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SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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February 14, 2017

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 315  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1384, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fire Sprinklers

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD strongly oppose HB 1384, HD 1, which proposes to permanently prevent the counties in the State of Hawaii (State) from mandating automatic fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings.

This bill prevents the four counties from incorporating safe building codes particular to their counties. The proper forum for national, model building codes to be reviewed, vetted, and adopted at the State level is the State Building Code Council, which is represented by a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including the building industry, architects, structural engineers, building, and fire code officials.

Studies have shown that automatic fire sprinklers are effective in reducing fire losses, injuries, and fire-related deaths. Contrary to some statements, there is no complementary system in place that is as effective in stopping fires as an automatic fire sprinkler.

Additional studies performed in California and Maryland demonstrated the cost of automatic fire sprinklers does not prevent or deter homeowners from purchasing a home. In fact, there was an increase in home sales in some areas.

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Page 2  
February 14, 2017

Life, safety, property conservation, and environmental protection are priorities for the SFC and the HFD. Allowing the passage of this bill to restrict the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler in new one- and two-family homes increases the risk to the public, property, environment, and fire fighters.

The SFC and the HFD strongly urge your committee to defer the passage of HB 1384, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

Testimony of  
Christopher Delaunay  
Pacific Resource Partnership

House of Representatives  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
Representative Tom Brower, Chair  
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

HB 1384, HD1 Relating to Fire Sprinklers

Notice of Hearing  
Thursday, February 16, 2017  
9:30 A.M.  
State Capitol – Room 423

Aloha Chair Brower, Vice Chair Nakamura and members of the Committee:

We **support the intent** of HB 1384, HD1 Relating to Fire Sprinklers, which extends the prohibition that prevents the counties from requiring fire sprinklers in specific family dwelling units and agricultural and aquacultural buildings.

As we all know, we have a housing crisis across the State with the price of homes becoming further out of reach for Hawaii families. Mandating fire sprinklers will increase the cost of a home and outprice many homebuyers with an additional cost of \$35,000 to over \$100,000 depending on area of residence. We believe fire sprinklers should be done voluntarily or as an alternative to installing a fire department access road or water supply.



For the reasons mentioned above, we respectfully request your support on HB 1384, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you.


#### About PRP

*Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a not-for-profit organization that represents the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state, and more than 240 of Hawaii's top contractors. Through this unique partnership, PRP has become an influential voice for responsible construction and an advocate for creating a stronger, more sustainable Hawaii in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs and enhances the quality of life for all residents.*





 | 808-733-7060  
 | 808-737-4977

 | 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300  
Honolulu, HI 96817

February 16, 2017

**The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair**

House Committee on Housing  
State Capitol, Room 423  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: H.B. 1384, H.D.1, Relating to Fire Sprinklers**

**HEARING: Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Brower, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members of the Committee.

I am Myoung Oh, Director of Government Affairs, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 9,000 members. HAR **supports** H.B. 1384, H.D.1 which extends the prohibition that prevents the counties from requiring fire sprinklers in specific family dwelling units and agricultural and aquacultural buildings.


Building codes are important, as it has a broad community impact relating to health and safety for Hawaii's residents. When the financial cost of a more stringent building code outweighs the actual safety accomplished, HAR believes that a careful and detailed review be taken on these building code measures. For example, mandatory fire sprinklers, although well-intentioned, increase the baseline construction cost.


In multi-family dwellings and condominiums, there are usually on-staff professionals who are trained to maintain fire sprinkler systems. However, in a single-family home this is not the case. The average homeowner does not have the skills to be responsible for the ongoing maintenance necessary to keep a fire sprinkler system in operational condition. It would be difficult to create a regulation that increases the base cost of construction and then potentially creating a cottage industry of inspectors/maintenance professionals for maintaining these private sprinkler systems.


Moreover, most fire sprinkler systems call for an additional water meter and separate water line with a back flow prevention device. Because of the high volume of water required in fire sprinkler systems, the standard meter will not suffice. The Board of Water Supply (BWS) charges a high water development fee for water meters, plus the cost of installation, which all adds significant costs to any home. The BWS may determine that the water supply is insufficient for some areas to add fire sprinkler systems and move to deny the permit for those reasons.





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In theory, building codes could adversely affect housing production and could increase housing costs through both substantive (technical) and administrative impediments. However, we would defer specific comments to qualified builders, architects and insurance professionals.

HAR notes that some subdivisions have additional private building standards that are required for housing built within its confines such as minimum square footage, garages vs. carports, etc. These types of design covenants are privately agreed upon and market driven. HAR supports the right of a developer and owners who knowingly purchase within a subdivision with these styles of covenants to continue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.





# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Housing  
Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 9:30 A.M.  
Conference Room 423, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILLS 1384 HD1 RELATING TO FIRE SPRINKLERS**

Chair Brower, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber **opposes** the amendments to HB 1384 HD1, which extends the prohibition that prevents the counties from requiring fire sprinklers in specific family dwelling units and agricultural and aquacultural buildings. The original version of the bill removed the sunset date and made the prohibition permanent.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We understand that in 2012, the BIA-Hawaii was successful in passing legislation (Act 83, 2012) that prohibits any County from requiring the installation of automatic fire sprinklers in any new or existing one-or two-family dwelling. This prohibition on the mandate expires on June 30, 2017.

The Chamber is in strong support of the BIA-Hawaii's efforts in leading the fighting the fire sprinkler mandate by introducing legislation (2017) that would "Prohibit" any county from mandating the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in all one and two family dwellings. By law, we would remove the ability of the State Building Code Council and the individual Counties to adopt the 2012 IRC, which includes the mandate. Installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems will remain as an "option" to new home buyers.

With the median price of a new home on Oahu at approximately \$750,000.00, adding the cost of a fire sprinkler system and larger water meter could increase the price of a home by \$36,000 to \$42,000 depending on the size of the dwelling. If fire sprinklers are "mandated," the additional cost may put the cost of a new home out of the reach of many families in Hawaii.

If the concern is the protection of the occupants of the dwelling, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the fire survival rate in homes with working smoke detectors is 99.41% and only rises to 99.6% with a sprinkler. However, the cost difference between the two systems is quite significant.



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

If the concern is the protection of the firefighters, according to a study prepared by the Underwriter's Laboratory (2012), firefighters can still expect close to 30 minutes of structural integrity in newer homes with a wood I joist floor with a layer of gypsum wallboard on the underside of the joists." The difference in cost between a new automatic fire sprinkler system with associated increases in water meter size versus the cost of additional gypsum board to cover any exposed lightweight structural materials in new home construction is several thousand dollars.

We do not want to place homeowners or firefighters in unnecessary danger resulting from a one or two family structure fire. We believe that there are more cost effective means available that would provide the same level of protection at a fraction of the cost of a new fire sprinkler system and larger water meter.

Our concern, primarily in Hawaii is the impact such a mandate would have on the affordability of housing in Hawaii. In 2014, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) prepared a state by state analysis of the number of home buyers impacted for every \$1,000 increases in price. In 2014, 594 households in Hawaii were priced out of the market by a \$1,000 increase in price.

We strongly recommend this committee go back to the original language of HB 1384 HD1, to keep residential sprinklers optional.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Craig Watase <cwatase@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:13 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

My name is Craig Watase, President of Mark Development, Inc., a local affordable housing developer and property manager.

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

I strongly support keeping fire sprinklers optional for all new one- and two-family homes, primarily for the following reasons:

- They are cost prohibitive, adding tens of thousands of dollars in costs and upwards of \$102,000 on the neighbor islands. The cost of living in Hawaii is already one of the highest in the country, so we need to work to keep homes safe and affordable.
- Hawaii is experiencing a housing crisis, and we need over 66,000 new housing units through 2015. Sprinklers will significantly increase the cost of a new home and the added cost will be a barrier to new home construction.
- New homes are built better and safer than ever.
- A homeowner is already able to install sprinklers, if they so desire, as the standards are included in our codes.
- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Craig Watase  
489 Anolani St  
Honolulu, HI 96821  
cwatase@hawaii.rr.com



From: Curt Kiri <curtk@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:10 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

Mr. Brower,

I am sure that you have and will hear testimony from many, both for and those against the mandated fire sprinkler system. So, you don't need to hear the same statistics from me. I may have a different point, that I believe is easily understandable and hopefully you agree. I will address the technicalities of the bill, then begin my testimony.

To address the technicalities, I am in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

I support keeping fire sprinklers optional for all new one- and two-family homes, primarily for the following reasons:

As a contractor, who has been actively working on the local and federal level on this fire sprinkler mandate, I have spoken to many people (public, industry professionals, code officials, government officials etc...) about this and the overwhelming majority told me that it should be their choice to install a fire sprinkler system or not. I am sure that giving the residents of Hawaii the option to choose is the best decision for current and future generations. As a contractor who specializes in home modifications for senior and those with physical and/or intellectual challenges, this does not impact my livelihood; since I do not build new homes; but I do meet many families that have young adults in their 20s, 30s, and even 40s+ that still live at home with their parents; because either they cannot afford a home and/or are saving for a down payment or given up trying.

I am sure that you have heard both sides of the issue, and I am sure that you see those for the mandate, using emotional points as their main focal point. But, if their point is about saving lives, then I would ask each of them this. Who doesn't want to save lives? Everyone wants to save lives, which is why homes are safer, which has been done for decades from design to building materials. But I would ask every one of those (for the mandate), when they first purchased their home, did they install a fire sprinkler system in their home before they moved in; and how many of their families have installed a system in their home? If not, why not? If their point is to save lives, I would think they would have systems installed in their own family home and make all their relatives and friends do the same. I am not against the installation of fire sprinklers, no one is; but I do oppose installation being mandated by the government, national firefighters lobbying group and by those who do not even have fire sprinkler systems in their own homes. If you may recall, in 2011, well known retired HFD spokesman Richard Soo's home caught fire and burned, from an unattended pot left heating on the stove. Even after a career of several decades as an outstanding fireman, he did not have a fire sprinkler system installed in his home. He could have installed one in his home years ago, at any time, and it would have possibly saved his home; but he did not. Why not, because it was his choice not to; even with decades of firefighting experience and knowing the risks, he chose not to. So why not give every homeowner the same freedom of choice.

The other point, is the cost. Everyone knows the cost of housing is outrageously expensive in Hawaii and many states are looking to build "affordable homes". If this fire sprinkler mandate is not made optional, I can guarantee you that there will be no such thing as affordable homes in Hawaii. The additional costs will place homes out of reach for many people, and they will move away from Hawaii and from family and friends.

My final point, and I believe it is something out of our control and easily predictable. Hawaii as an island state does not have the resources to support this statewide system. There is not enough water resources to maintain current or future fire sprinkler systems. Unlike other states on the mainland, we cannot just divert water from other water sources (rivers, dams, streams etc...) or from other states. When we have drought conditions, and we always do, will we have to choose between continuous amount of water to supply fire sprinkler systems, or drinking water, watering our local self-sustainable crops and livestock? What about the rural areas on Oahu and the outer islands? Many homes are not even tied into our sewer system, so how are they supposed to get water to their location and maintain the water pressure required? Mandated fire sprinkler systems are just not maintainable or sustainable for Hawaii.

I must believe that those lobbying for the mandate have good intentions, but please remember that sometimes, good intentions have disastrous results; and if the mandate is not removed, the disastrous result will be making affordable homes extinct in Hawaii...forever.

Thank you for hearing my view. You can always contact me (258-8158) if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Curt Kiriu  
94-477 HAIWALE LOOP  
MILILANI, HI 96789  
curtk@hawaii.rr.com

From: Bruce Kim <bruce@atlasconstruction808.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:29 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

Cost of homes is already at a level where fewer and fewer Hawaii residents can afford. Please leave this option to the homeowners, safety standards are already in place where new homes are a few percentage of house fires in America. Too many laws are being put into place where the government is forcing its hands on the citizens where the government should not be involved, in a home, this this law is overreacting and an infringement on one's personal domain. This will create a problem where one does not exist.

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

I strongly support keeping fire sprinklers optional for all new one- and two-family homes, primarily for the following reasons:

- They are cost prohibitive, adding tens of thousands of dollars in costs and upwards of \$102,000 on the neighbor islands. The cost of living in Hawaii is already one of the highest in the country, so we need to work to keep homes safe and affordable.
- Hawaii is experiencing a housing crisis, and we need over 66,000 new housing units through 2015. Sprinklers will significantly increase the cost of a new home and the added cost will be a barrier to new home construction.
- New homes are built better and safer than ever.
- A homeowner is already able to install sprinklers, if they so desire, as the standards are included in our codes.
- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

We need to be mindful of when and where laws should mandate its citizens to act where action is not posing an inherent public risk. I ask you to consider where the line is to be drawn on government mandates to where such laws leave its citizens with no choice on where they feel their money is best spent.

Sincerely,

Bruce Kim  
47-865 KAMEHAMEHA HWY  
KANE OHE, HI 96744  
bruce@atlasconstruction808.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Eric Carson <eric@reflections-glass.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:38 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I have been a licensed contractor in Hawaii for 30 years and every year consumers are left with the burden of the high cost of living in Hawaii. The cost of housing being in the top 5 in the nation is burdensome to say the least. I respectfully ask for your Support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

This bill extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

I strongly support keeping fire sprinklers optional for all new one- and two-family homes, primarily for the following reasons:

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- A homeowner is already able to install sprinklers, if they so desire, as the standards are included in our codes.
- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Thanking you in advance for your support and your continued work for the citizens of Hawaii. My warmest aloha!

Sincerely,

Eric L. Carson  
91-1018 KAIKOHOLA ST  
EWA BEACH, HI 96706  
eric@reflections-glass.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Ricky Li <ricky@adstreamz.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:38 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Ricky Li  
1425 Liliha St Apt 5H  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
ricky@adstreamz.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Evan Fujimoto <evan@grahambuilders.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:25 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Evan Fujimoto  
5616 Haleola St  
Honolulu, HI 96821  
evan@grahambuilders.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Kimo Pierce <Kimo@HawaiiPlumbingGroup.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:44 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Kimo Pierce  
1177 Queen St  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Kimo@HawaiiPlumbingGroup.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Daniel Sandomire <user@votervoice.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:26 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sandomire  
1880 Laukahi St  
Honolulu, HI 96821  
dsando@yahoo.com



nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Calvin Mann <cmann808@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:29 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

Aloha, my name is Calvin Mann.

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- A homeowner is already able to install sprinklers, if they so desire, as the standards are included in our codes.
- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Calvin Mann  
6278 Kauhola Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
cmann808@gmail.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Karen Berry <karen@tradepublishing.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:49 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- A homeowner is already able to install sprinklers, if they so desire, as the standards are included in our codes.
- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 and mahalo for your personal sacrifice and for your valuable contributions to our community.

Best,

Sincerely,

Karen Sayuri Berry  
60 N Beretania St Apt 3502  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
karen@tradepublishing.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

---

From: Lloyd Tom <rdcontractors@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:30 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

I strongly support keeping fire sprinklers optional for all new one- and two-family homes, primarily for the following reasons:

- They are cost prohibitive, adding tens of thousands of dollars in costs and upwards of \$102,000 on the neighbor islands. The cost of living in Hawaii is already one of the highest in the country, so we need to work to keep homes safe and affordable.
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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Tom  
4244 Halupa St  
Honolulu, HI 96818  
rdcontractors@gmail.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Timothy Waite <twait@strongtie.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:49 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Timothy Waite  
92-1214 MAKAKILO DR APT 29  
KAPOLEI, HI 96707  
twait@strongtie.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

---

From: Dale White <dale\_w@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:46 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

This bill is another intrusion of government on the population.

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

The installation cost and maintenance cost along with the danger of future failure creating a tremendous risk of damage is unacceptable. This system is not designed to act as a commercial fire deterrent only a false sense of security. These sprinkler heads are activated by heat. When the temperature has reach the point of activation the fire is far beyond the ability of a standard water main in a residential home to be effective. According to NFPA residential fires 45% caused from cooking many of which would be aggravated by water oil and grease do not react kindly to water, followed by heating equipment 15%+-, electrical 10%+-, and intentional 10%+-, lastly smoking about 5% which has the highest fatality rate about 22%.

Sincerely,

Dale White  
1047 Lolena St  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
dale\_w@hotmail.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hile <histevjudy@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 6:13 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Government is becoming too invasive in our lives in this and many other ways. We are adults - not children.

Sincerely,

Steve Hile  
94-226 KANAWAO PL  
WAIPAHO, HI 96797  
histevjudy@hotmail.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Clifton Crawford <cjcontracting@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 6:38 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Clifton Crawford  
364 N Kainalu Dr  
Kailua, HI 96734  
cjcontracting@hawaii.rr.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

---

From: Carol Lundgren <lund808@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:05 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

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Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Carol Lundgren  
68-282 OLOHIO ST  
WAIALUA, HI 96791  
lund808@gmail.com



nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Paul Orem, jr <paul@photonworks.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:02 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Paul Orem  
95-186 Hilinehu Pl Apt Mililani  
Mililani, HI 96789  
paul@photonworks.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Brian Moore <brian.moore@centralpacificbank.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:00 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

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Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Brian Moore  
1487 Hiikala PI # 7  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
brian.moore@centralpacificbank.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Gregory Thielen <greg@ccs-hawaii.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:11 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

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Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Gregory Thielen  
63 Kalaka Pl  
Kailua, HI 96734  
greg@ccs-hawaii.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Mike Brant <mikeb@gentryhawaii.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:12 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

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Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Mike Brant  
2101 Nuuanu Ave Apt 1304  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
mikeb@gentryhawaii.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

---

From: Dean Uchida <duchida@ssfm.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:11 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Dean Uchida  
98-1762 KUPUKUPU ST  
AIEA, HI 96701  
duchida@ssfm.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

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From: Tam Reeve <rangerreeve@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:13 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Housing costs are extraordinarily high, adding additional costs will further restrict lower income households from ownership.

Sincerely,

Tam Reeve  
5498 Bittern Ave  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
rangerreeve@gmail.com

nakamura1 - Natalie

---

From: Nancy Schnur <nancy.uillc@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:38 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I just learned that a local developer is using a loophole in our system to avoid installing solar water heaters in new homes so they can save money.

And yet you are still moving forward with the expense of sprinkler systems in homes. Where is the loophole for that?

The end result will be higher electric bills AND sprinkler investment. I whole-heartedly support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. - I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Please put the homeowner first.

Sincerely,

Respectfully, Nancy Schnur  
1176 Lunaai St  
Kailua, HI 96734  
nancy.uillc@gmail.com

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RODERICK BECKER  
Comptroller

AUDREY HIDANO  
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

February 14, 2017



The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
The House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 315  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Bill 1384 HD1 Relating to Fire Sprinklers

I am Gaur Johnson, Chair of the State Building Code Council (SBCC). The SBCC provides the following testimony for your information when considering this bill HB 1384 HD1. The original bill proposes to make permanent the prohibition that prevents the counties from requiring fire sprinklers in specific family dwelling units and agricultural and aquacultural buildings. The HD1 version of the bill proposes to extend the prohibition for 10 years.

When the SBCC originally studied this issue a 1-inch water meter was required for residential fire sprinkler systems. More recently it was our understanding that a ¾-inch meter could be used. We have recently received new information that may indicate the standard meter currently used, a 5/8-inch meter, also could work now. We believe that new technology has advanced and will continue to advance in the future and that Act 83 should not be made permanent—these technological advances will reduce cost.

Should you have questions, please contact me at (808) 956-2377 or [gaur@hawaii.edu](mailto:gaur@hawaii.edu)

Sincerely,

GAUR JOHNSON  
Chair, State Building Code Council



Hawai'i State Fire Council  
c/o Honolulu Fire Department  
636 South Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813



February 15, 2017

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
The State House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 315  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1384, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fire Sprinklers

I am Robert F. Westerman, Vice-Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC strongly opposes HB 1384, HD 1, which proposes to permanently prevent the counties in the State of Hawaii (State) from mandating automatic fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings.

This bill prevents the four counties from incorporating safe building codes particular to their counties. The proper forum for national, model building codes to be reviewed, vetted, and adopted at the State level is the State Building Code Council, which is represented by a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including the building industry, architects, structural engineers, building, and fire code officials.

Studies have shown that automatic fire sprinklers are effective in reducing fire losses, injuries, and fire-related deaths. Contrary to some statements, there is no complementary system in place that is as effective in stopping fires as an automatic fire sprinkler.

Additional studies performed in California and Maryland demonstrated the cost of automatic fire sprinklers does not prevent or deter homeowners from purchasing a home. In fact, there was an increase in home sales in some areas.

Life, safety, property conservation, and environmental protection are priorities for the SFC. Allowing the passage of this bill to restrict the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler in new one- and two-family homes increases the risk to the public, property, environment, and fire fighters.

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair

Page 2

February 14, 2017

The SFC strongly urge your committee to defer the passage of HB 1384, HD 1.

Please contact me at (808) 241-4975 or [rwesterman@kauai.gov](mailto:rwesterman@kauai.gov) should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Robert Westerman  
Vice Chair, Hawai'i State Fire Council

RFW/eld

**LATE**

nakamura1 - Natalie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
 Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 1:12 PM  
 To: HSGtestimony  
 Cc: shannon@gcahawaii.org  
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1384 on Feb 16, 2017 09:30AM  
 Attachments: 2.16.2017 HB 1461, HD1-HB1384, HD1- HHFDC No county mandate (HSG).pdf  
 Categories: Green Category

**HB1384**

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for HSG on Feb 16, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Alivado	General Contractors Association of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**LATE**

Subject: Testimony in opposition to HB1384

I am an Architect and community volunteer on the State Building Code Council (SBCC) Green Code Investigative Committee. I believe that creating a blanket exception for residential/agricultural fire sprinklers is not good policy. While I do appreciate the concern about how sprinkler systems impact construction cost, I believe that the benefits of fire sprinklers far outweigh the up-front costs. Studies have shown that the majority of deaths from fire come from single-family house fires and the effectiveness of fire sprinkler systems which often cover multi-family residences is well documented and accepted part of the commercial building code.

Through my volunteer work on the SBCC, I am impressed by the dedication of the appointed members of this body and respect their efforts and openness to community input. I believe any amendments to the building code should come through this body as it is composed of professionals who deal with the effects of building code regulation daily and whose job it is to enforce and maintain the public safety components of the code.

It is held in general practice that local amendments to the building code should not make the code less-safe and that equivalent standards should replace deleted components of the code. HB1384, in its current wording restricts application of fire sprinklers to specific building types and sets a dangerous precedent in that it provides no alternate compliance path to provide an equivalently safe building.

In closing, I urge the committee to defer passage of HB1384 and utilize the SBCC as the expert body to provide amendment recommendations to the building code.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent I. Tokita, AIA

932 Puu Kula Dr.

Pearl City, HI 96782



**International Code Council**  
12819 SE 38th Street #381  
Bellevue, WA 98006  
t: 888.422.7233, ext. 7603  
c: 562.201.9209  
kstevenson@iccsafe.org  
www.iccsafe.org

February 15, 2017

Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 315  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

**Re: HB 1384 (HD 1) Relating to Fire Sprinklers, ICC respectfully requests to defer decision making on the bill.**

The International Code Council would like to comment regarding automatic fire suppression systems in one-and two-family homes and townhomes.

The International Code Council (ICC) is a US-based member-driven association of more than 63,000 men and women who represent business, industry, government and academics. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC) and the American Gas Association (AGA), are our founding strategic partners.

The Hawaii adopted housing, construction and fire-life-safety codes are based on the ICC's codes, including the *International Residential Code* (IRC) which forms the basis for the Hawaii Residential code. These national model codes are promulgated through an open, consensus process in which all interests are represented. The result is a coordinated set of construction and occupancy safety standards that the members have developed through scientific research, empirical study and collaboration. Consequently, ICC supports the model codes as published as the minimum standard for safety.

ICC also recognizes that state and local jurisdictions have the authority to modify the minimum standards based on their specific circumstances. When considering changes we encourage the stakeholders to analyze thoroughly the proposed changes in order to have a complete understanding of the consequences on other parts of the code and the potential impact on the end product and on public safety. Prohibiting local jurisdictions from adopting any of the model code requirements including residential fire sprinklers not only takes away local control, but potentially puts public safety at risk. Structures without built-in fire protection require additional demands in public services such as increased fire department staffing and greater water supplies both of which drive up taxes and fees.

The International Code Council recognizes there are continuous technological improvements made over time that help reduce the costs of building homes and reduce the cost of installing residential fire sprinklers. We believe a decision to **permanently prohibit County Governments from considering residential sprinklers requirements is premature**. A permanent prohibition will reduce the incentive for all stakeholders to explore ways to reduce the cost of installation and this will negatively impact

people that choose to voluntarily install these safety systems. The cost of installation will remain artificially high. **There are ways to lower the installation costs of these systems**, stakeholders need to explore and then take positive action to remove unnecessary costly barriers. Fire loss data for Hawaii compared to national incident reporting reveals the incidence of home fires with the room of origin, being the kitchen, occurs at a far greater rate than elsewhere across our nation.

A 2016 effort to move the residential sprinkler requirement from the *International Residential Code* core text to an appendix was defeated by a three to one margin by the ICC voting members, thus validating the value of residential sprinklers as cost-saving and property protection tool.

Failing to adopt the latest codes also has a deleterious effect on a municipalities' fire insurance grading that results in higher property insurance premiums. The Insurance Services Organization that provides municipal fire protection grading in most states applies deficiency points to those jurisdictions that do not adopt or enforce the latest codes.

The National Association of Home Builders, in its report "Value of NAHB in 2017" points out there will be considerable savings for builders, and by extension, consumers by adopting the 2018 version of the International Residential Code and International Building Code.<sup>i</sup> Finally, recent live fire research conducted by Underwriters Laboratories showed:

*All of the modern rooms transitioned to flashover — flashover occurs when the majority of exposed surfaces in a space are heated to their autoignition temperature and emit flammable gases — in less than five minutes, while the fastest legacy room to achieve flashover did so in just over 29 minutes. In the three sets of experiments, legacy- furnished rooms took at least 700 percent longer to reach flashover.<sup>ii</sup>*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislative proposal. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



Kraig Stevenson, CBO  
Senior Regional Manager  
ICC Government Relations  
kstevenson@iccsafe.org  
562-201-9209

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<sup>i</sup> See report at <https://www.nahb.org/~media/Sites/NAHB/industry-professionals/detailed-analysis-membership-savings.ashx>. Page 4.

<sup>ii</sup> Kerber, S., "Analysis of Changing Residential Fire Dynamics and Its Implications on Firefighter Operational Timeframes," *Fire Technology*, November 2011. Retrieved January 23, 2017 from <http://newscience.ul.com/articles/modern-residential-fires>.

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**LATE**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Housing**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2017**  
**9:00 am**  
**Conference Room 423**

**RE: HB 1384 HD1 – Relating to Fire Sprinklers**

Chair Brower, Vice-Chair Nakamura, and members of the committee:

My name is Gladys Quinto-Marrone, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-Hawaii supports H.B. 1384, HD1, which extends the prohibition, to June 30, 2027, that prevents the counties from requiring fire sprinklers in specific family dwelling units and agricultural and aquacultural buildings.

As several Counties have also either supported removing the sunset date, or stated that they would not mandate residential sprinklers, BIA-Hawaii would prefer the original version of H.B. 1384, that keeps sprinklers optional for the homeowner in perpetuity.

The Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce (CPC) also requests the Committee on Housing (HSG) to further investigate the impacts that mandated fire sprinkler installation would have on the housing market in Hawaii and whether the ten-year extension is sufficient. CPC also respectfully requests that the HSG consider requiring a legislative report by an agency or department on the impact of mandating the installation of automatic fire sprinklers, including the impact that meter costs, building council mandates, national fire safety standards, and insurance industry incentives and other best practices will have on housing prices.

BIA-Hawaii commissioned a study, by R.M. Towill, to determine the actual cost to design and install an automatic fire sprinkler system, including the charges for a larger water meter, in a single family residence in each County of the State. The report has been attached to our testimony.

BIA-Hawaii is not against fire sprinklers, just the mandating of them. Keeping sprinklers optional is critical in helping to keep housing affordable for Hawaii's families.

**Cost prohibitive**

The true cost of installing fire sprinklers in single family homes ranges, depending on where in the State you live. The largest cost is from an upgraded water meter, which is required to support a sprinkler system. For a typical 3 bedroom, 2 bath single-family dwelling upgraded to a 1" meter:

Oahu \$10,007.82 (1" meter) + \$25,826.67 (installation costs) = \$35,834.19

Maui \$33,356 (1" meter) + \$32,760.34 (installation costs) = \$66,116.34

Hawaii \$13,750 (1" meter) + \$26,902.80 (installation costs) = \$40,652.80

These are costs provided by actual construction projects. Costs for each system may vary depending on site conditions. On Kauai, the cost of the meter alone is \$35,290. If a larger home is built, a larger meter is required at a much higher cost. For example, to upgrade to a 1 1/2" meter, it would cost \$71,948 on Maui and \$70,580 on Maui, just for the meter. Yearly sprinkler inspections add to the cost of maintenance.

With the median price of a new home on Oahu at approximately \$730,000.00, adding the cost of a fire sprinkler system and larger water meter will dramatically increase the price of a home. The National Association of Home Builders' 2016 data for Hawaii found that for every

### **Statewide concern**

Sprinklers are of statewide concern because housing affordability is a statewide concern, as evidenced by the number of bills this session addressing affordable housing and homelessness. DEBEDT reported that Hawaii needs over 66,000 new housing units through 2015 and significantly adding costs to construction will be more of a barrier to new housing. Furthermore, the State Building Code Council works on codes with county officials that impact all the Counties, so it is not a home rule issue.

### **Prevention and education are critical**

Proponents say the contents of your home, which they say are made of materials that burn faster, cause fires. Educating the public on this is critical in prevention. Nationally, the number one cause of home fires is cooking. The public should instead be informed that cost-effective fire suppression canisters placed above your stove help prevent such fires from spreading, and also prevent any water damage that will result from a fire sprinkler.

### **Working smoke detectors save lives**

National organizations such as the American Red Cross advocate for a working smoke detector and an escape plan to help keep your family safe during a fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the fire survival rate in homes with working smoke detectors is 99.41% and only rises to 99.6% with a sprinkler. However, the cost difference between the two systems is quite significant.

### **New homes are safer and older homes burn**

New homes are constructed with technology that offers safer, more durable building materials and products than ever before. Interconnected smoke alarms, and other improvements mean you and your family are safer than ever.

The age of the home is an important piece of information when discussing residential fires, because various aspects of older homes can make them more prone to fires and more dangerous in the case one occurs. The leading causes of unintentional home structure fires are 1) cooking equipment, 2) heating equipment and 3) electrical distribution and lighting equipment. A strong relationship between housing age and the rate of electrical fires has been observed, with housing over 40 years old having the strongest association with electrical distribution fires.

Based on data from the Honolulu Fire Department, 77% of fires occurring in residential structures between 2009 and 2015 involved homes built before 1980. Building codes have dramatically increased since 1980. The improvements to fire safety required by building codes do not evaporate with age, so it can be expected that homes built today will continue to outperform those built several generations ago.

### **BIA-Hawaii members would benefit**

Many of BIA's members would benefit from a mandate, but they support keeping sprinklers optional because if no homes are built due to the increased cost, then there will be nowhere to install plumbing or supply piping. Furthermore, pipes filled with water within your walls and ceilings run the risk of leakage, leading to water damage and mold.



### **Not a national trend**

Twenty-four States defeated a sprinkler mandate through their code adoption process and 20 States defeated the mandate legislatively. Only California, Maryland, and the District of Columbia have adopted a mandate.

We do not want to place homeowners or firefighters in unnecessary danger resulting from a one or two family structure fire. We believe that there are more cost-effective means available that would provide the same level of protection at a fraction of the cost of a new fire sprinkler system and larger water meter.

Our main concern is the impact a sprinkler mandate would have on the affordability of housing in Hawaii.

We **support** H.B. 1384 HD1, to keep residential sprinklers optional. Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

**LATE**

nakamura1 - Natalie

---

From: Arthur Pelkaus <artp@gentryhawaii.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 11:42 AM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

I strongly support keeping fire sprinklers optional for all new one- and two-family homes, primarily for the following reasons:

- They are cost prohibitive, adding tens of thousands of dollars in costs and upwards of \$102,000 on the neighbor islands. The cost of living in Hawaii is already one of the highest in the country, so we need to work to keep homes safe and affordable.
- Hawaii is experiencing a housing crisis, and we need over 66,000 new housing units through 2015. Sprinklers will significantly increase the cost of a new home and the added cost will be a barrier to new home construction.
- New homes are built better and safer than ever.
- A homeowner is already able to install sprinklers, if they so desire, as the standards are included in our codes.
- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Arthur Pelkaus  
1296 Kapiolani Blvd  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
artp@gentryhawaii.com

From: Joanna Mak <joanna@wirelessrentals.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 1:28 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers



Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- A homeowner is already able to install sprinklers, if they so desire, as the standards are included in our codes.
- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Joanna Mak  
1520 Ward Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
joanna@wirelessrentals.com

From: Laurie Ann Chan <lc@avalonhi.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:59 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers



Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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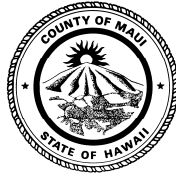
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- A homeowner is already able to install sprinklers, if they so desire, as the standards are included in our codes.
- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Laurie Ann Chan  
2003 Mahao PI  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
lc@avalonhi.com

ALAN M ARAKAWA  
MAYOR



JEFFREY MURRAY  
FIRE CHIEF

ROBERT SHIMADA  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

COUNTY OF MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, HI 96732  
(808) 270-7561  
Fax (808) 270-7919

**LATE**

February 14, 2017

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Committee on Housing  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 315  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1384, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fire Sprinklers

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD strongly oppose HB 1384, HD 1, which proposes to permanently prevent the counties in the State of Hawaii (State) from mandating automatic fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings.

This bill prevents the four counties from incorporating safe building codes particular to their counties. The proper forum for national, model building codes to be reviewed, vetted, and adopted at the State level is the State Building Code Council, which is represented by a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including the building industry, architects, structural engineers, building, and fire code officials.

Studies have shown that automatic fire sprinklers are effective in reducing fire losses, injuries, and fire-related deaths. Contrary to some statements, there is no complementary system in place that is as effective in stopping fires as an automatic fire sprinkler.

Additional studies performed in California and Maryland demonstrated the cost of automatic fire sprinklers does not prevent or deter homeowners from purchasing a home. In fact, there was an increase in home sales in some areas.

Life, safety, property conservation, and environmental protection are priorities for the SFC and the MFD. Allowing the passage of this bill to restrict the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler in new one- and two-family homes increases the risk to the public, property, environment, and fire fighters.

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
Page 2  
February 14, 2017

The SFC and the MFD strongly urge your committee to defer the passage of HB 1384, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
Fire Chief

## HSGtestimony

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**From:** Joan Sato <Joan@JSatoAssociates.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 3:39 AM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed



Dear Chair Brower,

I am writing in support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1, which extends the current prohibition to June 30, 2027, on counties from mandating residential fire sprinklers. Since more people than not have expressed their support for keeping sprinklers optional, I would prefer to have the original language of H.B. 1384, which makes residential sprinklers optional to the homeowner permanently.

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Joan Sato  
2232 Kapiolani Blvd Apt 804  
Honolulu, HI 96826  
Joan@JSatoAssociates.com

## HSGtestimony

---

**From:** Steven Hidano <steve@hidanoconstruction.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 5:43 AM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Subject:** Support for H.B. 1384 H.D. 1 - fire sprinklers

**LATE**

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Chair Brower,

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- I am not opposed to sprinklers, just the mandating of them.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 1384 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Steven Hidano  
1620 Hau St  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
steve@hidanoconstruction.com