

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  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
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 Committees on  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
and  
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024  
3:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2145  
RELATING TO THE FIRE CODE**

Senate Bill 2145 proposes to require the counties to submit annual reports on fire code enforcement updates and fire mitigation planning to the Legislature, declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded, and makes an appropriation. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department supports the collaborative role it is assigned in this bill to develop guidelines to assist counties in strengthening their zoning and development plans to address wildfire prevention and mitigation given that the appropriation in the bill funds a position within the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife to perform these duties.

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  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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February 5, 2024

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 210  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Dear Chairs Inouye and Wakai:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2145 Relating to the Fire Code

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC offers comments regarding SB 2145, which requires the counties to submit annual reports on fire code enforcement updates and fire mitigation planning to the Legislature and makes an appropriation.

In addition to fire prevention and fire suppression, today's county fire departments (FDs) provide first response capability for a broad spectrum of Hawaii's emergency incidents. County FDs respond to land and sea search and rescues, hazardous materials releases, emergency medical incidents, and potential terrorist events. Maintenance of such multi-mission capability generates a high workload for all county fire personnel. Given their current workload, the county fire department would be substantially challenged to comply with the reporting requirements of SB 2145.

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Page 2  
February 5, 2024

The language contained in SB 2145 doesn't specify the amount of appropriation so it's difficult to know if the appropriation would help the county fire department to meet requirements of SB 2145. Furthermore, the SFC is unable to calculate the appropriation amount the county FDs need to satisfy those requirements.

The SFC recommends the responsibility for annual reporting to the legislature regarding fire risks, fire safety measures, fire code enforcement efforts, and the status of fire mitigation planning should be assigned to the proposed state fire marshal's office.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo Todd", written in a cursive style.

KAZUO TODD  
Chair

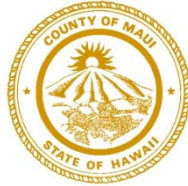
KT/GL:

**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)

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 210  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Dear Chairs Inouye and Wakai,

**SUBJECT: SENATE BILL (SB) 2145 RELATING TO FIRE CODE**

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department. The SFC offers comments regarding SB 2145, which requires the counties to submit annual reports on fire code enforcement updates and fire mitigation planning to the Legislature and makes an appropriation.

In addition to fire prevention and fire suppression, today's county fire departments (FDs) provide first response capability for a broad spectrum of Hawaii's emergency incidents. County FDs respond to land and sea search and rescues, hazards materials releases, emergency medical incidents, and potential terrorist events. Maintenance of such multi-mission capability generates a high workload for all county fire personnel. Given their current workload, the county fire department would be substantially challenged to comply with the reporting requirements of SB 2145.

The language contained in SB 2145 doesn't specify the amount of appropriation so it's difficult to know the appropriation would help the county fire department to meet requirements of SB 2145. Furthermore, the SFC is unable to calculate the appropriation amount the county FDs need to satisfy those requirements.

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair

Page 2

February 6, 2024

The SFC recommends the responsibility for annual reporting to the legislature regarding fire risks, fire safety measures, fire code enforcement efforts, and the status of fire mitigation planning should be assigned the proposed state fire marshal's office as described in House Bill 2409 and SB 3098.

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, appearing to read "Brad Ventura". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

BRADFORD K. VENTURA  
Fire Chief

**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

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 210  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

Dear Chairs Inouye and Wakai:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2145 Relating to the Fire Code

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD offers the following comments regarding SB 2145, which requires the counties to submit annual reports on fire code enforcement updates and fire mitigation planning to the legislature and makes an appropriation.

In addition to fire prevention and fire suppression, today's county fire departments provide first response capability for a broad spectrum of Hawaii's emergency incidents. County fire departments respond to land and sea search and rescues, hazardous materials releases, emergency medical incidents, and potential terrorist events. Maintenance of such multimission capability generates a high workload for all county fire personnel. Given their current workload, the county fire departments would be substantially challenged to comply with the reporting requirements of SB 2145.

The language contained in SB 2145 does not specify the amount of appropriation, so it is difficult to ascertain whether or not the appropriation would assist the county fire

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai  
Page 2  
February 6, 2024

departments in meeting the requirements of SB 2145. Furthermore, the HFD is unable to calculate the appropriation amount we would need to satisfy those requirements.

The HFD recommends the responsibility for annual reporting to the legislature regarding fire risks, fire safety measures, fire code enforcement efforts, and the status of fire mitigation planning be assigned to the proposed state fire marshal's office.

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

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:34:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/7/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support





**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS and WATER AND LAND  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 225  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 AT 3:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
To The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Water and Land

**SUPPORT SB2145 RELATING TO FIRE CODE**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB2145** which requires the counties to submit annual reports on fire code enforcement updates and fire mitigation planning to the Legislature.

The Chamber notes that there is a necessity for comprehensive and proactive measures at both the state and county level to address the threat of wildfires and that the state is committed to fostering resilient and fire-safe communities. We recognize that effective county-planning is integral in preventing catastrophic wildfires in the future.

We feel that there is an inherent responsibility of each county to enforce fire codes and implement mitigation planning strategies to reduce the likelihood and impact of wildfires. We believe it is essential to establish a framework for enhanced collaboration and accountability between the State and its counties to ensure that county zoning and development plans prioritize fire safety.

In order to provide accountability, we believe counties should have their own long-range plans with action items and submit annual reports on fire code enforcement, fire mitigation efforts, and the degree to which they have met the timing and goals of the annual plan.

For these reasons we **support SB2145**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.