

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



LATE TESTIMONY

DWIGHT TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

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

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March 16, 2012

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph Souki, Chair
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 433
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Aquino and Souki:

Subject: S.B. 2877, S.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, 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 committees' support on the passage of S.B. 2877, S.D. 1.

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Joseph Souki, Chair
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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 black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

KENNETH G. SILVA
Fire Chief

KGS/LR:cn