

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LATE

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 436
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 496 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 496, which proposes to revise the statutory language to allow flexibility in hiring personnel to accomplish the responsibilities of the SFC. It would also allow a county fire department to employ personnel and the allotted funds to be used for office equipment and supplies.

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

The current language allows the SFC to employ full-time personnel and specifies the positions as an Administrator and Administrative Assistant. This bill proposes to revise the language to include employing part-time personnel or other staff. This would allow hiring personnel based on the allotted funding and the classification of such personnel the responsibility of the hiring agency.

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

Sincerely,

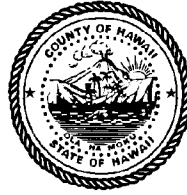
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Neves".

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

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Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TDD/TTY Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8866.

Harry Kim
Mayor



LATE

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

February 11, 2019

The Honorable Aaron Ling 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. 496, 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 496, which proposes to revise the statutory language to allow flexibility in hiring personnel to accomplish the responsibilities of the SFC. The bill further proposes to allow a county fire department to employ personnel and the allotted funds to be used for office equipment and supplies. The SFC is comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs, administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

The current language allows the SFC to employ a full-time Administrator and Administrative Assistant. As proposed, a revision of the existing language to include employing part-time personnel or other staff would allow hiring personnel based on the allotted funding. Furthermore it would allow for the classification of such personnel to be the responsibility of the hiring agency. The SFC and the HCFD urges your committee's support on the passage of HB 496.

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 496.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Darren J. Rosario.

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
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February 11, 2019

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

Dear Chair Johanson:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 496 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 496, which proposes to revise the statutory language to allow flexibility in hiring personnel to accomplish the responsibilities of the SFC. It would also allow a county fire department to employ personnel and the allotted funds to be used for office equipment and supplies.

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

The current language allows the SFC to employ full-time personnel and specifies the positions as an Administrator and Administrative Assistant. This bill proposes to revise the language to include employing part-time personnel or other staff. This would allow hiring personnel based on the allotted funding and the classification of such personnel the responsibility of the hiring agency.

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".

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief

DTC/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

LATE

February 11, 2019

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) 496 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Kilipaki Vaughan, Deputy Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The State Fire Council (SFC) and KFD supports HB 496, which proposes to revise the statutory language to allow flexibility in hiring personnel to accomplish the responsibilities of the SFC. It would also allow a county fire department to employ personnel and the allotted funds to be used for office equipment and supplies.

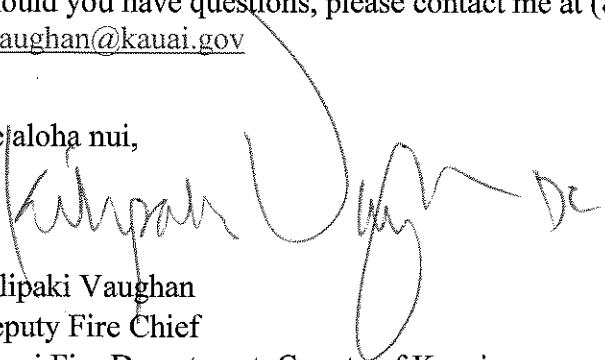
The SFC was established by the Hawaii State Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's (SFM) office. It is comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs, administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Hawaii's equivalent of a SFM.

The current language allows the SFC to employ full-time personnel and specifies the positions as an Administrator and Administrative Assistant. This bill proposes to revise the language to include employing part-time personnel or other staff. This would allow hiring personnel based on the allotted funding and the classification of such personnel the responsibility of the hiring agency.

The KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 496.

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





HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

LATE

The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 12, 2019


H.B. 496 – RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes Section 2 of H.B. 496 which allows the State Fire Council to employ staff exempt from collective bargaining and civil service.

Section 2 of H.B. 496 allows the State Fire Council to employ an administrator, administrative assistant, and other staff without regard to Chapters 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Exempting employees from civil service and excluding employees from the right to collectively bargain creates a government workplace of “at will” employment with minimal employee rights. While we can understand that an administrator or management position could be “at will,” we oppose denying employment protections for administrative assistants and “other staff” – as described in this measure – without having further information on the classification of these positions. Collectively, the expansion of excluding and exempting positions in state government is in direct conflict with the Article XVI, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution and state law which establish a merit-based civil service system free from coercive political influences.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to H.B. 496.

Respectfully submitted,


Randy Perreira
Executive Director