



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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March 27, 2012

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee:

Subject: H.B. 1765, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 Relating to Criminal History Record Checks for County Employees

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. 1765, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, which proposes to allow criminal history record checks on prospective county fire department employees who may have contact with children or dependent adults.

With the elimination of residency requirements for prospective fire department employment, the number of out-of-state applicants has increased with no legal means to verify whether or not these individuals possess the necessary qualities for dealing with children or vulnerable adults.

Public trust must not be compromised when individuals are hired as emergency responders. The public expects and deserves the utmost quality and care from the people who are entrusted to provide emergency services and fire and life safety education presentations. Conducting criminal record checks is one way to ensure that prospective fire department employees have no criminal or abuse record.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 1765, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:cn