



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Housing
Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

LATE

RE: SENATE BILL 611 RELATING TO FIRE SPRINKLERS

Chairs Nishihara and Espero, Vice Chairs Wakai and Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** SB 611, which repeals the June 30, 2017, expiration date of Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, which prohibits counties from requiring installation or retrofitting of automatic fire sprinklers in (1) new or existing detached one- or two-family dwelling units used only for residential purposes; and (2) non-residential agricultural and aquacultural structures located outside an urban area.

The Chamber is the leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We understand that in 2012, the BIA-Hawaii was successful in passing legislation (Act 83, 2012) that prohibits any County from requiring the installation of automatic fire sprinklers in any new or existing one-or two-family dwelling. This prohibition on the mandate expires on June 30, 2017.

The Chamber is in support of the BIA-Hawaii's efforts in leading the fighting the fire sprinkler mandate by introducing legislation (2017) that would "prohibit" any county from mandating the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in all one and two family dwellings. By law, we would remove the ability of the State Building Code Council and the individual Counties to adopt the 2012 IRC, which includes the mandate. Installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems will remain as an "option" to new home buyers.

With the median price of a new home on Oahu at approximately \$750,000.00, adding the cost of a fire sprinkler system and larger water meter could increase the price of a home by \$36,000 to \$42,000 depending on the size of the dwelling. If fire sprinklers are "mandated," the additional cost may put the cost of a new home out of the reach of many families in Hawaii.

If the concern is the protection of the occupants of the dwelling, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the fire survival rate in homes with working smoke detectors is 99.41% and only rises to 99.6% with a sprinkler. However, the cost difference between the two systems is quite significant.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

If the concern is the protection of the firefighters, according to a study prepared by the Underwriter's Laboratory (2012), firefighters can still expect close to 30 minutes of structural integrity in newer homes with a wood I joist floor with a layer of gypsum wallboard on the underside of the joists." The difference in cost between a new automatic fire sprinkler system with associated increases in water meter size versus the cost of additional gypsum board to cover any exposed lightweight structural materials in new home construction is several thousand dollars.

We do not want to place homeowners or firefighters in unnecessary danger resulting from a one or two family structure fire. We believe that there are more cost effective means available that would provide the same level of protection at a fraction of the cost of a new fire sprinkler system and larger water meter.

Our concern, primarily in Hawaii, is the impact such a mandate would have on the affordability of housing in Hawaii. In 2014, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) prepared a state by state analysis of the number of home buyers impacted for every \$1,000 increases in price. In 2014, 594 households in Hawaii were priced out of the market by a \$1,000 increase in price.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

1065 Ahua Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: 808-833-1681 FAX: 839-4167
Email: info@gcahawaii.org
Website: www.gcahawaii.org



GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

LATE

Uploaded via Capitol Website

February 14, 2017

TO: HONORABLE CLARENCE NISHIHARA, CHAIR, HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR, HONORABLE BREENE HARIMOTO, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF S.B. 611 RELATING TO FIRE SPRINKLERS.** Repeals the June 30, 2017, expiration date of Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, which prohibits counties from requiring installation or retrofitting of automatic fire sprinklers in (1) new or existing detached one- or two-family dwelling units used only for residential purposes; and (2) non-residential agricultural and aquacultural structures located outside an urban area.

HEARING

DATE: February 14, 2017
TIME: 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Nishihara and Chair Espero, Vice Chair Wakai and Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committees:

The General Contractors Association (GCA) is an organization comprised of over five hundred general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii whose mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

GCA **supports** S.B. 611, Relating to Fire Sprinklers, which proposes to make permanent the prohibition that prevent the counties from requiring fire sprinklers in specific family dwelling units and agricultural and aquacultural buildings with exceptions.

GCA understands the necessity of protection and safety in homes, however GCA is opposed to mandates that would present a significant cost burden to homebuilders, homeowners and renters alike. Instead, GCA encourages incentives that would encourage homebuilders and homeowners to install fire safety measures that would reduce the likelihood of fire hazards.

GCA is opposed to the mandated installation of automatic sprinklers in residential homes for the following reasons: new homes are built safer; newer technologies to address fire hazards may be available in near future, negating installation of fire sprinklers; unknown costs not only for installation but maintenance, and incentives are encouraged, rather than mandates.

GCA is in support of S.B. 611 and would respectfully request that this Committee passes these measures. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



National Fire Protection Association

Regional Fire Sprinkler Office 30853 W 85 Terrace De Soto, Kansas 66018
phone: (913) 238-2568 email: jhudson@nfpa.org

February 14, 2017

LATE

The Honorable Will Espero Chair
Committee on Housing
The State Senate
State Capitol Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara Chair
The Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol Room 214
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB611-OPPOSE

Dear Chairs Espero and Nishihara and Members of the Committees and Members of the Committee:

I write to you and the Committee today to express strong opposition by the National Fire Protection Association to SB611, a bill that hinders local fire authorities from determining the best fire protection policy for their communities. This is a serious public safety issue. I have outlined some thoughts on our opposition to SB611.

At the very least, codes are designed to be adopted and implemented in their totality to make certain that when all code requirements are conformed to, a house is in its safest code compliant state to protect the occupants of the structure. When one component, such as fire sprinklers, is not installed in the structure, other requirements and structural components, which may have been lessened because of pre-supposed sprinkler protection, are now increasingly vulnerable to the effects of fire and may drastically increase the danger to the lives of the occupants, firefighters, and other rescuers who may respond to an incident of fire in the home. Adopting this legislation, and reducing the requirement of the code by prohibiting this adoption, is in effect allowing **SUB-STANDARD HOMES** to be built in your Counties and communities.

Ignores Reduced Life Safety: Most importantly, this bill will withhold the life-saving benefits of home fire sprinklers from the citizens in Hawaii. Each year, approximately 3,000 people die in home fires in the United States – more than all of the fatalities from natural disasters annually. In 2015, roughly 83% of all civilian fire deaths and 89% of all civilian fire injuries resulted from home structure fires. Home fire sprinklers would have saved the vast majority of these fire victims because sprinklers play a significant role in limiting life and property loss when a fire happens. For people that have a reported fire in their home, the risk of dying decreases by about 80 percent when sprinklers are present.

Interrupts Local Fire Policy: Local fire authorities rely on an array of tools – including automatic fire sprinklers – to combat the threat of fire and provide their public safety service. Local fire protection policy is

based on many issues, such as local fire department deployment capabilities, firefighter safety needs, response-time goals, and insurance services rating needs. Home fire sprinklers can impact the community from local fire protection policy to local firefighting tactics and strategies. If passed, this bill will remove a valuable tool that may be used by fire departments to meet their local needs in providing the best public safety service to their communities.

Discounts Local Hearings: Local fire authorities, Counties and municipalities that have determined they want to require residential fire sprinklers still must provide an open and public hearing process. This local hearing process will allow discussion on all the technical details relevant to their proposal. The issue will be considered at the local level in a public forum, where pertinent issues to local conditions may be considered.

Neglects Firefighter Safety: Residential fire sprinklers provide great assistance to firefighters, especially in congested metropolitan areas and rural settings, where it takes a longer for firefighters to arrive on scene. Fire sprinklers reduce the chance of “flashover” and keep the fire at bay, while the firefighters arrive and set up for firefighting operations. Fire sprinklers buy time before the structure collapses. Studies show that with new construction techniques, called light-weight truss construction, homes do not have much time under fire conditions and can collapse on responding firefighters. Fire sprinklers will alleviate that risk. This is a problem because statistics indicate that 62% of firefighter deaths occur at residential properties and 92% of those occurring in one and two family homes.

Representative, there are so many more reasons than these few provided in this letter that underscore the importance of not prohibiting local jurisdictions from making their own decisions for the level of safety they want to provide their residents and their public safety officials and responders. I implore you, for the sake of public safety; please do not provide a tool that allows for the construction of **SUB-STANDARD HOMES** in your communities. Additionally please don't disavow the communities in your State the right to make those decisions for themselves, please take the appropriate action to not move forward on SB611.

Sincerely,

Jeffery L. Hudson
Regional Fire Sprinkler Specialist
National Fire Protection Association

LATE

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Alan Shintani
1527 Onipaa St
Honolulu, HI 96819
alan@alan-shintani.com

LATE

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Davelyn Leong
731 Amana St Ph 1
Honolulu, HI 96814
davelyn@dcrhawaii.com

LATE

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

David Leong
1740 Kumakani Loop
Honolulu, HI 96821
dcr@dcrhawaii.com

LATE

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Eric Wong
1441 Akiikii Pl
Kailua, HI 96734
eric@onestopwd.com

Dear Chair Nishihara,

LATE

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Eric Wong
1441 Akiikii Pl
Kailua, HI 96734
eric@onestopwd.com

LATE

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Faith Yamagishi
91-303 HOOMALULE PL
EWA BEACH, HI 96706
fbaba@hawaii.rr.com

Dear Chair Nishihara,

LATE

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Davelyn Leong
731 Amana St Ph 1
Honolulu, HI 96814
davelyn@dcrhawaii.com

LATE

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Louie
501 Sumner St Ste 620
Honolulu, HI 96817
jlouie@ssfm.com

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Nani Santos, Realtor (B)
700 Iao Valley Rd
Wailuku, HI 96793
nanisantos808@gmail.com

Dear Chair Nishihara,

LATE

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

paul vierling
949 Akepo Ln
Honolulu, HI 96817
paulv@hawaiiigs.com

LATE

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Richard Clary
47-335 AHUIMANU RD
KANEHOE, HI 96744
rcb@rclarybuilders.com

Dear Chair Nishihara,

LATE

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

Dedra Nahinu
1250 Kapiolani Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96814
hnahinu@inspirationinteriors.com

LATE

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Espero, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of S.B. 611, to keep residential fire sprinklers optional in all new one- and two-family homes. Act 83, SLH 2012, is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, so this bill will remove this sunset date and keep sprinklers optional for the new homeowner.

I support the safety of residents and fire fighters, but we have a housing crisis throughout the State. DBEDT reports that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units over the next ten years to accommodate population growth. Our median home price is about \$730,000 on Oahu, and the median household income is \$87,900 for a family of four. Families can barely afford a home now, and many can't so are homeless or are hidden homeless. What more when \$28,000 to over \$100,000 (on Maui) is added for a fire sprinkler system?? And add the cost of yearly maintenance on top of that.

A working smoke alarm is proven to save lives. And technology used in today's new home construction offers safer, more durable building materials and products. Interconnected smoke alarms and other improvements mean we are safer than ever in a new home.

Technology has presented many cost effective ways to prevent fires. Cooking is the most common cause of home fires and there are fire suppression canisters for about \$65 that you can place above your stove that will activate with heat and flames. Or sensors that will automatically shut your stove off if no movement is detected for a period of time.

I am not opposed to fire sprinklers; anyone who wants to install one is free to do so. But, I am strongly opposed to mandating fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes because doing so is not cost-effective, new homes are built better and safer, and we have a housing crisis so we need to do all we can to keep homes affordable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 611.

Sincerely,

John Cheung, (808)848-2032
45-527 APAPANE ST
KANEHOE, HI 96744
john@ccengineeringhawaii.com