



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

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March 27, 2012

The Honorable David Ige, Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 215  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige:

Subject: H.B. 1968, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 Relating to Cigarettes

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. 1968, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which proposes to appropriate funds to implement the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program.

Since September 30, 2009, approximately \$444,000 was collected and intended as a regulatory fee for the SFC to implement, administer, and enforce the RIPC Program. The appropriation will be used to hire two full-time personnel to effectively accomplish the following:

1. Adopt administrative rules for program implementation, establish compliance inspections, and approve forms and enforcement procedures and guidelines.
2. Receive, verify, and approve certifications for approximately 600 different brands of cigarettes from various manufacturers. Verify and approve cigarette brands every three years.
3. Compile a list of approved brands, verify it with the Department of the Attorney General for state tax stamp compliance, and post it on a state website.

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4. Review and approve, as needed, alternative test methods or fire standard compliance markings submitted by a manufacturer.
5. Submit compliance tests to an accredited laboratory to verify that performance standards have been met, if needed.

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 RIPC 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.

The purpose of the RIPC Program is to reduce the number of fires caused by cigarettes in the state. Fees are renewable by the cigarette manufacturers every three years and will help sustain the program.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 1968, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



KENNETH G. SILVA  
Chair

KGS/LR:cn



**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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Dear Chair Ige:

Subject: H.B. 1968, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 Relating to Cigarettes

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.B. 1968, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which proposes to appropriate funds to implement the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program.

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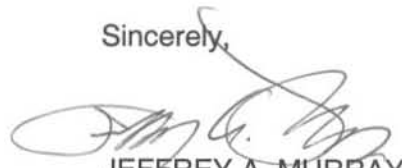
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Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
Fire Chief