

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Wallace G. Rezentes, Jr.
Managing Director

Kilipaki K. F. Vaughan
Deputy Fire Chief

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 315, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

February 20, 2018

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: Senate Bill (SB) 2184 Relating to Fire Protection

I am Robert Westerman, Vice Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The SFC and the KFD support SB 2184, which proposes to provide additional use of the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) certification fees to support the SFC and its programs and activities.

The SFC was established by the Hawaii State Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's office. It is comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs and administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). The SFC is responsible for adopting the state fire code, administering federal fire-related grants, enforcing the RIPC program, coordinating statewide fire training, and data collection. It is also in the process of adopting administrative rules to establish statewide qualifications for testing and certifying individuals who perform maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems.

From 1979 to 2001 the SFC did not have funding for staff and relied entirely on county personnel to accomplish its responsibilities. In 2001, the Governor directed the DLIR to allocate \$35,000 to fund the SFC's first employee. In 2011, the legislature appropriated an additional \$71,000 for the SFC to hire two additional employees. In 2014, a Program Specialist was hired to administer the RIPC despite no foreseeable budgetary increases.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

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February 5, 2018

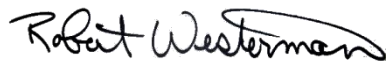
Therefore, the legislature finds that the SFC would greatly benefit from additional personnel so that it may promote statewide fire and life safety activities. The purpose of this Act is to authorize the expenditure of moneys collected from the RIPC fees to fund fire and life safety programs by hiring additional personnel.

We request the bill be amended to appropriate an additional \$100,000 into the SFC annual budget to fund statewide fire and safety programs.

Life safety is a priority for the SFC and the KFD. The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 2184.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/dag

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT
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February 20, 2018

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

SUBJECT: SB 2184, RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION
Hearing Date: Friday, February 23, 2018
Time/Place of Hearing: 10:00 am, Conference Room 211

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department of the County of Hawaii (HCFD). The SFC and the HFD support SB 2184, which proposes to provide additional use of the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) certification fees to support the SFC and its programs and activities.

The Hawaii State Legislature established the SFC in 1979. The SFC is comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs and administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). We are responsible for adopting the state fire code, administering federal fire-related grants, enforcing the RIPC program, coordinating statewide fire training, and data collection. It is also in the process of adopting administrative rules to establish statewide qualifications for testing and certifying individuals who perform maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems.

Therefore, the legislature finds that the SFC would greatly benefit from additional personnel so that it may promote statewide fire and life safety activities. The purpose of this Act is to authorize the expenditure of moneys collected from the RIPC fees to fund fire and life safety programs by hiring additional personnel.

We request the bill be amended to appropriate an additional \$100,000 into the SFC annual budget to fund statewide fire and safety programs. Life safety is a priority for the SFC and the HFD. The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 2184.

Should you have questions, please contact me at darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov or at 808-932-2903.

Very Truly Yours,

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

