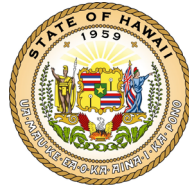


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Richard Onishi, Chair
Committee on Labor and Tourism
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 438
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Onishi:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1943 Relating to Fire Safety

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 1943, which establishes a fire safety working group to determine if a full-time state fire marshal's office would be more effective than the existing state fire council in planning, executing, and promoting fire safety-related programs and topics in the State. It also requires the working group to submit a report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2023.

HB 1943 documents many of the challenges the SFC has in its current form with its limited budget and staffing. Admittedly, many of duties and responsibilities normally performed by a typical State Fire Marshal's office in the other 49 states across the US are presently accomplished by the four county fire departments in Hawaii. For example, there is no capability for data collection and analysis as specified in Hawaii Revised Statutes §132-18 with existing SFC staff.

The SFC supports the examination of its current processes, its effectiveness, and the recommendations as HB 1943 will allow.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

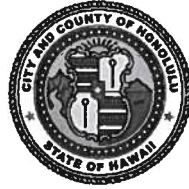
Sincerely,

STEVEN GOBLE
Chair

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Richard Onishi, Chair
Committee on Labor and Tourism
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 438
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Onishi:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1943 Relating to Fire Safety

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 1943, which establishes a fire safety working group to determine if a full-time State Fire Marshal's office would be more effective than the existing State Fire Council (SFC) in planning, executing, and promoting fire safety-related programs and topics in the state. It also requires the working group to submit a report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2023.

HB 1943 documents many of the challenges encountered by the SFC in its current form and with its limited budget and staffing. Admittedly, many of the duties and responsibilities normally performed by a typical State Fire Marshal's office in the other 49 states across the U.S. are presently accomplished by the four county fire departments in Hawaii. For example, there is no capability for data collection and analysis as specified in Hawaii Revised Statutes §132-18 with existing SFC staff.

The HFD supports examination of the SFC's current processes, its effectiveness, and recommendations, as allowed by HB 1943, and encourage your committee's passage of HB 1943

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 808-723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheldon K. Hao".

SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director



Kazuo S. K. L. Todd
Fire Chief

Eric H. Moller
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Richard Onishi, Chair
Committee on Labor and Tourism
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 438
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Onishi:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1943 Relating to Fire Safety

I am Kazuo S. K. L. Todd, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department. I support HB 1943, which establishes a fire safety working group to determine if a full-time state fire marshal's office would be more effective than the existing state fire council in planning, executing, and promoting fire safety-related programs and topics in the State. It also requires the working group to submit a report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2023.

HB 1943 documents many of the challenges the SFC has in its current form with its limited budget and staffing. Admittedly, many of duties and responsibilities normally performed by a typical State Fire Marshal's office in the other 49 states across the US are presently accomplished by the four county fire departments in Hawaii. For example, there is no capability for data collection and analysis as specified in Hawaii Revised Statutes §132-18 with existing SFC staff.

I support the examination of its current processes, its effectiveness, and the recommendations as HB 1943 will allow.

Should you have questions, please contact me at 808-932-2903 or kazuo.todd@hawaiicounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo Todd", is written over the typed name.

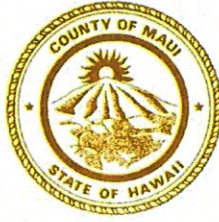
KAZUO S. K. L. TODD
Fire Chief
Hawai'i Fire Department

KT:lk

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

February 9, 2022

The Honorable Richard Onishi, Chair
Committee on Labor and Tourism
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 438
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Onishi:

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL (HB) 1943 RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY

I am Bradford Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports HB 1943, which establishes a fire safety working group to determine if a full-time state fire marshal's office would be more effective than the existing state fire council in planning, executing, and promoting fire safety-related programs and topics in the State. It also requires the working group to submit a report to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2023.

HB 1943 documents many of the challenges the SFC has in its current form with its limited budget and staffing. Admittedly, many of duties and responsibilities normally performed by a typical State Fire Marshal's office in the other 49 states across the US are presently accomplished by the four county fire departments in Hawaii. For example, there is no capability for data collection and analysis as specified in Hawaii Revised Statutes §132-18 with existing SFC staff.

The SFC supports the examination of its current processes, its effectiveness, and the recommendations as HB 1943 will allow.

If you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003
WEBSITE: www.hawaiifirefighters.org

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022
February 10, 2022

Committee on Labor and Tourism

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 1943

RELATING TO FIRE SAFETY

LAT, FIN

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO, represents more than 1,900 professional active-duty fire fighters throughout the State. The HFFA, on behalf of all of our members, **supports H.B. 1943** which establishes a fire safety working group to determine if a full-time state fire marshal's office would be more efficient and effective than the existing state fire council structure.

As you know, in 1979, the legislature replaced the State Fire Marshal's office with the State Fire Council making Hawaii the only state in the Nation without a fire marshal's office. The responsibilities of the State Fire Council (SFC) include facilitating the adoption of a state fire code, administering the RIPC regulations and serving as the focal point for the applications and administration of federal grant assistance. The SFC membership is composed of the fire chiefs from the four counties but does not include the State of Hawaii Airports Fire Chief, the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association, and HFFA and the responsibilities of serving as a SFC member are additional to their current operational duties of their county fire departments.

This report will identify the efficacy of the current SFC organizational structure in meeting the statutory responsibilities and/or identify if a state fire marshal's office would better serve the community. The current SFC administrative staff could gather information and prepare the report of recommendations based on a consensus of the stakeholders, including a representative from State Airports Fire Fighting Division, Chief, the Hawaii Fire Chiefs and HFFA.

HFFA's commitment to the safety and health of the fire service personnel is a priority and the actions of the SFC has a direct impact on fire service personnel and the community. For that reason, we support the study.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we appreciate your committee's support of H.B. No. 1943.