

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
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Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

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 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 36th 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 |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| Youth Fire Prevention Intervention Program (triennial) | \$ 24,600 | \$ 4,000 |
| Materials, supplies, and equipment | 600 | 600 |
| Contract instructor | 5,000 | 2,500 |
| Personnel | 19,000 | 9,500 |
| | | |
| Fire Fighter's Safety Guide Program | 44,000 | 44,000 |
| Materials and printing | 32,500 | 32,500 |
| Personnel | 11,500 | 1,500 |
| SFC Grant Manage (Data Analyst) Position | 72,000 | 72,000 |
| | | |

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Fire Investigator Training (triennial) | 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 |
| | | |
| Fire Code Adoption Costs and Processes (triennial) | | 888 |
| Publish public notice in Hawaii newspapers | | 1,800 |
| Estimated cost of personnel to generate and edit Administrative Rules | | 864 |
| | | |
| Grand Total | \$149,000 | \$123,688 |

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 Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
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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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.P. Neves', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc



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 Ways and Means
February 20, 2020; 1:00 pm
Conference Room 211

In consideration of
Senate Bill 2129
Relating to Fire Protection

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The State Fire Council (SFC) and the Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD) **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.

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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



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The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

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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 SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of SB 2131.

Should you have questions, please contact KFD Fire Prevention Captain Darryl Date at 241-4982 or ddate@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

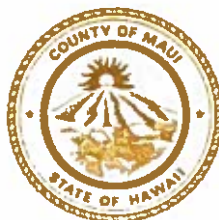
Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

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 19, 2020

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz,

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 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.

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The SFC and the MFD urge 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.

Sincerely,



DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief

DCT/LR:clc