

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

February 27, 2018

**LATE**

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 208  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2531 Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist with Sprinkler Retrofits

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 SB 2531, which proposes to authorize the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist in the retrofitting of low- and moderate-income apartment complexes with sprinkler systems.

The Marco Polo condominium fire on July 14, 2017, highlights the dangers of fire in older apartment buildings. Automatic fire sprinkler systems have been proven to be a solution to fires in high-rise buildings. Death rates and property loss are substantially reduced when these systems are installed and properly maintained.

Recent concerns by condominium associations have brought to light the financial burden to property owners on small or fixed incomes. This bill provides the financial support to property owners who would not normally be able to carry the financial burden to protect themselves and their neighbors from a high-rise fire.

Life safety is the top priority for the SFC and the MFD.

The SFC and the MFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 2531.

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

Sincerely,

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

JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
Fire Chief