

Honolulu, Hawaii
, 2024

FEB 16

RE: H.B. No. 1843
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Water & Land and Labor & Government
Operations, to which was referred H.B. No. 1843 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish the Office of the
State Fire Marshal to direct statewide efforts in preventing and
responding to fires throughout the State.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawaii State
Fire Council; one member of the Maui County Council; Maui Fire
Department; Honolulu Fire Department; Hawaii Fire Department;
Democratic Party of Hawai'i; and four individuals. Your Committees
received testimony in opposition to this measure from one
individual. Your Committees received comments on this measure
from the Office of the Governor; Department of Labor and
Industrial Relations; and Maui Chamber of Commerce.

Your Committees find that Hawaii is the only state without a
State Fire Marshal, whose position was abolished in 1979 and
replaced with the State Fire Council. Your Committees further
find that the State Fire Council's members serve as non-
compensated volunteers as their time allows from their full-time



employment. This measure better serves the needs of the State by establishing a dedicated State Fire Marshal.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Providing that the Governor, rather than the State Fire Council, appoints the State Fire Marshal;
- (2) Requiring the State Fire Council to submit a list of three nominees to the Governor from which the Governor must appoint the State Fire Marshal;
- (3) Establishing a ten-year term of office for the State Fire Marshal;
- (4) Amending the duties of the State Fire Marshal;
- (5) Allowing the State Fire Marshal to utilize the services of the State Fire Council advisory committee and administrative staff in carrying out the State Fire Marshal's duties;
- (6) Changing its effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

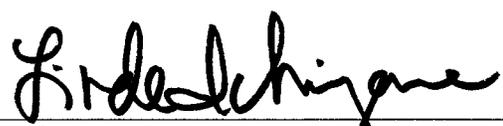
As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water & Land and Labor & Government Operations that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1843, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1843, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Water & Land and
Labor & Government Operations,

for 

SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, Chair



LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair

