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DEPUTY CHIEF

**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

JENNIFER B. BLAIR  
KAPULANUI MAUI - HAWAII COUNTY  
PHONE: 200-750-1111  
FAX: 200-750-1119  
EMAIL: [jeff@mfd.hawaii.gov](mailto:jeff@mfd.hawaii.gov)  
January 30, 2014

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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 Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety (MFD). The SFC and the MFD 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.

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 MFD 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](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
Fire Chief