

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIJO
DIRECTOR

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

March 6, 2018

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

Dear Chair Nishihara:

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 4 Requesting the Formation of a Task Force to Study the Issue of Residential Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Costs for New One- and Two-Family Dwellings

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 SCR 4, which proposes to convene a task force of various stakeholders to study the cost of installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings.

The recent fire at the Marco Polo condominium on July 14, 2017, highlights the dangers of fire in unsprinklered residential buildings. Automatic fire sprinkler systems have proven to be a solution to saving lives and property from fire. Death rates and property loss are substantially reduced when these systems are installed and properly maintained.

During the 28th Legislative Session, there was a wide disparity in the projected cost of automatic fire sprinkler installations in one- and two-family dwellings, which ranged from \$7,000 to over \$70,000. The purpose of this resolution is to determine the reasonable industry costs of installing automatic fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings so homeowners may have the correct information to make a decision on installing residential fire sprinklers. It is hoped this bill, along with several other bills, will provide incentives to homeowners in an effort to reduce injury and death from residential fires.

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Life safety is a priority for the SFC and the HFD and we urge your committee's support on the passage of SCR 4.

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

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc