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LATE

February 10, 2025
3:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 225

**S.B. 1102
RELATING TO THE AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING UNIT**

Senate Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts & Public Safety and
Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) provides comments for S.B. 1102 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 of DOT Airports is currently a civil service position. To convert this position to an appointed position will require a reclassification with the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) and confer and consent with the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025
February 10, 2025

LATE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
And
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

S.B. No. 1102 RELATING TO THE AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING UNIT TCA/PSM,
JDC

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante, and members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO, represents more than 2,000 professional active-duty fire fighters throughout the State. The HFFA, on behalf of all our members, **strongly opposes S.B. No 1102**, which proposes to impose term limits, three four-year appointments, for the Chief of the State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Unit of the Airports Division of the Department of Transportation.

HFFA believes this bill could negatively impact HFFA BU11 members who serve in the State ARFF division. The ARFF Fire Chief position requires the years of service specific to this position which includes but not limited to, proficiency in working with and understanding FAA requirements impacting airport fire personnel, understanding of the BU 11 collective bargaining agreement to ensure compliance, and direct resources that meet the specific training and certifications for ARFF personnel as required by the FAA. This is an arduous task and proficiency in the position should not be dictated by an arbitrary term limit as directed by statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. No. 1102 and HFFA urges the Committees to hold this bill.