



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 PUBLIC SAFETY

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Thursday, January 31, 2013
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 369 – RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY.

TO THE HONORABLE HENRY J.C. AQUINO, 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 and would like to make
recommendations for the Committee’s consideration.

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.

We recommend that the Committee consider the following:

1. Include the expected average cost of a fire suppression system in Section 1 of the bill;
2. Have the Task Force consider the clean up costs after a fire suppression system disburses dry chemicals to extinguish a fire and its impact on the homeowner’s insurance policy and premiums;

3. Instead of or in addition to the union and trade association members of the Task Force, it may be beneficial to include companies that install fire suppression systems, such as Commercial Plumbing or Heide and Cooke. As these companies have detailed knowledge on overall cost, pitfalls, and applicability of these commercial-type systems for residential use, their contributions would be valuable to the Task Force; and
4. Have the Task Force consider providing consumer education on readily available fire protection measures or suppression devices. For example, not using water for grease fires, fire extinguisher usage tips, information on types of available fire detectors, cleaning exhaust vent filters, and ensuring the kitchen electrical circuits are not overloaded.

We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony.



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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Thursday, January 31, 2013
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 369, RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY.

THE HONORABLE HENRY J.C. AQUINO, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Celia Suzuki, Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division ("PVLD"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support with a requested amendment for House Bill No. 369, Relating to Fire Safety.

The purpose of House Bill No. 369 is to establish a residential kitchen fire task force to develop plans to address the dangers of residential kitchen fires. While we are supportive of this effort, we are requesting that an amendment be made to page 4, lines 7 to 9. It currently reads that one of the task force members shall be the administrator of the Department. We are requesting that you add "or the administrator's designee" to line 9.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support with a requested amendment to House Bill No. 369.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

January 30, 2013

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: H.B. 369 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, 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.

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 HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 369 with the recommended task force member addition.

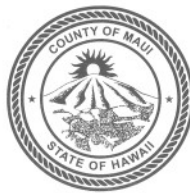
Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Respectively Submitted,

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

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief





COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
(808) 270-7561
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January 29, 2013

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: H.B. 369 Relating to Fire Safety

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety (MFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The MFD and the SFC support H.B. 369, 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 Henry Aquino, Chair
Page 2
January 29, 2013

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



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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January 29, 2013

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: H.B. 369 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, 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 Henry Aquino, Chair
Page 2
January 29, 2013

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

 SFC Administrator



ROBERT WESTERMAN
Vice Chair

RW/LR



HAWAII FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Phone: (808) 723-7102 • Fax: (808) 723-7111

Representative Henry Aquino, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety
State of Hawaii

January 30, 2013

Dear Representative Aquino,

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

BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

"Building Better Communities"

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Bays Lung Rose & Holma

Scotty Anderson

Pacific Rim Partners

W. Bruce Barrett

Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii, Inc.

Testimony to the House Committee on Public Safety Thursday, January 31, 2013

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol - Conference Room 309

RE: HOUSE BILL 369, RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair Ing, 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 **opposes** H.B. 369, Relating to Fire Safety, which proposes to establish a residential kitchen fire task force to develop plans to address the dangers of residential kitchen fires. Its report is due to the 2014 legislature.

This bill is redundant and unnecessary. A fire sprinkler committee, tasked to address residential fire sprinklers, already exists, pursuant to H.R. 47 (2011). The first paragraph of the preamble of H.B. 369 refers to "installation of fire suppression systems," which would only be needed after a fire starts. Therefore, it would seem appropriate that the existing fire sprinkler committee is able to address this issue, if necessary, especially since their report is not due to the legislature until 2015.

We find it odd that, while H.B. 369 refers to kitchen safety, it makes no reference to preventative measures or education of the public in preventing kitchen fires. While nothing is foolproof, the best way to deal with kitchen fires is to prevent them from happening. One suggestion is to engage the public in kitchen fire prevention education. The Honolulu Fire Department, for example, could include such information on their website under Safety Information and Tips. Many municipalities have produced educational flyers and even videos for public distribution. One national insurance company includes on its website under Kitchen Fire Safety: kitchen fire safety must-haves, how to cook at home safely, and what to do if a cooking fire starts.

The BIA-Hawaii appreciates being included to participate in this task force. However, we respectfully **oppose** H.B. 369 because education is the best preventative measure, and an existing, and appropriate, committee is already in place should the need arise to address this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.