

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura, Chair
House Committee on Housing
Via Videoconference

RE: H.B. 208 Relating to Public Safety

HEARING: Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee,

I am Ken Hiraki, Director of Government Affairs, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (“HAR”), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its over 10,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 208, which requires sellers of residential buildings or structures to provide approved smoke alarms in accordance with current state or county building or residential codes.

HAR believes smoke alarms can provide life-saving warnings to homeowners that are devastated by fire. HAR would respectfully request the following amendments for added clarity:

Page 1, line 16: transfer of the building or structure, with **state fire council** approved **residential** smoke...

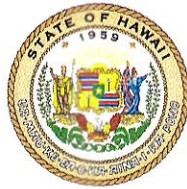
Additionally, HAR would respectfully request an effective date of November 1, 2021, so that we can review whether changes need to be made to our Purchase Contract or other pertinent standard forms and educate our members on the changes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

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February 8, 2021

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura, Chair
Committee on Housing
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 442
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nakamura:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 208 Relating to Public Safety

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 HB 208, which would require sellers of residential buildings or structures to provide approved smoke alarms.

The currently adopted building code requires new or renovated homes to have smoke alarms in and outside of every bedroom and on every level. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. If there is a fire, smoke spreads quickly, and smoke alarms allow you time to escape. Today's smoke alarms are more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions and come with ten-year batteries. Requiring approved smoke alarms in accordance with residential state or county codes when new owners purchase an existing residence will provide a reasonable degree of fire safety.

Life safety are priorities for the SFC and the HFD, and we urge your committee's support on the passage of HB 208.

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura, Chair
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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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:cs