

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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April 13, 2011

The Honorable Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Housing
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Cabanilla and Members:

**Subject: House Concurrent Resolution No. 263, HD1 and
House Resolution No. 225, HD1
Requesting the Application of Certified Fire-Retardant
Coatings in Newly Constructed One- and Two-Family
Residential Dwellings to be Required Under the State
Building Code**

The Department of Planning and Permitting is **strongly opposed** to House Concurrent Resolution No. 263, HD1 and House Resolution No. 225, HD1. The State building code and common construction practices presently allow construction materials which have basic fire resistant properties (concrete masonry blocks, concrete, and gypsum wallboard). This resolution would require a fire retardant coating in addition to materials which are inherently fire resistive. This adds extra cost to new home construction without substantially increasing safety.

The State building code is based upon a national building code updated through a national forum. There are, to the best of our knowledge, no State or local building codes which requires this additional fire retardant coatings for single family dwellings as an amendment to the national code. In addition the State building code has a process to receive proposals for State building code amendments to the national code; this resolution serves to circumvent this process. Finally, this resolution has been substantially changed from its original version, which should show that inherently it does not have merit to be considered even in its present form.

The Honorable Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Housing
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House Resolution No. 225, HD1
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Please defer the passage of these resolutions as they are not in the best interest of the life-safety. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Tanoue', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David K. Tanoue, Director
Department of Planning and Permitting

DKT: jmf

hcr263hd1-hr225hd1-FireRetardantCoatings-th

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April 11, 2011

Hon. Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair
Committee on Housing
Room 442 - State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

HCR263/HR225, HD1 - Requesting the Application of Certified Fire-Retardant Coatings in Newly Constructed One- and Two- Family Residential Dwellings to be Required Under the State Building Code.

April 13, 2011 - 10:00 a.m. - Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Cabanilla and Members:

I represent NoFire Technologies, Inc., located in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, that manufactures *Underwriters Laboratories* ("UL") and *U.S. Navy* certified fire retardant paints.

As demonstrated many times and proven through rigorous and severe testing by many independent and government laboratories world wide, including a most significant one conducted by the Rockland County Fire Department in New York, NoFire is a true fire protective coating that will prevent the sudden spread of flames in a fire that is commonly referred to as "flashover". A video of the NoFire website covers the Rockland County Fire Department test, vividly showing how a shed coated with an ordinary paint will flashover in a matter of *2-3 minutes*. To the contrary, the identical shed coated with NoFire will not flashover, as demonstrated by the *more than 20 minute* exposure to the identical fire. In a live fire situation, the elimination of flashover provides the local fire department more than adequate time to arrive on the scene and extinguish the localized fire.

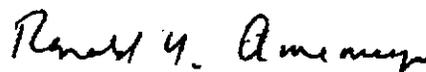
The cost of installing a fire sprinkler in one- and two- family dwelling units would exceed \$6,000. This should be contrasted to using a UL certified fire retardant paint and U.S. Navy certified fire retardant paint which would add only approximately \$300 more to the total job cost for a one- or two- family unit, the differential between the raw costs of the NoFire paint and the ordinary paint.

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As originally introduced in the senate and house, HCR263/HR225 referred to both Automatic Sprinklers and Application of Certified Fire Retardant Coatings. At a hearing before the House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, the resolution was amended, deleting all references to Automatic Sprinklers and became HCR263, HD1. We favor this amended house version.

We respectfully request that this committee pass this amended version.

Sincerely,



Ronald Y. Amemiya