

SB 2300

RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION

Authorizes the state fire council to establish minimum qualifications for individuals conducting maintenance testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and fire alarm systems. Authorizes the state fire council to implement statewide memoranda of understanding and agreements for the effective use of fire and life safety resources.

PSM

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

JADE BUTAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321

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January 28, 2014

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

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: S.B. 2300 Relating to Fire Protection

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 S.B. 2300, which proposes to authorize the SFC to establish minimum qualifications for individuals conducting maintenance testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems.

However, we recommend the following revision to page 2, item (3), line 15:

(3) Establish statewide qualifications, testing, ~~and certification, and~~
credentialing that conforms with based on the adopted state fire code and
nationally recognized standards, for individuals that conduct maintenance
testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and fire alarm systems;
provided that certification fees shall be determined by the county fire
departments;

These qualifications would be recognized statewide and based on current adopted state fire codes and nationally recognized standards. It 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.

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
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January 28, 2014

Fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems require routine maintenance to ensure reliable operability when they are utilized by fire department personnel and to protect building occupants under emergency conditions. Individuals are currently 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 standards of competency 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 SFC and the HFD urge your committee's passage of S.B. 2300. 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. Neves', written in a cursive style.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

William P. Kono
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 28, 2014

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

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: S.B. 2300 Relating to Fire Protection

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The SFC and the HCFD support S.B. 2300, which proposes to authorize the SFC to establish minimum qualifications for individuals conducting maintenance testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems.

However, we recommend the following revision to page 2, item (3), line 15:

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These qualifications would be recognized statewide and based on current adopted state fire codes and nationally recognized standards. It 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.



The Honorable Will Espero, Chair

Page 2

January 29, 2014

Fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems require routine maintenance to ensure reliable operability when they are utilized by fire department personnel and to protect building occupants under emergency conditions. Individuals are currently licensed by the HCFD 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 standards of competency 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 SFC and the HCFD urge your committee's passage of S.B. 2300. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at 932-2903 or fire@co.hawaii.hi.us

Respectfully,

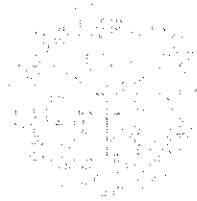


DARREN J. ROSARIO

Fire Chief

SFC Member

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Nadine K. Nakamura
Managing Director

John T. Blalock
Deputy Fire Chief

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kauai, State of Hawaii
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January 28, 2014

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

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: S.B. 2300 Relating to Fire Protection

I am Robert F. Westerman Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD) and Vice-Chair of the State Fire Council. The KFD and the SFC support S.B. 2300, which proposes to authorize the SFC to establish minimum qualifications for individuals conducting maintenance testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems.

However, we recommend the following revision to page 2, item (3), line 15:

(3) Establish statewide qualifications, testing, and certification, and credentialing that conforms with ~~based on~~ the adopted state fire code and nationally recognized standards, for individuals that conduct maintenance testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and fire alarm systems; provided that certification fees shall be determined by the county fire departments;

These qualifications would be recognized statewide and based on current adopted state fire codes and nationally recognized standards. It 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.

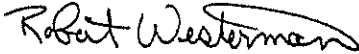
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
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The KFD and the SFC urge your committee's passage of S.B. 2300.

Please call me at (808) 241-4980 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld