



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1974, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD) 1 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

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 HB 1974, HD 1, SD 1, which proposes to transfer \$1,000,000 from the natural area preserve fund to the fire fighter's contingency fund to upgrade fire fighting equipment for the state of Hawaii (State) and counties.

Summer is historically the busiest time of the year for wildland fires. As equipment technology improves and older equipment deteriorate, State and county fire fighters are continually looking to replace equipment. The transfer of this money will provide the needed support to replace and upgrade aging equipment.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's passage of HB 1974, HD1, SD 1 for the protection of the public and our fire fighters.

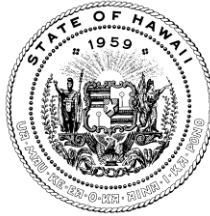
Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1974, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

House Bill 1974, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to transfer funds from the Natural Area Reserve Fund to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) Firefighter's Contingency Fund to be expended to upgrade firefighting equipment to be used jointly by the State and counties. **The Department supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is the primary responder for wildland fires across 1,368,002 acres of the State's forested watersheds and supports federal and county responders on the remaining area of the State. Due to climate change and associated droughts, the annual area burnt in Hawai'i has grown in past decades. In fact, the percentage of land area burned annually in Hawai'i exceeds the national average and some years it surpasses the 12 most fire-prone western states.¹

DOFAW's fire and emergency response mandates require specialized equipment. Resources are needed to modernize DOFAW's fleet of response vehicles and equipment to ensure timely response to wildfires. State crews currently rely on outdated vehicles, some of which are on loan from federal agencies, are incurring costly repairs, and have broken down while crews were en route to fires. The Department also assists counties during natural disasters, such as hurricanes

¹ Pacific Fire Exchange Wildfire in Hawaii Factsheet
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54825edae4b0426dc2c78f10/t/5696b96c0ab377d4c95fd307/1458772891261/Wildfire+in+Hawaii+fact+sheet+-+Pacific+Fire+Exchange+2014.pdf>

and lava flows. Much of DOFAW's equipment used for fire response is also used in such disasters.

1. The Department supports the use of the Natural Area Reserve Fund for upgrading firefighting equipment as fire suppression protects native ecosystems which are not fire-adapted.
2. It appears that the Department's Firefighter's Contingency Fund is appropriate for purchase of equipment.
3. Using equipment "jointly" with the counties is a viable concept as it pertains to the State's assistance to county response. Although renegotiating agreements to include joint equipment usage is possible, the current policy assigns trained DOFAW staff with equipment to assist the counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

ALAN M ARAKAWA
MAYOR



JEFFREY MURRAY
FIRE CHIEF

LIONEL MONTALVO
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732
(808) 270-7561
Fax (808) 270-7919

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

**Subject: House Bill (HB) 1974, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD) 1
Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources**

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui County, Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support HB 1974, HD 1, SD 1, which proposes to transfer \$1,000,000 from the natural area preserve fund to the fire fighter's contingency fund to upgrade fire fighting equipment for the state of Hawaii (State) and counties.

Summer is historically the busiest time of the year for wildland fires. As equipment technology improves and older equipment deteriorate, the State and county fire fighters are continually looking to replace equipment. The transfer of this money will provide the needed support to replace and upgrade aging equipment.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's passage of HB 1974, HD1, SD 1, for the protection of the public and our fire fighters.

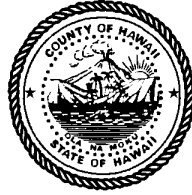
Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Murray".

JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief

Harry Kim
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

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: H.B. 1974, HD1, SD1, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2017
Time/Place of Hearing: 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawaii (HCFD) and Member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The HCFD and the SFC supports HB 1974, HD1, SD1 which proposes to appropriate funds from the natural area reserve fund in the sum of \$1,000,000 or so necessary to be deposited into the firefighter's contingency fund.

The HCFD works hand in hand with the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Wildlife in the mitigation of wildfires in Hawaii County. Our great partnership has resulted in the protection of countless homes and businesses during catastrophic wildfires throughout the past years. Recently, our partnership mitigated a large wildfire on the West side of Hawaii Island along Highway 190 over the course of several days.

Prompt response and mitigation efforts are key to the saving of open area spaces that are also used for agriculture or reserve functions. Mitigation efforts are further enhanced with serviceable equipment, apparatus, and proper personnel manning. This measure would greatly enhance the DLNR's ability to assist local County Fire Departments with the protection of its mutual communities, open rangelands, and forest reserves. The HCFD and the SFC strongly urges you to support this measure.

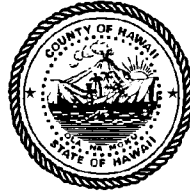
Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1974, HD1, SD1.

Respectfully,

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief



Harry Kim
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
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April 2, 2018

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
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Time/Place of Hearing: 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

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Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2901 or darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1974, HD1, SD1.

Respectfully,

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DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief



Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 2, 2018

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 1974, HD 1, SD 1 Relating to DLNR/Fire Department Partnership
Hearing Date: 04/04/2018 – 10:30 am; Conference Room 211**

HB 1974, HD 1, SD 1 would provide a funding mechanism for the upgrading of firefighting equipment that is used jointly by the State and the counties.

I have long been aware of the outstanding partnership that exists between county fire departments and the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Wildlife, working to mitigate wildfires in Hawai'i County and elsewhere. Their joint efforts have served our communities well and prevented untold damage over the years.

I fully support HB 1974, HD 1, SD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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April 2, 2018

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Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

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I fully support HB 1974, HD 1, SD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

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April 2, 2018

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Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
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I fully support HB 1974, HD 1, SD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

HB-1974-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:08:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: