

# **SB 742**

RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL.

Allows state fire council to hire a full-time administrator and administrative assistant.

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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January 31, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Government  
Operations, and Military Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 231  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: S.B. 742 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, 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, 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.

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
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January 31, 2011

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 742.

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

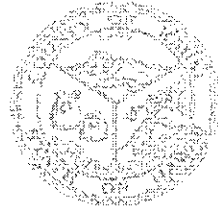
Sincerely,

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

KENNETH G. SILVA  
Chair

KGS/LR:cn

**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, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

January 31, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero  
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 231  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero:

**Subject: S.B. 742 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, which proposes to allow the SFC to hire two (2) staff 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 council 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 currently consists of only one part-time person, currently funded by the 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. The SFC also coordinates statewide training, data collection, education and corresponds with national organizations on statewide fire issues. The SFC advises the governor and the legislature on fire- and life safety matters. All state buildings and facilities, except for the airports, are inspected by the county fire departments, including all public and private schools.

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

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair

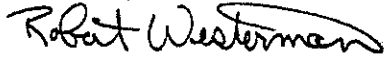
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January 31, 2011

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 742.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the name.

Robert Westerman  
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld