

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI  
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
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January 28, 2020

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 438  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1754 Relating to Fire Protection

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 1754, which requires contractors of new one- and two-family dwellings to provide buyers with information on the costs associated with the installation and maintenance of a residential fire sprinkler system.

Eight out of ten deaths occur in a residential home. Studies have shown that installed fire sprinklers reduce death by upwards of 90%, regardless if smoke detectors were installed. The SFC and HFD believes it is beneficial to the future homeowner to be provided this information during the planning and design phase in order to make an informed choice. The bill will also allow the SFC to provide the information on the benefits of the residential sprinkler system.

Public safety and property protection are priorities of the SFC and HFD, and information of an automatic fire sprinkler in new one- and two-family homes fulfills this objective.

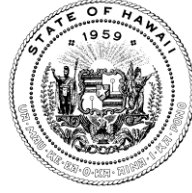
The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 1754.

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

Sincerely,

MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair

MPN/LR:cn



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
House Committee on Housing  
Thursday, January 30, 2020  
9:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 1754, RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION**

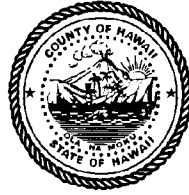
Chair Brower and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlene Tamanaha, and I am the Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVL). The Department respectfully opposes this bill to the extent it requires the PVL to develop a standard form to be used to confirm a new dwelling buyer's receipt of information on the benefits and costs associated with installing and maintaining a residential fire sprinkler system.

As the division responsible for implementing the licensing regulations of 52 different professions and vocations, the PVL lacks the requisite expertise to develop the form(s) required by this bill to effectuate the proposed chapter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Harry Kim**  
Mayor



**Darren J. Rosario**  
Fire Chief

**Lance S. Uchida**  
Deputy Fire Chief

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

January 28, 2020

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 438  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

**Subject: H.B. 1754, RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION**  
**Hearing Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: 9:45 a.m., Conference Room 423**

I am Darren J. Rosario, Vice Chairman of the Hawai'i State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The SFC and the HCFD supports HB 1754, which requires contractors of new one-and two-family dwellings to provide buyers with information on the costs associated with the installation and maintenance of a residential fire sprinkler system.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Fire Department, I support the written testimony being submitted by State Fire Council Chair Manuel Neves in its entirety.

The SFC and the HCFD respectfully request your passage of HB 1754.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or [darren.rosario@hawaiiicounty.gov](mailto:darren.rosario@hawaiiicounty.gov) should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Respectfully,

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

DARREN J. ROSARIO  
Fire Chief





**KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT  
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I**

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**ROBERT F. WESTERMAN  
FIRE CHIEF**

Testimony of Robert F. Westerman  
Fire Chief, Kaua'i Fire Department

Before the  
House Committee on Housing  
January 30, 2020; 9:45 am  
Conference Room 423

In consideration of  
House Bill 1754  
Relating to Public Safety

Honorable Chair Brower, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee:

The State Fire Council (SFC) and the Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD) strongly **supports** HB 1762, which requires contractors of new one- and two-family dwellings to provide buyers with information on the costs associated with the installation and maintenance of a residential fire sprinkler system.

Eight out of ten deaths occur in a residential home. Studies have shown installed fire sprinklers reduce death by upwards of 90%, regardless if smoke detectors were installed. The SFC and KFD believes it is beneficial to the future homeowner to be provided this information during the planning and design phase in order to make an informed choice. The bill will also allow the SFC to provide the information on the benefits of the residential sprinkler system.

Public safety and property protection are priorities of the SFC and KFD, and information of an automatic fire sprinkler in new one- and two-family homes fulfills this objective.

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 1754.

Should you have questions, please contact KFD Fire Prevention Captain Darryl Date at 241-4982 or [ddate@kauai.gov](mailto:ddate@kauai.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman".

Robert F. Westerman  
Fire Chief

RFW/LR:st

[www.kauai.gov](http://www.kauai.gov)

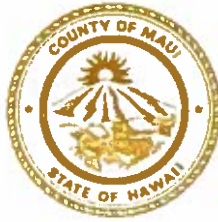
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**MICHAEL P. VICTORINO**  
Mayor

**DAVID C. THYNE**  
Fire Chief

**BRADFORD K. VENTURA**  
Deputy Fire Chief



**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, HI 96732

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 438  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1754 Relating to Fire Protection

I am David C. Thyne, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support HB 1754, which requires contractors of new one- and two-family dwellings to provide buyers with information on the costs associated with the installation and maintenance of a residential fire sprinkler system.

Eight of ten deaths occur in a residential home. Studies have shown installed fire sprinklers reduce death by upwards of 90%, regardless if smoke detectors were installed. The SFC and MFD believes it is beneficial to the future homeowner to be provided this information during the planning and design phase in order to make an informed choice. The bill will also allow the SFC to provide the information on the benefits of the residential sprinkler system.

Public safety and property protection are priorities of the SFC and MFD, and information of an automatic fire sprinkler in new one- and two-family homes fulfills this objective.

The SFC and MFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 1754.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 and [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Thyne".

DAVID C. THYNE  
Fire Chief



**LATE**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423  
415 South Beretania Street  
9:45 AM**

**January 30, 2020**

**.RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1754, RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION**

Chair Brower, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the committee:

My name is Dwight Mitsunaga, 2020 President 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. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA-Hawaii is opposed to H.B. 1754 which proposes to require builders of new dwellings to provide buyers with information on the benefits and costs associated with installing and maintaining a residential fire sprinkler system.

It seems the proposed bill would shift the responsibility to educate future home buyers of the costs and benefits of installing a new automatic fire sprinkler system in their new home from the State Fire Council to the individual builder. The responsibility for educating people on the benefits of an automatic fire sprinkler system should rest with the State Fire Council.

The bill does not identify which agency would provide oversight for the enforcement of this new requirement, and the standard to determine a "wilful violation" is merely that the person who is found in violation of this section knew or should have known about this requirement. The standard seems a bit arbitrary and unenforceable.

In the past, BIA-Hawaii has provided, at no cost to the Honolulu Fire Department, booth space at our two home shows annually to educate consumers on the fire sprinkler issue. Shifting this responsibility to the new home buyer with additional bureaucratic acknowledgement procedures will add to the cost of a new home. All builders will attempt to satisfy the desires of a new home buyer in providing additional amenities or options in the purchase of a new home, as long as the buyer is aware of the additional cost.

In the 2020 Legislative Session, both Chambers of the Hawaii State Legislature, and Governor Ige's Administration put forward a comprehensive package of bills to improve the quality of life for Hawaii's middle class families. A large part of the package attempted to address housing affordability. Adding more requirements to the home sale process will raise the cost of housing

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter.

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# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Housing  
Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 9:45 A.M.  
Conference Room 423, State Capitol**

**LATE**

**RE: HB 1754 RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION**

Chair Brower, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** HB 1754, which would require builders of new dwellings to provide buyers with information on the benefits and costs associated with installing and maintaining a residential fire sprinkler system. This bill also requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Professional and Vocational Licensing Division to develop a standard form for this purpose.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This bill would add additional requirements to the home sale process, which would raise the cost of housing. The bill would shift the responsibility to educate future home buyers of the costs and benefits of installing a new automatic fire sprinkler system in their new home from the State Fire Council to the individual builder.

In addition, this bill does not identify which agency would provide oversight for the enforcement of this new requirement, and the standard to determine a "willful violation" is merely that the person who is found in violation of this section knew or should have known about this requirement.

In the past we understand that BIA-Hawaii has provided, at no cost to the Honolulu Fire Department, booth space at their two home shows annually to educate consumers on the fire sprinkler issue. Shifting this responsibility to the new home buyer with additional bureaucratic procedures will add to the cost of a new home.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our opposition to HB 1754.