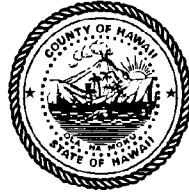


**Harry Kim**  
*Mayor*



**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

February 7, 2020

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,  
and Military Affairs  
State Capitol, Room 214  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara:

**Subject: S.B. 2129, RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 229**

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 stand in strong support of SB 2129. This bill will authorize the SFC to utilize the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) program special fund dollars to pay for key statewide programs and activities that support the primary mission of the SFC. It will also authorize the SFC to employ additional staff personnel to implement and coordinate those programs.

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.

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 of SB 2129.

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  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
February 11, 2020; 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
Senate Bill 2129  
Relating to Fire Protection

Honorable Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The State Fire Council (SFC) and the Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD) **support** SB 2129. This bill will authorize the SFC to utilize the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) program special fund dollars to pay for key statewide programs and activities that support the primary mission of the SFC. It will also authorize the SFC to employ additional staff personnel to implement and coordinate those programs.

The SFC was established by the Hawaii 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 Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §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 State Legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection, and life safety.

The SFC is responsible for reviewing national fire code and adopting them into Hawai'i's state fire code. The SFC is responsible for administering federal fire-related grants, managing the RIPC program, and coordinating statewide fire training, education and data collection. It 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 funding and personnel to accomplish its mission. In 2001, the Governor directed the DLIR to allocate \$35,000 to fund the SFC's first part-time employee. In 2011, the legislature appropriated an additional \$71,000 for the SFC to hire two additional employees.

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

4444 Rice Street Suite 315 • Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766 • (808) 241-4980 (b) • (808) 241-6508 (f)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer



On July 6, 2008 during the twenty-fourth Hawai'i State Legislature Regular Session, Act 218 was passed and Hawai'i became the 36<sup>th</sup> state requiring that only reduced ignition propensity cigarettes be sold in Hawai'i. This law took effect on September 30, 2009. More than 700 brand/style cigarettes were certified by the SFC as being RIPC compliant. A \$375 fee was also attached for each brand/style cigarette that was certified for sale in our state. 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. Besides paying for the RIPC program specialist's salary, money from the RIPC Special Fund has been used to defray office expenses, field inspections, and random independent testing by certified laboratories.

The chart below shows the current status of the RIPC income and expenses and examples on the potential use of funds for statewide programs, training and a new position.

Program		Current Expense	Recurring Expense
Average Annual Fees Collected (2010 – present)	\$129,900		
Average Annual Expenses (2010 – present)	\$65,680		
Current Balance	\$780,000		
<b>Youth Fire Prevention Intervention Program (triennial)</b>		\$24,600.00	\$4,000.00
Materials, supplies and equipment		\$600.00	\$600.00
Contract Instructor		\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00
Personnel		\$19,000.00	\$9,500.00
<b>Firefighter Safety Guide Program</b>		\$44,000.00	\$44,000.00
Materials and Printing		\$32,500.00	\$32,500.00
Personnel		\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
<b>SFC Grant Manage (data analyst) Position</b>		\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00
<b>Fire Investigator Training (triennial )</b>		\$8,400.00	\$2,800.00
Reid Interview Techniques		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Vehicular Fire Investigations		\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
IAAI International Training Council		\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
<b>Fire Code Adoption Costs and Processes (triennial )</b>			\$888.00
Publish public notice in Hawaii newspapers			\$1,800.00
Estimated cost of personnel to generate & edit Ad Rules			\$864.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$149,000.00</b>	<b>\$123,688.00</b>

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Page 3

February 7, 2020

Currently, there are several programs that have been implemented by one or more of our county fire departments. Key among them is the Firefighter Safety Guide which has been in existence for more than 30 years. Each year more than 150,000 booklets filled with fire and life safety information is distributed to elementary school children throughout the State. There have been several accounts in the past where students acknowledged that information learned helped them escape and save family members during a fire or other emergency.

Specialized training could include fire/arson investigation and youth fire starting intervention. Community education programs such as senior fire and fall prevention, fire evacuation planning and drills, fire prevention week mural board projects, and smoke alarms for everyone could be initiated. Many times, funding at the county level is lacking, or does not exist.

This bill will allow the SFC to fulfill its mission with existing revenue to properly support the educational programs and training for a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State.

We request that the bill be amended to include an appropriation of \$150,000 for FY20 and \$150,000 for FY21, in addition to the current amount designated to administer the RIPC program.

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 2129.

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

Sincerely,



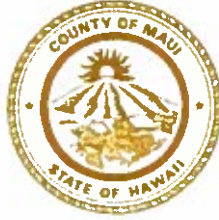
Robert F. Westerman  
Fire Chief

RFW/DD:st

**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

February 7, 2020

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 Bill (SB) 2129, 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 stand in strong support of SB 2129. This bill will authorize the SFC to utilize the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) program special fund dollars to pay for key statewide programs and activities that support the primary mission of the SFC. It will also authorize the SFC to employ additional staff personnel to implement and coordinate those programs.

The SFC was established by the Hawaii 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) §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 State Legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection, and life safety.

The SFC is responsible for reviewing national fire code and adopting them into Hawaii's state fire code. The SFC is responsible for administering federal fire-related grants, managing the RIPC program, and coordinating statewide fire training, education and data collection. It 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 funding and personnel to accomplish its mission. In 2001, the Governor directed the DLIR to allocate \$35,000 to fund the SFC's first part-time employee. In 2011, the legislature appropriated an additional \$71,000 for the SFC to hire two additional employees.

On July 6, 2008 during the twenty-fourth Hawaii State Legislature Regular Session, Act 218 was passed and Hawaii became the 36<sup>th</sup> state requiring that only reduced ignition propensity cigarettes be sold in Hawaii. This law took effect on September 30, 2009. More than 700 brand/style cigarettes were certified by the SFC as being RIPC compliant. A \$375 fee was also attached for each brand/style cigarette that was certified for sale in our state. 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 RIPC program specialist's salary, money from the RIPC Special Fund has been used to defray office expenses, field inspections, and random independent testing by certified laboratories.

The chart below shows the current status of the RIPC income and expenses and examples on the potential use of funds for statewide programs, training and a new position.

Average Annual Fees Collected (2010 – present)	\$129,900	Current Expense	Recurring Expense
Average Annual Expenses (2010 –present)	\$65,680		
Current Balance	\$780,000		
<b>Program</b>			
<b>Youth Fire Prevention Intervention Program (triennial)</b>		\$24,600.00	\$4,000.00
Materials, supplies and equipment		\$600.00	\$600.00
Contract Instructor		\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00
Personnel		\$19,000.00	\$9,500.00
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Personnel		\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
<b>SFC Grant Manage (data analyst) Position</b>		\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00
<b>Fire Investigator Training (triennial )</b>		\$8,400.00	\$2,800.00
Reid Interview Techniques		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
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<b>Fire Code Adoption Costs and Processes (triennial )</b>			\$888.00
Publish public notice in Hawaii newspapers			\$1,800.00
Estimated cost of personnel to generate & edit Ad Rules			\$864.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$149,000.00</b>	<b>\$123,688.00</b>

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Page 3

February 6, 2020

Currently, there are several programs that have been implemented by one or more of our county fire departments. Key among them is the Firefighter Safety Guide which has been in existence for more than 30 years. Each year more than 150,000 booklets filled with fire and life safety information is distributed to elementary school children throughout the State. There have been several accounts in the past where students acknowledged that information learned helped them escape and save family members during a fire or other emergency.

Specialized training could include fire/arson investigation and youth fire starting intervention. Community education programs such as senior fire and fall prevention, fire evacuation planning and drills, fire prevention week mural board projects, and smoke alarms for everyone could be initiated. Many times, funding at the county level is lacking, or does not exist.

This bill will allow the SFC to fulfill its mission with existing revenue to properly support the educational programs and training for a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State.

We request that the bill be amended to include an appropriation of \$150,000 for FY20 and \$150,000 for FY21, in addition to the current amount designated to administer the RIPC program.

The SFC and the MFD, urges your committee's support on the passage of SB 2129. Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or [lrogers@honolulu.gov](mailto:lrogers@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



DAVID C. THYNE  
Fire Chief

DCT/LR:clc

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  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)



February 11, 2020

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 Bill (SB) 2129, 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 strongly support SB 2129, which authorizes the SFC to utilize Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program Special Funds to pay for key statewide programs and activities that support the SFC's primary mission. It will also authorize the SFC to employ additional staff to implement and coordinate those programs.

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 §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 State Legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection and life safety.

The SFC reviews and adopts the national fire code into Hawaii's state fire code. The SFC administers federal fire-related grants; manages the RIPC Program; and



The SFC reviews and adopts the national fire code into Hawaii's state fire code. The SFC administers federal fire-related grants; manages the RIPC Program; and coordinates statewide fire training, education, and data collection. It 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 funding and personnel to accomplish its mission. In 2001, the Governor directed the DLIR to allocate \$35,000 to fund the SFC's first part-time employee. In 2011, the legislature appropriated an additional \$71,000 for the SFC to hire two additional employees.

On July 6, 2008, during the 24th Hawaii State Legislature Regular Session, Act 218 was passed, and Hawaii became the 36<sup>th</sup> state requiring only RIPC be sold in Hawaii. This law took effect on September 30, 2009. More than 700 brand/style cigarettes were certified by the SFC as being RIPC-compliant. A \$375 fee was also attached for each brand/style cigarette that was certified for sale in our state. Almost \$660,000 in RIPC certification fees were collected before an 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 RIPC Program Specialist's salary, funds from the RIPC Special Fund has been used to defray office expenses, field inspections, and random independent testing by certified laboratories.

The following chart shows the current status of the RIPC income and expenses and examples on the potential use of funds for statewide programs, training, and a new position:

Average Annual Fees Collected (2010-present)	\$129,900
Average Annual Expenses (2010-present)	\$65,680
Current Balance	\$780,000

Program	Current Expense	Recurring Expense
<b>Youth Fire Prevention Intervention Program (triennial)</b>	\$ 24,600	\$ 4,000
Materials, supplies, and equipment	600	600
Contract instructor	5,000	2,500
Personnel	19,000	9,500
<b>Fire Fighter's Safety Guide Program</b>	44,000	44,000
Materials and printing	32,500	32,500
Personnel	11,500	1,500
<b>SFC Grant Manage (Data Analyst) Position</b>	72,000	72,000

<b>Fire Investigator Training (triennial )</b>	8,400	2,800
Reid interview techniques	2,500	2,500
Vehicular fire investigations	2,700	2,700
International Association of Arson Investigators International Training Council	3,200	3,200
<b>Fire Code Adoption Costs and Processes (triennial )</b>		888
Publish public notice in Hawaii newspapers		1,800
Estimated cost of personnel to generate and edit Administrative Rules		864
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$149,000</b>	<b>\$123,688</b>

Currently, there are several programs that have been implemented by one or more of our county fire departments. Key among them is the Fire Fighter's Safety Guide, which has been in existence for more than 30 years. Each year, more than 150,000 booklets filled with fire and life safety information are distributed to elementary school children statewide. There have been several accounts where students acknowledged that information learned from the booklet helped them escape and save family members during a fire or other emergency.

Specialized training could include fire/arson investigation and youth fire setter intervention. Community education programs, such as senior fire and fall prevention, fire evacuation planning and drills, fire prevention week mural exhibition projects, and Smoke Alarms For Everyone, could be initiated. Many times, funding at the county-level is lacking or does not exist.

This bill will allow the SFC to fulfill its mission with existing revenue to properly support the educational programs and training for a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State.

We request that the bill be amended to include an appropriation of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2020 and \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2021 in addition to the current amount designated to administer the RIPC Program.

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Page 4  
February 11, 2020

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 2129.  
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:clc