

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, March 1, 2023  
10:10 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 193  
RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL

Senate Bill 193 proposes to add to the membership of the State Fire Council, and to the membership of advisory committees that the Council may appoint, representatives from the Hawaii State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Unit and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to reflect all non-federal fire-fighting agencies in the State. **The Department supports this measure.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Division) is the primary responder for wildfires on 26% of the land area in Hawai'i and has approximately 150 staff trained to respond. The Division has agreements with federal and county agencies for jointly responding to fire events and works closely on fire response across the State. Becoming a member of the State Fire Council would provide another opportunity for the Division to engage with county fire departments on fire issues that affect natural resources and public safety.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
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830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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February 27, 2023

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) 193 Relating to the State Fire Council (SFC)

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports SB 193, which proposes to revise the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §132-16 to add representatives from the Hawaii State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Unit and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) to the SFC.

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

In accordance with 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 Hawaii State ARFF Unit and DLNR's DOFAW communicate and cooperate with the county fire departments on a regular basis during emergency incidents and non-emergency administrative matters. The two agencies provide specialty expertise and equipment in emergent and non-emergent environments which the county fire departments do not possess due to training, funding, or mission requirements. The

The Honorable Dela Cruz, Chair  
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Hawaii State ARFF Unit and DLNR's DOFAW could provide unique perspectives to facilitate accomplishment of the SFC's functions as described in HRS §132. The potential results are greater insight into Hawaii's fire risk and improvements relating to the protection of persons and property against fire. The existing SFC membership believes the addition of representation from the ARFF and DLNR's DOFAW will improve the SFC's capability to fulfill its mission. The SFC urges the committee's approval of SB 193.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

KAZUO TODD  
Chair

KT/GL

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

**LATE**

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007  
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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO  
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 27, 2023

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) 193 Relating to the State Fire Council (SFC)

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports SB 193, which proposes to revise §132-16 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to add representatives from the Hawaii State (State) Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Unit and the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) to the SFC.

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

In accordance with §132, HRS, 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.

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The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
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The HFD urges the committee's approval of SB 193.

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Hao,  
Sheldon K  
Date: 2023.02.28  
13:02:28 -10'00'

SHELDON K. HAO  
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn