



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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February 4, 2013

LATE TESTIMONY

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee Transportation
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

Subject: H.B. 687 Relating to Fire Protection

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. 687, which seeks to appropriate funds to the Department of Transportation to study and develop a training program regarding the potential risks involved and precautionary measures needed for emergency personnel who are called to emergency situations involving an electric vehicle.

The county fire departments have been conducting training for their personnel to deal with situations they encounter with electric vehicles. The National Fire Protection Association has partnered with automobile manufacturers in providing online first responder training. The training modules covers high voltage vehicle and safety systems, basic electrical concepts, identification techniques for electric and hybrid vehicles, immobilization and power-down procedures, extrication challenges and more.

The SFC and the KFC believes in a comprehensive approach to statewide training for all first responders and urges your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 687.

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

Sincerely,

 SFC Administrator

 ROBERT WESTERMAN
Chair

RW/LR