

HB 2365 HD1

RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL.

Authorizes the State Fire Council to: (1) Establish statewide qualifications and procedures for testing, certifying, and credentialing individuals who conduct maintenance testing of fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems; and (2) Implement a statewide system to promote the effective use of fire and life safety resources. (HB2365 HD1).

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

JADE BUTAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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March 14, 2014

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Dear Chairs Baker and Espero:

Subject: H.B. 2365, H.D. 1 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support H.B. 2365, H.D. 1, which proposes to authorize the SFC to establish statewide qualifications and procedures for testing, certifying, and credentialing individuals who conduct maintenance testing of fire extinguishers, fire protection, and fire alarm systems and coordinate agreements and understandings with other agencies and departments for the effective use of fire and life safety resources.

Fire extinguishers, fire protection, and alarm systems require routine maintenance to protect building occupants under emergency conditions and ensure reliable operability when they are utilized by fire department personnel. Individuals are licensed by the HFD and required to pass a written exam every three years. However, the current exam has not been revised for several years. This bill would authorize the SFC to certify individuals to meet minimum competency standards for vital fire protection systems and appliances. This certification is normally under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal's Office. The SFC is Hawaii's equivalent of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
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The bill also seeks to authorize the SFC to implement statewide memoranda of understanding and agreements for the effective utilization of fire and life safety resources for natural and manmade disasters and emergencies. Currently, each county fire department may individually enter into agreements and understandings between agencies and departments. This bill would allow the SFC to collectively coordinate these agreements.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committees' passage of H.B. 2365, H.D. 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

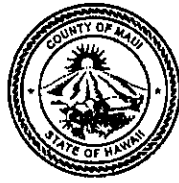
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.P.N.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
CHIEF

ROBERT M. SHIMADA
DEPUTY CHIEF

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
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March 14, 2014

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and
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The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 230
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The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Baker and Espero:

Subject: H.B. 2365, H.D. 1 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support H.B. 2365, H.D. 1, which proposes to authorize the SFC to establish statewide qualifications and procedures for testing, certifying, and credentialing individuals who conduct maintenance testing of fire extinguishers, fire protection, and fire alarm systems and coordinate agreements and understandings with other agencies and departments for the effective use of fire and life safety resources.

Fire extinguishers, fire protection, and alarm systems require routine maintenance to protect building occupants under emergency conditions and ensure reliable operability when they are utilized by fire department personnel. Individuals are licensed by the HFD and required to pass a written exam every three years. However, the current exam has not been revised for several years. This bill would authorize the SFC to certify individuals to meet minimum competency standards for vital fire protection

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The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
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systems and appliances. This certification is normally under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal's Office. The SFC is Hawaii's equivalent of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The bill also seeks to authorize the SFC to implement statewide memoranda of understanding and agreements for the effective utilization of fire and life safety resources for natural and manmade disasters and emergencies. Currently, each county fire department may individually enter into agreements and understandings between agencies and departments. This bill would allow the SFC to collectively coordinate these agreements.

The SFC and the MFD urge your committees' passage of H.B. 2365, H.D. 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief



March 18, 2014

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Chair Sen. Will Espero, Vice Chair Sen. Rosalyn Baker, and Committee Members

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Chair Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Sen. Brian Taniguchi, and Committee Members

Public Hearing, March 18, 2014, 10:00 am., Conference Room 229, State Capitol

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL – THE MARITIME GROUP
IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 2365 HD1
RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL

My name is William F. Anonsen, the Managing Partner/Principal of The Maritime Group. I'm writing in support of HB 2365 HD1 which would serve to authorize the Hawaii State Fire Council to establish minimum qualifications for individuals performing maintenance testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems, and proposes to implement a statewide system to promote the effective use of fire and life safety resources.

Although individuals are currently licensed by HFD and must pass a written exam every three years, the current exam has not been revised for several years, thereby under the current process recent changes in the adopted state fire codes and nationally recognized standards may not be incorporated. These standards are designed to minimize the risk and effects of fire by establishing criteria for buildings, processing, design, service, and installation to ensure the effective utilization of fire and life safety resources in response to natural and manmade disasters and emergencies. I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and comment on HB 2365 proposed HD1

Sincerely,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal

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Tel: (808) 589-1223 www.The-Maritime-Group.com