



LATE

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Monday, February 25, 2013
3:30 p.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 369, H.D. 2 – RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY.

TO THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, 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 (“Task Force”) to research and develop plans to address the dangers of residential kitchen fires. The H.D. 2 includes on the Task Force representatives from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 and a technical expert on fire suppression systems.

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



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

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February 25, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: H.B. 369 H.D. 2 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. 2, 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.

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 SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 369, H.D. 2.

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
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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

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
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LATE

February 25, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: H.B. 369 H.D. 2 Relating to Fire Safety

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support H.B. 369, H.D. 2, 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.

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.

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The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
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The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 369, H.D. 2.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Rosario".

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief
SFC Member



LATE

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

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
State of Hawaii

February 25, 2013

Dear Representative Luke,

On behalf of the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association I would like to request your support 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, House Bill 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 consideration and support of this measure.

In closing I would like to thank you 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