

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

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S.B. 1102, S.D. 1
RELATING TO THE AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING UNIT

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports S.B. 1102, S.D. 1, which establishes that the Chief of the State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Unit of the Airports Division of the Department of Transportation shall serve not more than three terms of four years each.

The current Chief of the ARFF Unit is classified as a civil service position. The proposed change to an appointed position would enhance accountability and leadership stability by allowing the Director of Transportation to appoint the Chief from a list of three qualified candidates. This process ensures the selection of a leader with the necessary expertise while maintaining operational efficiency.

This measure aligns with DOT's commitment to ensuring the highest level of safety and emergency preparedness at our state airports. The proposed structure provides consistency in leadership while maintaining a clear term limit to encourage long-term strategic planning and operational excellence.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.