



**HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**  
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**THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION 2018**

**LATE**

**March 29, 2018**

**Committee on Ways and Means**

**Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, ALF-CIO**

**H.B. No. 1778 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL  
BENEFITS**

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO represents more than 1,900 professional active-duty and 800 retired fire fighters throughout the State. On behalf of our members, HFFA **supports H. B. No. 1778 HD 1 SD 1** which improves the access for fire fighters to gain comprehensive medical benefits upon diagnosis from cancer that is presumed to arise out of and in the course of employment.

Thirty-seven states and nine Canadian provinces already have cancer presumptive laws that provide fire fighters with medical and service-connected disability benefits. Several studies, as recommended by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), serve as the basis that demonstrates the need for cancer presumptive legislation locally. These studies are consistent with other previous studies assessing the cancer risks in fire fighters associated with occupational exposure. As a stakeholder participating in the Cancer Presumption Task Force that convened in 2016 as a response to H.C.R. No. 32, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, HFFA is grateful that H. B. No. 1778 HD 1 addresses the concerns of the fire service.

HFFA appreciates the Committee's favorable consideration of this measure and ask that you **pass H. B. No. 1778, HD 1 SD 1.** Thank you for the opportunity to testify.