
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that automatic fire
2 sprinkler systems have a proven record of significantly reducing
3 lost life, injury, and property damage. Automatic fire
4 sprinklers are commonly installed in commercial and high-rise
5 buildings, but eight out of ten fire deaths occur in the home,
6 and sprinklers are found in only seven per cent of all homes
7 damaged by a fire.

8 The legislature further finds modern construction materials
9 have increased a home's risk to fire. Engineered lumber is used
10 as a composite joist or beam as part of today's modern,
11 lightweight construction material. Compared with traditional
12 wood materials in older homes, lightweight construction
13 assemblies typically collapse in six minutes versus eighteen
14 minutes for wood. Modern furnishings also reach dangerous
15 temperatures much quicker than legacy furnishings. These place
16 occupants and firefighters in extreme peril when a fire occurs
17 in a home without sprinklers.



1 The legislature further finds that smoke alarms and
2 sprinklers can reduce the risk of death in a home by eighty-two
3 per cent. Only the sprinkler head closest to the fire activates
4 and eighty-five per cent of fires are contained by the operation
5 of just one sprinkler. Residential fire sprinkler systems also
6 require very little maintenance to ensure that they are
7 operating properly.

8 Currently, California, Maryland, and the District of
9 Columbia require residential sprinklers in all new one- and two-
10 family dwellings. About twenty-two other states do not require
11 sprinklers but allow local jurisdictions to require them. After
12 California required residential sprinklers, the state has not
13 experienced a decrease in the residential construction or sale
14 of new homes.

15 The legislature also finds that providing potential home
16 buyers with information, including the benefits of a fire
17 sprinkler system provided by the state fire council, will allow
18 potential home buyers to make a better informed decision to
19 accept or reject the installation of a fire sprinkler system in
20 a new residence.



1 The purpose of this Act is to provide potential home buyers
2 of one- and two-family dwellings with information on the
3 benefits of a residential fire sprinkler system.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
6 to read as follows:

7 **"PART . HOME BUYER FIRE PROTECTION**

8 **§132- Definitions.** As used in this part:

9 "New dwelling" means a new one- or two-family residential
10 dwelling not previously occupied and constructed for residential
11 use.

12 "Owner" means any individual, trustee, partnership,
13 corporation, or other entity owning any estate or interest in a
14 new dwelling.

15 **§132- Disclosure of residential fire sprinkler system**
16 **information.** (a) When an application for a permit for a new
17 dwelling is submitted, the building or fire official shall
18 provide the applicant or the applicant's representative with a
19 copy of written materials prepared and adopted by the state fire
20 council that detail the benefits of a residential fire sprinkler
21 system.



1 (b) The owner shall choose to accept or reject the
2 installation of a residential fire sprinkler system in the new
3 dwelling. If accepted, the cost of the residential fire
4 sprinkler system shall be the responsibility of the owner.

5 (c) Written materials prepared and adopted by the state
6 fire council as specified under subsection (a) shall be updated
7 as needed."

8 SECTION 3. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by designating sections 132-1 to 132-19 as part I and
10 inserting a title before section 132-1 to read as follows:

11 **"PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS"**

12 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.
14



Report Title:

State Fire Council Package; Home Buyer Fire Protection;
Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems

Description:

Requires building and fire officials to provide applicants or applicant representatives with a copy of materials by the state fire council detailing the benefits of a residential fire sprinkler system. Requires owners to accept or reject the installation of a residential fire sprinkler system. Specifies that residential fire sprinkler system costs are the owner's responsibility. Requires the state fire council to update its materials as necessary. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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

