



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION **LATE TESTIMONY**
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House of Representatives
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
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Committee on Transportation
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and
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Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

S.B. No. 2877, S.D. 1 RELATING TO HARBORS FIREBOAT

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. HFFA represents the 2,800 active and retired professional fire fighters throughout the State. HFFA appreciates the opportunity to testify on S.B. No. 2877, S.D. 1.

In previous testimony, HFFA provided comments with our concerns for public safety and fire fighter safety. Currently, HFFA members provide operational support on the existing fire boat. While S.B. No. 2877, S.D. 1, may be seen as a cost-saving measure, HFFA will not allow the safety of our members to be compromised.

HFFA has had discussions with the HFD and DOT Harbors officials regarding the fire boat over many years but to date there has been no discussion as to what are, if any, the replacement services should the State discontinue the current services provided by the HFD. As you know, HFFA members are highly trained to respond with the Fireboat and HFD is currently responsible for the coordination of resources within the Department. We urge the stakeholders to continue to include HFFA in the discussions should "privatization" of the service be considered. The level of service should be at the highest level as to not compromise public safety, fire protection services and the safety of our members should their services be required. The safety of our community and HFFA members is paramount.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. No. 2877, S.D. 1.