

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 29, 2012

**SENATE BILL NO. 2877, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO HARBORS FIREBOAT**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports this administration bill to allow for broader flexibility in its management of fireboat operations. Removal of the requirement to reimburse the City & County of Honolulu's Fire Department for the maintenance and operation of the State's Fireboat "Moku Ahi" will allow for more economical management and enable a more comprehensive marine incident response program to be implemented. The maritime community and citizens of Hawaii will be better served by providing DOT with this flexibility.

The "Moku Ahi" is an important component in responding to a landside fire in the harbor vicinity as well as playing an important role in any marine incident response. Recently, the US Coast Guard updated its marine firefighting and salvage regulations that commercial vessel owners/operators must comply with. Marine firefighting requires different training and techniques than landside structure firefighting. In order to comply with the US Coast Guard's regulations and OPA 90 marine spill response requirements, commercial vessel owners/operators have contractual arrangements with organizations for marine spill/firefighting/salvage operations. The organizations that the vessel owners/operators have contracts with are prepared for any type of marine casualty, be it a petroleum spill, vessel fire, or grounding/salvage response through an incident command center with the necessary assets and skilled manpower available whenever necessary.

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This Bill does not 'shut down' the "Moku Ahi" and merely allows the Harbors Division to pursue management alternatives ranging from contracting out for management services to entering into an agreement with an existing marine casualty response organization.

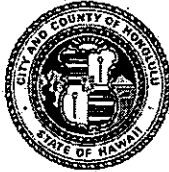
We urge your support of our efforts to pursue the most economical and operationally comprehensive manner to provide fireboat services. This bill will provide the DOT with the flexibility to establish a more comprehensive response program and achieve cost savings through economies of scale and expertise of the marine response community that is in place today. We will work with interested stakeholders in this process and the January 1, 2013 effective date will provide us with sufficient time for these discussions to take place.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR



KENNETH G. SILVA
FIRE CHIEF

EMMIT A. KANE
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

March 27, 2012

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

Dear Chair Oshiro:

Subject: S.B. 2877, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 Relating to Harbors Fireboat

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports the intent of S.B. 2877, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, which proposes to abolish the statutory requirements to reimburse the City and County of Honolulu for operating and maintaining the fireboat and allow for broader flexibility in its management by the State Department of Transportation (DOT).

The HFD currently provides operational fire fighting personnel for the Fireboat Moku Ahi, including vessel and fire station maintenance. The Fireboat Moku Ahi is an important fire protection component of Honolulu Harbor, and we are not opposed to the DOT exploring management alternatives to fireboat operations.

The HFD participated in preliminary discussions with the DOT regarding some of these issues and is open to future meetings. Prior to a decision to transfer fireboat services from the HFD, we require a cooperative exit strategy for transitioning HFD personnel to other assignments.

The HFD requests your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2877, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

Should you have any questions, please contact Battalion Chief Socrates Bratakos of our Fire Prevention Bureau at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

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

KENNETH G. SILVA
Fire Chief

KGS/LR:cn

FINTestimony

m: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ksilva@honolulu.gov
Subject: Testimony for SB2877 on 3/29/2012 3:00:00 PM
Attachments: HB 1765 HD 2 SD 1_SFC Testimony.pdf

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2012 3:00:00 PM SB2877

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth Silva
Organization: State Fire Council
E-mail: ksilva@honolulu.gov
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

Lloyd Rogers will testify on behalf of Fire Chief Silva. For questions contact:
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sent*
