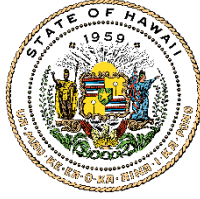


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
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MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
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ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
and  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Friday, April 12, 2024  
3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4 HOUSE DRAFT 1  
REQUESTING THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST WILDLAND  
FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW  
HAWAII TO JOIN AS A MEMBER.

House Concurrent Resolution 4 House Draft 1 requests the current members of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement to amend the agreement to allow Hawai'i to join as a member. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

With an annual area burned that exceeds the national average, Hawai'i needs enhanced capabilities to effectively manage and mitigate the threat of wildland fire to lives, communities, agriculture, and forested watersheds. Despite the commendable efforts of the fire service during the tragic fires of August 8th, 2023, Hawai'i remains at a significant disadvantage due to limited access to the critical resources, technology, training, and support systems available to states within the contiguous United States.

The Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement offers a proven framework for collaboration and mutual aid among member states, provinces, and territories. Through this agreement, members benefit from sharing critical information, technologies, and resources, empowering them to respond more effectively to wildfires and undertake measures that significantly reduce the risk of such events.

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

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA KINAI AHI O HONOLULU  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

636 SOUTH STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 723-7139 • FAX: (808) 723-7111 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



SHELDON K. HAO  
FIRE CHIEF  
LUNA NUI KINAI AHI  
  
JASON SAMALA  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF  
HOPE LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety  
and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Committee on Government Operations  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 221  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey:

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 4 Requesting the Current Members of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement to Amend the Agreement to Allow Hawaii to Join as a Member

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HCR 4, which requests current members of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement to add Hawaii as a member.

Assistance provided by the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement could facilitate prompt suppression of a large wildland fire or conflagration in Hawaii should such an incident overwhelm or exhaust locally available wildland fire fighting resources.

The HFD urges your committees' approval of HCR 4.

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

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO  
Fire Chief

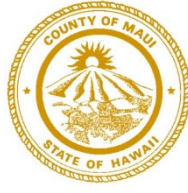
SKH/GL:cn

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director

**BRADFORD K. VENTURA**  
Fire Chief

**GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA**  
Deputy Fire Chief



**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety  
and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 407  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Committee on Government Operations  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 221  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey:

**SUBJECT: HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (HCR) 4 REQUESTING CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW HAWAII TO JOIN AS A MEMBER.**

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department. The SFC supports HCR 4, which requests current members of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement to add Hawaii as a member.

Assistance provided by the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement could facilitate prompt suppression of a large wildland fire or conflagration in Hawaii should such an incident overwhelm or exhaust locally available wildland firefighting resources. The SFC urges the committee's approval of HCR 4.

If you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Ventura".

**BRADFORD K. VENTURA**  
Fire Chief