

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIJO
DIRECTOR

LOIS IYOMASA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
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February 11, 2019

The Honorable Aaron Johanson, Chair
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 493 Relating to the State Fire Council

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 493. This bill proposes to authorize the use of the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) special fund to support the SFC and its programs and activities. It would define the process for random cigarette testing, manufacturer notification, and the appeals process for failed RIPC tests. It would also allow the SFC the flexibility in hiring additional full- or part-time employees within various position classifications.

The SFC was established by the Hawaii State (State) Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's office. It is comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs and is administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 132, the SFC's primary mission is to develop and support a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. Through the collaborative and unified efforts of each county Fire Chief, the SFC promotes the standardization of fire service reporting, training, sharing of technology, resources, and best management practices. The SFC may advise and assist the county fire departments where appropriate; prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires; and advise the Governor and legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection, life safety, and other functions or activities of the various county fire departments.

The SFC is responsible for reviewing a national fire code and adopting the Hawaii state fire code. It is responsible for administering federal fire-related grants, managing the RIPC program, and coordinating statewide fire training, education, and data collection. The SFC also oversees a statewide program for testing and certifying individuals who perform maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems.

Between 1979 and 2001, the SFC relied entirely on county personnel to accomplish its mission. 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.

Hawaii's RIPC law took effect on September 30, 2009. Almost \$660,000 in RIPC certification fees were collected before a RIPC Program specialist was hired on January 16, 2014. Since then, a plan has been formulated and instituted to properly administer Hawaii's RIPC law. Besides paying for the program specialist's salary, money from the RIPC Special Fund has been used for compliance inspections, cigarette purchases, shipping costs (to certified laboratories), and testing fees. The average expenditure between 2014 and 2018 was \$115,000. However, during that same time period, certification fees received averaged \$124,500.

Each year for the past 30 years, more than 150,000 Fire Fighter's Safety Guide (FFSG), a booklet with fire and life safety information, are distributed to elementary schools statewide. Students have acknowledged that information learned through this program helped them properly escape and save family members during a fire. The HFD funds the FFSG's annual design, graphic art, and content.

Other educational training conducted by county fire departments include programs for senior fire and fall prevention, fire extinguisher training, fire evacuation planning and drills, health and safety fairs, career fair presentations, fire prevention week mural board exhibits, smoke alarm installations, youth fire setter intervention, and training for new and incumbent fire fighters in fire prevention, fire investigation, and safety. County funding for these programs is sometimes limited.

The passage of HB 493 would allow 1) money in the RIPC special fund to be transferred to the SFC for many of these important programs that seek to prevent fire deaths, injuries, and property losses as a result of fire; and 2) the SFC to hire additional personnel to administer the duties and responsibilities of the SFC and the RIPC.

The Honorable Aaron Johanson, Chair
Page 3
February 11 2019

The SFC requests that the bill be amended to include an appropriation of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and \$150,000 for FY21 in addition to the current amount designated to administer the RIPC program.

The SFC believes that education is a key component for the prevention of all types of hazardous events, including fires, and training being a key element in the preparedness to effectively mitigate those incidents.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 493.

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

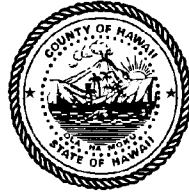
Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

Harry Kim
Mayor



LATE

Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Lance S. Uchida
Deputy Fire Chief

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

February 11, 2019

The Honorable Aaron Johanson, Chair
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: H.B. 493, RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2019
Time/Place of Hearing: 9:20 a.m., Conference Room 309

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member 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 493. This bill proposes to authorize the use of the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) special fund to support the SFC and its programs and activities. It would define the process for random cigarette testing, manufacturer notification, and the appeals process for failed RIPC tests. It would also allow the SFC the flexibility in hiring additional full- or part-time employees within various position classifications.

The SFC was established by the Hawai'i State (State) Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's office. It is comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs and is administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

Hawai'i's RIPC law took effect on September 30, 2009. Almost \$660,000 in RIPC certification fees were collected before a RIPC Program specialist was hired on January 16, 2014. Since then, a plan has been formulated and instituted to properly administer Hawai'i's RIPC law. The RIPC Special Fund has been used for the program specialist's salary, money from for compliance inspections, cigarette purchases, shipping costs (to certified laboratories), and testing fees. The average expenditure between 2014 and 2018 was \$115,000. However, during that same time period, certification fees received averaged \$124,500.

The passage of SB 146 would allow 1) money in the RIPC special fund to be transferred to the SFC for many of these important programs that seek to prevent fire deaths, injuries, and



H.B. 493 Relating to the State Fire Council
February 11, 2019
Page 2

property losses as a result of fire; and 2) the SFC to hire additional personnel to administer the duties and responsibilities of the SFC and the RIPC.

The SFC requests that the bill be amended to include an appropriation of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and \$150,000 for FY21 in addition to the current amount designated to administer the RIPC program.

The SFC and the HCFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 493.

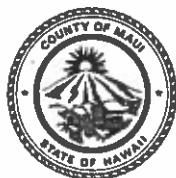
Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2901 or darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 493.

Respectfully,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

MICHAEL VICTORINO
MAYOR



LATE

DAVID THYNE
FIRE CHIEF

BRADFORD VENTURA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY**

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732
PHONE: (808) 270-7561
FAX: (808) 270-7919

February 11, 2019

The Honorable Aaron Johanson, Chair
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 493 Relating to the State Fire Council

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 493. This bill proposes to authorize the use of the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) special fund to support the SFC and its programs and activities. It would define the process for random cigarette testing, manufacturer notification, and the appeals process for failed RIPC tests. It would also allow the SFC the flexibility in hiring additional full- or part-time employees within various position classifications.

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The SFC is responsible for reviewing a national fire code and adopting the Hawaii state fire code. It is responsible for administering federal fire-related grants, managing the RIPC program, and coordinating statewide fire training, education, and data collection. The SFC also oversees a statewide program for testing and certifying individuals who perform maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems.

Between 1979 and 2001, the SFC relied entirely on county personnel to accomplish its mission. 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.

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Other educational training conducted by county fire departments include programs for senior fire and fall prevention, fire extinguisher training, fire evacuation planning and drills, health and safety fairs, career fair presentations, fire prevention week mural board exhibits, smoke alarm installations, youth fire setter intervention, and training for new and incumbent fire fighters in fire prevention, fire investigation, and safety. County funding for these programs is sometimes limited.

The passage of HB 493 would allow 1) money in the RIPC special fund to be transferred to the SFC for many of these important programs that seek to prevent fire deaths, injuries, and property losses as a result of fire; and 2) the SFC to hire additional personnel to administer the duties and responsibilities of the SFC and the RIPC.

The SFC requests that the bill be amended to include an appropriation of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and \$150,000 for FY21 in addition to the current amount designated to administer the RIPC program.

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Page 3

February 11, 2019

The SFC believes that education is a key component for the prevention of all types of hazardous events, including fires, and training being a key element in the preparedness to effectively mitigate those incidents.

The SFC and the MFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 493.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. C. Thyne", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief

DCT/LR:clc



KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I
DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

KILIPAKI VAUGHAN
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 11, 2019

LATE

The Honorable Aaron Johanson, Chair
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 493 Relating to the State Fire Council
Companion Bill SB 146

I am Kilipaki Vaughan, Deputy Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The State Fire Council (SFC) and KFD supports HB 493.

This bill proposes to authorize the use of the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) special fund to support the SFC and its programs and activities. It would define the process for random cigarette testing, manufacturer notification, and the appeals process for failed RIPC tests. It would also allow the SFC the flexibility in hiring additional full- or part-time employees within various position classifications.

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The SFC is responsible for reviewing a national fire code and adopting the Hawaii state fire code. It is responsible for administering federal fire-related grants, managing the RIPC program, and coordinating

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KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I
DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

KILIPAKI VAUGHAN
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

The Honorable Aaron Johanson, Chair
February 11, 2019
Page 2

statewide fire training, education, and data collection. The SFC also oversees a statewide program for testing and certifying individuals who perform maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems.

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THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I
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The Honorable Aaron Johanson, Chair
February 11, 2019
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The SFC requests that the bill be amended to include an appropriation of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and \$150,000 for FY21 in addition to the current amount designated to administer the RIPC program.

The SFC believes that education is a key component for the prevention of all types of hazardous events, including fires, and training being a key element in the preparedness to effectively mitigate those incidents.

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 493.

Should you have questions, please contact me at (808) 241-4980 or via email at kvaughan@kauai.gov

Ke aloha nui,

Kilipaki Vaughan
Deputy Fire Chief
Kauai Fire Department, County of Kauai

KV/dg

