

# HB 369, HD3

MEASURE TITLE

RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY

DESCRIPTION:

Establishes a Residential Kitchen Fire Task Force to develop plans to address the dangers of residential kitchen fires. Report to the 2014 Legislature. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB369 HD3)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE  
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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March 8, 2013

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 231  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: H.B. 369 H.D. 3 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. 3, 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.

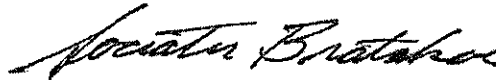
This bill seeks to establish a residential kitchen fire task force that will bring together major stakeholders in evaluating the issues and concerns relating to residential kitchen fire safety. It will seek to identify costs, possible incentives, and requirements to nationally recognized standards.

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 369, H.D. 3.

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
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March 8, 2013

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



ROBERT WESTERMAN  
Vice Chair

RW/LR

# BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

*"Building Better Communities"*

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## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

2:45 p.m.

State Capitol - Conference Room 224

RE: H.B. 369 HD3, RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY

Dear Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker, 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 submits **comments** for your consideration on H.B. 369 H.D. 3, which would establish a residential kitchen fire task force to develop plans to address the dangers of residential kitchen fires.

- 1) There is already in existence a fire sprinkler committee under the State Building Code Council, created pursuant to H.R. 47, H.D. 1 (2011), which is tasked to review fire-sprinkler implementation in new one- and two-family dwellings. Their report is not due until the 2015 Legislative session.
- 2) S.B. 2397 H.D. 3 was passed into law in 2012, which prohibits the Counties from requiring installation or retrofitting of automatic fire sprinklers in new and existing one- and two-family dwelling units, with exceptions. This law has a sunset date of June 30, 2017.
- 3) Kitchen fires can be mostly prevented through education. Cities and counties across the nation have easily accessible websites addressing the prevention of kitchen fires. Some have even created education videos. Education material on kitchen fire prevention is, we understand, included on the City's website. However, it is not found on the Fire Safety page: <http://www1.honolulu.gov/hfd/safetyinfotips.htm>.
- 4) H.B. 369 H.D. 3 seems to only focus on what happens once a fire starts, financial incentives of installation of a suppression system, and insurance premiums, but is not tasked to address education and prevention.

While BIA-Hawaii is willing and able to participate on this task force, we believe that the issue of kitchen fire prevention can be more effectively addressed through community outreach and safety education.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our views.

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

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chair

Tuesday, Mar. 12, 2013  
2:45 PM, Conference Room 224

re: In Strong Support of HB369, HD3

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Glenn Ida representing the active and retired members of the Plumbers and Fitters Local 675.

Local 675, strongly supports HB369, HD3, 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 important information as to what fire prevention measures can be taken to protect our families before a kitchen fire devastates our property, causes injuries to persons or even the death.

Therefore, Local 675 strongly supports HB369, HD3, Relating to Fire Safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Glenn Ida