



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Tuesday, February 12, 2013
2:05 p.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 369, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY.

TO THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner (“Commissioner”), testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). The Department supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a residential kitchen fire task force (the “Task Force”) to research and develop plans to address the dangers of residential kitchen fires.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to participate on the Task Force. We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony.

February 11, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 326
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads:

Subject: H.B. 369 H.D. 1 Relating to Fire Safety

I am Robert Westerman, Vice Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The SFC and the KFD support H.B. 369, H.D. 1, which seeks to establish a residential kitchen fire task force to evaluate current and past fire incident data relating to residential kitchen fires in the state of Hawaii, identify possible incentives for voluntary installation of pre-mitigation systems as risk reduction measures, and review current regulations and licensing requirements for the installation of residential kitchen fire suppression systems.

The SFC recommends the addition to the task force of a representative of a fire suppression systems technical expert to allow input on fire suppression systems that are not water-based.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking equipment-related fires are the leading cause of fire loss. During the five-year period of 2006-2010, cooking equipment was involved in 157,300 reported home structure fires, resulting in 380 civilian deaths, 4,920 civilian injuries, and \$794,000,000 in direct property damage per year. The Honolulu Fire Department reports for 2011, 45.24 % of the residential structure fires were cooking fires with a total loss of \$842,755.00.

This bill seeks to establish a residential kitchen fire task force that will bring together major stakeholders in evaluating the issues and concerns relating to residential kitchen fire safety. It will seek to identify costs, possible incentives, and requirements to nationally recognized standards.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
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February 11, 2013

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 369, H.D. 1, with the recommended task force member addition.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

ROBERT WESTERMAN
Vice Chair

RW/LR:cc



HAWAII FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
636 South Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: (808) 723-7102 • Fax: (808) 723-7111

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
State of Hawaii

February 11, 2013

Dear Representative Rhoads,

On behalf of the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association I would like to request your support and passage of House Bill 369 relating to the establishment of a Kitchen Fire Task Force.

The Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) is a registered 501 (C) 3, non-profit corporation and professional association. The HFCA is an affiliate member organization of the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Our Executive Board, Board of Directors, and membership are comprised of chief officers and members of every fire service organization in the State of Hawaii inclusive of County, State, Federal, and private industry fire protection departments and organizations. The primary mission and focus of the HFCA is the support of training, education, professional development, and advocacy for the fire service locally and abroad. As such, our engagement in the legislative process is to assist with the raising of awareness with fire safety issues and to support measures that will improve and enhance the safety of our community and the first responders.

As proposed, HB 369 will provide for the establishment of a Kitchen Fire Task Force to study and evaluate the impact of residential kitchen fires and the consideration of possible incentives for the voluntary installation of pre-mitigation devices. Currently there appears to be significant data to reflect that residential kitchen fires account for a large portion of the overall fire incidents, damages, and losses in the State of Hawaii. Through the establishment of the Kitchen Fire Task Force, this issue and impact may be further measured and qualified along with the benefit of incentives for the voluntary installation of pre-mitigation or early suppression devices such as sprinklers or hood systems. Therefore the HFCA respectfully requests your support and passage of HB 369 as written.

In closing I would like to thank you and the committee members for your support of Hawaii's fire and emergency service organizations and extend to you the commitment of the HFCA to work together to promote and insure the safety and welfare of our communities and first responders.

Sincerely,

Darryl Oliveira, President

Testimony of Glenn Ida
Representing,
The Plumbers and Fitters Union, Local 675
1109 Bethel St., Lower Level
Honolulu, Hi. 96813

In Strong Support of HB369, HD1

Before the House:
Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013
2:05 PM, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Glenn Ida representing the Plumbers and Fitters local 675.

Local 675, strongly supports HB369, HD1, which establishes a residential kitchen fire task force to develop plans to address the dangers of residential kitchen fires. Report to the 2014 Legislature.

We believe that the results of this task force will provide public important information as to what they can do to protect their families before a kitchen fire devastates their property, causes injuries to persons or even the death.

Therefore, Local 675 strongly supports HB369, HD1, Relating to Fire Safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Glenn Ida

BIA-HAWAII

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Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, February 12, 2013
2:05 p.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 325

RE: H.B. 369 HD1, RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and members of the committee:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Director of Government Relations for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the voice of the construction industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-Hawaii would like to request that a correction be made to H.B. 369 HD1. We request that "The Hawaii Building Industry Association" be corrected to read "The Building Industry Association of Hawaii."

Thank you for your consideration.