



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 320
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey:

Subject: H.B. 2365 Relating to State Fire Council

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support H.B. 2365, which proposes to authorize the SFC to establish minimum qualifications for individuals conducting maintenance testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems and implement a statewide system to promote the effective use of fire and life safety resources.

However, we recommend the following revision to page 4, item (3), line 7:

- (3) Establish procedures for statewide qualifications, testing, and certification, and credentialing that conform with the adopted state fire code and nationally recognized standard for individuals who conduct maintenance testing of fire extinguishers, fire protection, and fire alarm systems.

These qualifications would be recognized statewide and based on current adopted state fire codes and nationally recognized standards. It also seeks to authorize the SFC to implement statewide memoranda of understanding and agreements for the effective utilization of fire and life safety resources for natural and manmade disasters and emergencies.

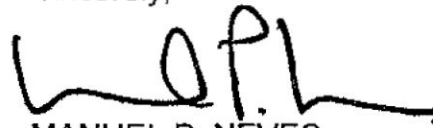
The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
Page 2
February 11, 2014

Fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems require routine maintenance to protect building occupants under emergency conditions and ensure reliable operability when they are utilized by fire department personnel. Individuals are currently licensed by the HFD and required to pass a written exam every three years. However, the current exam has not been revised for several years. This bill would authorize the SFC to certify individuals to meet minimum competency standards for vital fire protection systems and appliances. This certification is normally under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal's Office. The SFC is Hawaii's equivalent of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's passage of H.B. 2365 with the recommended revision.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.P.N.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc