



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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February 21, 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: S.B. 2245, S.D. 1 Relating to Public Safety

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. 2245, S.D. 1, which proposes to establish an appropriation into the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program special fund.

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.
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.

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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 S.B. 2245, S.D. 1.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva".

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:cn

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i

FIRE DEPARTMENT

25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

January 24, 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: S.B. 2245, S.D. 1 Relating to Public Safety

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department and member of the State Fire Council (SFC). On behalf of the Hawaii Fire Department and as a member of the SFC, I support S.B. 2245, S.D. 1, proposing to establish an appropriation into the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program special fund.

The appropriation is needed to hire two full-time personnel to effectively carry out the requirements necessary of the SFC in implementing the RIPC. The reduction of fires originated by discarded cigarettes is the purpose of the RIPC program. The sustainability of the program will be by renewable fees charged to the cigarette manufacturers.

The SFC currently consists of only one, part-time, staff member. Since its inception to replace the State Fire Marshal's office, the SFC has not realized the full-funding earlier granted to the State Fire Marshal's Office. The SFC has been tasked with carrying out its multitude of duties with staffing from each of the four counties. These staff personnel hold positions within their respective county organizations. The workload imposed on these personnel takes them away from the required work of their county position.

The addition of two full-time personnel to the SFC will insure that the following are accomplished in implementing the RIPC program:

1. Adopt administrative rules for program implementation, establish compliance inspections, and approve forms and enforcement procedures and guidelines;



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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 Office of the Attorney General for state tax stamp compliance, and post it on a state website;
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 lab to verify that performance standards have been met, if needed.

On behalf of the SFC, as a member, and the Hawaii Fire Department, I urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2245, S.D. 1.

Should you have any questions, please call me at 1-808-932-2901.

Sincerely,

Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

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 21, 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: S.B. 2245, S.D. 1 Relating to Public Safety

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. 2245, S.D. 1, which proposes to establish an appropriation into the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program special fund.

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.
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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 MFD and the SFC urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2245, S.D. 1

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief

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

February 17, 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: S.B. 2245, S.D. 1 Relating to Public Safety

I am Robert F. Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The KFD and the SFC support S.B. 2245, S.D. 1, which proposes to establish an appropriation into the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program special fund.

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:

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The Honorable David Ige, Chair
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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 KFD and the SFC urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2245, S.D. 1

Please call me at (808) 241-4975 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, flowing style.

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i