Chief

TO: Members of the Committees on Housing and Water, Land & Ocean Resources

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 16, 2011

SUBJECT: HR47/HCR54 Requesting State Building Code Council to Require Automatic Fire Sprinklers in New One- and Two-Family Homes

Aloha Chairs Cabanilla and Chang, Vice Chairs Chong and Har and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in opposition to HR47 and HCR 54, which request the State Building Code Council to require automatic fire sprinklers in new one- and two-bedroom homes. While the intent of these resolutions has merit, I ask you to please vote "no."

My husband and I have never owned a home and cannot currently afford one. Requiring sprinklers in new homes would increase the cost of ownership and maintenance as well. Given all of the other issues the state and residents are facing today, I would much rather see our resources dedicated to those other areas.

Please vote "no."

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# **BIA-HAWAII**

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**BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

March 16, 2011

Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
Representative Jerry Chang, Chair  
Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources  
State Capitol, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: HR 47 and HCR 54 REQUESTING THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE REQUIREMENT THAT AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLERS BE INSTALLED IN NEW ONE- AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS.**

Chair Cabanilla and Chang and Members of the Respective Committees:

I am Karen Nakamura, Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-Hawaii wishes to comment on HR 47 and HCR 54 Requesting the State Building Code Council to Adopt the Requirement that Automatic Fire Sprinklers Be Installed in New One- and Two-Family Dwellings. While we can appreciate the desire of the Legislature to move quickly on implementing the installation of fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings, we would like to note that a mechanism of the State Building Code Council is already in operation to review this proposal by the establishment of an Investigative Committee on Sprinkler Requirements and a subcommittee on Sprinklers that is chaired by Tim Hiu of the City's Building Department. The subcommittee will continue the work of identifying best practices, costs, options, etc and we anticipate that this process will take all this year and potentially longer to complete (according to a note from Fire Battalion Chief Socrates Bratakos who chairs the other subcommittee on water infrastructure)

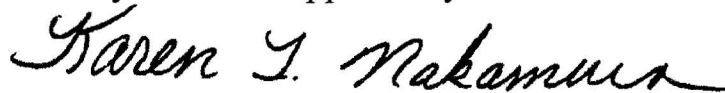
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On February 8, 2011, the Investigative Committee on Sprinkler Requirements made a recommendation to the State Building Code Council and its Investigative Committee for the International Residential Code (IRC) to amend the date for implementation from January 2011 to January 2014. (Also in a note from Socrates Bratakos).

As you can see, there is a deliberative process already in motion to continue the work of the Investigative Committee on Sprinklers. We believe this process should continue and not stopped by immediate adoption of the Fire Sprinkler mandate for new one- and two-family dwellings. There is also a cost factor to be considered should this be mandated. Those additional costs would further postpone the decision and the ability of people to purchase a home.

We hope that our comments are helpful in your deliberations.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen J. Nakamura". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Chief Executive Officer  
BIA-Hawaii