

JAN 22 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 83, Session Laws
2 of Hawaii 2012, established a prohibition of the adoption of any
3 codes or regulations by the respective counties that may require
4 the use and installation of residential fire sprinklers in one-
5 and two-family dwellings, except to meet firefighting road
6 access or water supply requirements.

7 Fire sprinklers may improve and enhance the fire
8 survivability of community residents by eighty per cent and
9 reduce fire losses. Further, residential fire sprinklers
10 greatly reduce the spread of fire, thereby significantly
11 lessening property damage and loss. National residential
12 building codes have required residential fire sprinklers for the
13 past nine years because of their reliability and effectiveness
14 in suppressing a fire in its initial stages. Because of this,
15 the legislature also finds that a prohibition of any measures
16 that may be considered at a local level to improve and enhance



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1 the fire survivability of community residents and reduce fire
2 losses is not in the best interest of public health and safety.

3 The legislature also finds that the intensity, severity,
4 and spread of fire in residential structures is directly related
5 to the contents and furnishings of a property. Although
6 improvements have been made in building construction, design,
7 and materials, the volatility and toxicity of today's synthetic
8 materials allows untenable conditions to be reached more
9 rapidly.

10 The legislature further finds that the respective county
11 jurisdictions face unique challenges and issues relating to fire
12 protection including population density, proximity of
13 structures, infrastructure, access, and limited fire protection
14 resources. This Act recognizes and establishes the individual
15 county authority or "home rule" as the appropriate application
16 of requirements. This is recognized, acknowledged, and
17 supported by the evidence presented in the National Fire
18 Protection Association's Fire Sprinkler Initiative,
19 Legislative/Adoptions report, which notes that two states,
20 Maryland and California, have statewide requirements for
21 residential fire sprinkles in new one- and two-family dwellings,



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1 and seventeen states have no statewide requirements but instead
2 allow local jurisdictions to require residential fire
3 sprinklers.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to repeal Act 83,
5 Session Laws of Hawaii 2012.

6 SECTION 2. Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, is
7 repealed.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
9

INTRODUCED BY: _____


BY REQUEST



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Report Title:

Fire Council Package; Public Safety; Fire Protection;
Residential Fire Protection Sprinklers

Description:

Authorizes counties to adopt codes and regulations that would require the installation of residential fire protection sprinkler systems by repealing Act 83, SLH 2012.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

