

FEB 06 2007

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## SENATE 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  
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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  
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8           WHEREAS, a high proportion of the victims of cigarette  
9 fires are non-smokers, including senior citizens and young  
10 children; and  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
32 states of Illinois, New Hampshire, and New Jersey did the same;  
33 and  
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1 WHEREAS, Canada implemented the New York fire safety  
2 standard as of October 2005, becoming the first nation to have a  
3 cigarette fire safety standard; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that New York's cigarette  
6 fire safety standard is based upon decades of research by the  
7 National Institute of Standards and Technology, congressional  
8 research groups, and private industry; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that the State of  
11 Hawaii could benefit from comparable cigarette fire safety  
12 standards to reduce the likelihood that cigarettes will cause  
13 fires and result in deaths, injuries, and property damage; now,  
14 therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
18 that the Department of the Attorney General is requested to  
19 study the impact of cigarette fire safety standards established  
20 in other states and Canada; and  
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney  
23 General, in consultation with the Department of Health, the  
24 Department of Taxation, and the State Fire Council, is requested  
25 to determine how these standards could be adopted in Hawaii,  
26 with a minimum of cost to the State, and with minimal burden to  
27 cigarette manufacturers, distributors, and retail sellers; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney  
30 General is requested to report its findings and recommendations  
31 to the Legislature not later than twenty days before the  
32 convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, Director of  
36 Health, Director of Taxation, and Chair of the State Fire  
37 Council.  
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OFFERED BY: *Francis R. Iwama*

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