



LATE

**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Thursday, March 8, 2018
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

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RE: HCR 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

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai, & members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Quinto-Marrone, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-HAWAII is in **strong opposition** to HCR 4, which proposes to convene a task force to study the costs of installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings.

This creates another task force to study sprinklers in new 1- and 2-family dwelling. The State Building Code Council prepared a similar report in 2013 (attached). While no one disagrees with the fact that automatic fire sprinklers are effective at extinguishing or containing fires in one and two family dwellings, the cost to install automatic fire sprinklers are prohibitive, especially for homes in Hawaii. Fire sprinklers should be an option, not a mandate. We believe homeowners should have a choice and not be required to have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed in their new home.

Currently, only Maryland, California, and the District of Columbia have adopted codes that require fire sprinklers on all new one and two family dwellings. None of the other 48 States and/or their respective counties have mandated the installation of automatic fire sprinklers on new one and two family dwellings.

As we are all aware, we are in a "Housing Crisis" in Hawaii. Mandating the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in all new one and two family dwellings **WILL NOT** keep new homes affordable for Hawaii's families. BIA-Hawaii is not against fire sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

We are in **strong opposition** to HCR 4, and appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

LATE

SCR-4

Submitted on: 3/7/2018 2:49:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/8/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Thursday, March 8, 2018
1:30 P.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

RE: Testimony in Support of **SCR4**

To the Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR4** to REQUEST THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ISSUE OF RESIDENTIAL AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM COSTS FOR NEW ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SCR4** and supports its passage.

SCR4 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requests that a task force be convened to conduct a comparative analysis of the varying county costs for materials, labor, permits, and other related fees to install automatic fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings to prevent, avoid, and alleviate the risk of fire-related injury and damage. In the City and County of Honolulu alone, there were one thousand sixty-eight structure fires from 2006 to 2015 resulting in twenty-seven civilian deaths, one hundred fifty-two civilian injuries, and over \$100,000,000 in direct damages.

Specifically, the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i provides that "[w]e believe in a government that will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly, ethically and fairly administer to the needs of the people." (Platform of the DPH, P. 5, Lines 245-246 (2016)).

Given that **SCR4** requests that a task force be convened to conduct a comparative analysis of the varying county costs for materials, labor, permits, and other related fees to install automatic fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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