
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds it is in the interest of
2 the State to enhance public safety by encouraging the voluntary
3 installation of fire suppression systems to reduce the
4 occurrence and severity of residential kitchen fires.

5 Studies across the country demonstrate the danger of
6 kitchen fires. According to the United States Fire
7 Administration and National Fire Data Center's 2004 Report on
8 Kitchen Fires, approximately thirty per cent of structure fires
9 first ignite in the kitchen and, among all structure fires,
10 kitchen fires account for twelve per cent of deaths, thirty-two
11 per cent of injuries, and ten per cent of property loss.

12 According to a 2011 Honolulu fire department report, more than
13 forty-five per cent of residential structure fires were cooking
14 fires, resulting in a total loss of \$842,755. In 2011, the
15 National Fire Protection Association reported that fifty-eight
16 per cent of home fires caused by non-cooking equipment involved
17 refrigerators, freezers, and ice makers, and thirty-nine per
18 cent involved dishwashers. According to the National Fire



1 Protection Association, cooking equipment-related fires are the
2 leading cause of fire loss. During the five-year period of
3 2006-2010, cooking equipment was involved in 157,300 reported
4 home structure fires, resulting in 380 civilian deaths, 4,920
5 civilian injuries, and \$794,000,000 in direct property damage
6 per year.

7 In addition to the need to reduce the number and severity
8 of residential kitchen fires, the legislature finds that it is
9 desirable for dwelling owners and occupants to have a choice in
10 cost-effective systems that will enhance fire safety and
11 mitigate the severity of kitchen fires.

12 The legislature further finds that providing a financial
13 incentive to owners will increase the installation rate of fire
14 suppression systems in new and existing construction. One
15 possible financial incentive would be the establishment of
16 revised insurance rating procedures that consider pre-mitigation
17 systems as a risk reduction measure.

18 The legislature also finds that there may be a need to
19 reform regulations and licensing requirements which are barriers
20 to efficient installation of systems that conform to nationally
21 recognized design, installation, and credentialing standards.



1 The purpose of this Act is to establish a residential
2 kitchen fire task force to research and develop plans, including
3 legislation, to address the dangers of residential kitchen
4 fires.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a residential kitchen
6 fire task force, exempt from section 26-34, Hawaii Revised
7 Statutes, charged with the following responsibilities:

- 8 (1) Evaluating current and past fire incident data
9 relating to residential kitchen fires in the State of
10 Hawaii;
- 11 (2) Reviewing current insurance rating plans and
12 methodology and the possible incorporation of pre-
13 mitigation systems as a risk reduction measure;
- 14 (3) Identifying other possible financial incentives for
15 voluntary installation of pre-mitigation systems in
16 residential kitchens; and
- 17 (4) Reviewing current regulations and licensing
18 requirements for the installation of pre-mitigation
19 systems in residential kitchens and proposing
20 amendments to the requirements to insure conformance
21 with current nationally recognized standards.



1 (b) A representative of the state fire council shall chair
2 and convene the residential kitchen fire task force, which shall
3 consist of the following members or their designees:

- 4 (1) The chairperson of the state fire council fire
5 prevention committee;
- 6 (2) The state insurance commissioner; and
- 7 (3) The licensing administrator of the department of
8 commerce and consumer affairs professional and
9 vocational licensing division.

10 (c) The chairperson of the task force shall invite
11 representatives from the following stakeholders to participate
12 as members:

- 13 (1) The residential insurance industry;
- 14 (2) The Building Industry Association of Hawaii;
- 15 (3) The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
16 Local Union 1186;
- 17 (4) The General Contractors Association of Hawaii;
- 18 (5) The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local Union 675; and
- 19 (6) The Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association.

20 The chairperson shall also invite as a participating member
21 a technical expert on fire suppression systems.



1 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
2 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
3 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
4 the regular session of 2014.

5 (e) The members of the task force shall not be compensated
6 for their service and shall not be reimbursed for expenses
7 incurred while serving on the task force.

8 (f) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2014.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Residential Kitchen Fire Task Force

Description:

Establishes a Residential Kitchen Fire Task Force to develop plans to address the dangers of residential kitchen fires.

Report to the 2014 Legislature. (HB369 HD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

