



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
State Fire Council
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 1, 2008

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker:

Subject: H.B. 2376, H.D. 1 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support H.B. 2376, H.D. 1, which proposes to reduce the danger of wildfires throughout the state by requiring the SFC to develop a comprehensive statewide brushfire mitigation plan. Large wildland fires continue to plague the state, endanger lives and property, tax fire protection resources for communities, and destroy the environment and irreplaceable plant and wildlife. The plan will seek to identify private and public methods of brushfire reduction, develop public education and prevention programs, and explore additional resources to prevent and mitigate the effects of brush fires.

In order to accomplish these objectives, an appropriation for funds to staff the SFC is necessary. Four full-time positions, including an administrator and three administrative assistants, would cost approximately \$300,000. The SFC currently consists of one part-time person funded by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The SFC was created in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's Office, which was a fully-funded state agency. Under the present organization, the SFC has had difficulty in amending the state fire code; pursuing and administering federal grants; and coordinating statewide training, data collection, and other council duties because such work must be performed by county fire department personnel, thus depriving the county fire departments of the services of its members.

This bill would greatly increase the SFC's productivity and benefit communities and fire departments statewide.

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The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 2376, H.D. 1.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva".

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:cn

testimony

From: Hankins, Brendalyn P. [BHankins@honolulu.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 4:06 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Rogers, Lloyd
Subject: H.B. 2376 H.D. 1, April 2, 2008
Importance: High
Attachments: HB 2376, HD 1.pdf

The attached testimony, **H.B. 2376 H.D. 1, Relating to the State Fire Council**, should be directed to the Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair.

The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 10:25 a.m., Conference Room 211.

Lloyd Rogers, Honolulu Fire Department Legislative Liaison will testify in person.

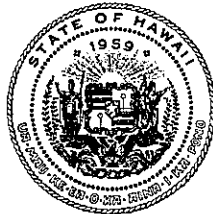
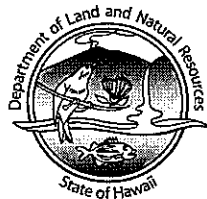
Should you have any questions, please call Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

Mahalo,

Brendalyn Hankins

Honolulu Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau
636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Telephone: 808-723-7161
Fax: 808-723-7179
E-mail: bhankins@honolulu.gov

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

on House Bill 2376, House Draft 1 - RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

April 2, 2008

House Bill 2376, House Draft 1 requires the State Fire Council to develop a statewide brushfire mitigation plan and appropriates an unspecified amount of funds. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure, the Department is nonetheless concerned with the fiscal impact this bill will have with the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

The Department has the training and experience to manage wildland fire prevention, presuppression and suppression activities throughout the State for lands under the Department's authority. The Department has mutual aid agreements with each county for wildland fire suppression and is actively involved with the Counties on wildland fire responses and coordination in the State. The Department is eager to work with the Counties to develop a comprehensive statewide wildland fire mitigation plan that will benefit all citizens, particularly those in the leeward drier areas of the Islands.

CHARMAINE TAVARES
MAYOR



NEAL A. BAL
Interim Chief

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
(808) 270-7561
FAX (808) 270-7919

April 1, 2008

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker:

Subject: H.B. 2376, H.D. 1 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Neal A. Bal, Member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Interim Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety. The SFC and our Department support H.B. 2376, H.D. 1, which proposes to reduce the danger of wildfires throughout the state by requiring the SFC to develop a comprehensive statewide brushfire mitigation plan. Large wildland fires continue to plague the state, endanger lives and property, tax fire protection resources for communities, and destroy the environment and irreplaceable plant and wildlife. The plan will seek to identify private and public methods of brushfire reduction, develop public education and prevention programs, and explore additional resources to prevent and mitigate the effects of brushfires.

In order to accomplish these objectives, an appropriation for funds to staff the SFC is necessary. Four full-time positions, including an administrator and three administrative assistants, would cost approximately \$300,000. The SFC staff currently consists of only one part-time person funded by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The SFC was created in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's Office, which was a fully-funded state agency. Under the present organization, the SFC has had difficulty in amending the state fire code; pursuing and administering federal grants; and coordinating statewide training, data collection, and other council duties because such work must be performed by county fire department personnel, thus depriving the county fire departments of the services of its members.

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This bill would greatly increase the SFC's productivity and benefit communities and fire departments statewide.

The SFC and our Department urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 2376, H.D. 1.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Legislative Liaison Lloyd Rogers at 723-7171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal A. Bal" followed by a stylized flourish.

NEAL A. BAL
Interim Fire Chief

NAB:rk



COUNTY OF KAUAI
Fire Department
Mo'ikeha Building
4444 Rice Street, Suite 295
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

March 24, 2008

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker:

Subject: H.B. 2376, H.D. 1 Relating to the State Fire Council

I am Robert F. Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC and the KFD support H.B. 2376, H.D. 1, which proposes to reduce the danger of wildfires throughout the state by requiring the SFC to develop a comprehensive statewide brushfire mitigation plan. Large wildland fires continue to plague the state, endanger lives and property, tax fire protection resources for communities, and destroy the environment and irreplaceable plant and wildlife. The plan will seek to identify private and public methods of brushfire reduction, develop public education and prevention programs, and explore additional resources to prevent and mitigate the effects of brushfires.

In order to accomplish these objectives, an appropriation for funds to staff the SFC is necessary. Four full-time positions, including an administrator and three administrative assistants, would cost approximately \$300,000. The SFC staff currently consists of only one part-time person funded by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The SFC was created in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's Office, which was a fully-funded state agency. Under the present organization, the SFC has had difficulty in amending the state fire code; pursuing and administering federal grants; and coordinating statewide training, data collection, and other council duties because such work must be performed by county fire department personnel, thus depriving the county fire departments of the services of its members.

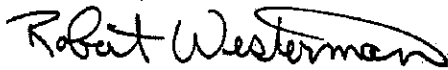
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
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April 1, 2008

This bill would greatly increase the SFC's productivity and benefit communities and fire departments statewide.

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 2376, H.D. 1.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (808) 241-6500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld