



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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March 29, 2011

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro:

Subject: S.B. 742, S.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 S.B. 742, S.D. 2, 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, and 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 Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
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The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 742,
S.D. 2.

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

Sincerely,



KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:jl

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Gary K. Heu
Managing Director

John T. Blalock
Deputy Fire Chief

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
3083 Akahi Street, Suite 101, Lihue, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

March 28, 2011

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro:

Subject: S.B. 742, S.D. 2 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Robert F. Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC and the KFD support S.B. 742, S.D. 2, 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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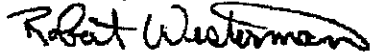
This bill would greatly increase the SFC's productivity and benefit communities and fire departments statewide.

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
March 28, 2011
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The SFC and the KFD urge your committees' support on the passage of S.B. 742,
S.D. 2.

Please call me at (808) 241-4980 should you have any questions regarding this
matter.

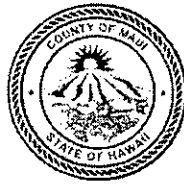
Sincerely,



Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld

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

March 29, 2011

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro:

Subject: S.B. 742, S.D. 2 Relating to the State Fire Council

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 S.B. 742, S.D. 2, 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 Marcus Oshiro, Chair
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The MFD and the SFC urge your committees' support on the passage of S.B. 742,
S.D. 2.

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

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief



COALITION FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Trisha Y. Nakamura, Policy and Advocacy Director

Hrg: FIN Cmte; March 30, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.; Rm 308 (AGENDA #1)

Re: **Support the intent of SB742, SD 2 Relating to the State Fire Council**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the intent of SB 742, SD 2 which allows the State Fire Council to hire a full-time administrator and assistant to aid the State Fire Council in administering the requirements of the reduced ignition propensity cigarettes law (Act 218 of the 2008 Session Laws of Hawaii).

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawaii whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. The Coalition provides leadership for the tobacco control community, develops networks, helps coordinate tobacco control programs and builds community awareness.

In 2008, the Coalition testified in support of the measure that became the reduced ignition propensity cigarettes law. Reduced ignition propensity cigarettes will reduce harms caused by cigarette-smoking. Here, a reduction in the number of cigarette fires which are the leading causes of fire deaths and property damage in the United States.

The Coalition appreciates the Legislature's current effort to ensure thorough and appropriate implementation of the reduced ignition propensity cigarettes law by the State Fire Council. This measure provides the State Fire Council the ability and staff resources to conduct activities pursuant to existing requirements regarding reduced-ignition cigarettes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.