
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO STUDY THE
IMPACT OF CIGARETTE FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN
OTHER STATES.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that cigarettes are the
2 leading cause of fire deaths in the nation; and

3
4 WHEREAS, each year, seven hundred to nine hundred people
5 are killed in the United States due to cigarette fires, and
6 three thousand are injured in fires ignited by cigarettes; and

7
8 WHEREAS, a high proportion of the victims of cigarette
9 fires are non-smokers, including senior citizens and young
10 children; and

11
12 WHEREAS, cigarette-caused fires result in billions of
13 dollars in property loss and damages in the United States and
14 thousands of dollars in this State; and

15
16 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, for the three-year period of 2003-2005,
17 there were two hundred sixteen cigarette-caused fires, resulting
18 in \$283,570 in property damage and three civilian injuries; and

19
20 WHEREAS, in addition, cigarette fires unnecessarily
21 jeopardize firefighters and result in avoidable emergency
22 response costs for Hawaii's county fire departments; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that the state of
25 New York enacted a cigarette fire safety regulation, effective
26 June 28, 2004, which requires that cigarettes sold in that state
27 meet a fire safety performance standard; and

28
29 WHEREAS, in 2005, the states of Vermont and California
30 signed into law cigarette fire safety acts that directly
31 incorporate New York's regulation into statute, and in 2006, the



1 states of Illinois, New Hampshire, and New Jersey did the same;
2 and

3
4 WHEREAS, Canada implemented the New York fire safety
5 standard as of October 2005, becoming the first nation to have a
6 cigarette fire safety standard; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that New York's cigarette
9 fire safety standard is based upon decades of research by the
10 National Institute of Standards and Technology, congressional
11 research groups, and private industry; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that the State of
14 Hawaii could benefit from comparable cigarette fire safety
15 standards to reduce the likelihood that cigarettes will cause
16 fires and result in deaths, injuries, and property damage; now,
17 therefore,

18
19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
21 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
22 the Attorney General is requested to study the impact of
23 cigarette fire safety standards established in other states and
24 Canada; and

25
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
27 General, in consultation with the Department of Health, the
28 Department of Taxation, and the State Fire Council, is requested
29 to determine how these standards could be adopted in Hawaii,
30 with a minimum of cost to the State, and with minimal burden to
31 cigarette manufacturers, distributors, and retail sellers; and

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
34 General is requested to report its findings and recommendations
35 to the Legislature not later than twenty days before the
36 convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

37



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General,
3 Director of Health, Director of Taxation, and Chair of the State
4 Fire Council.
5
6
7

OFFERED BY:

Calvin M. Day

BY REQUEST

FEB 05 2007

