



GOV. MSG. NO. 1245

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

June 29, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

✓The Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 29, 2023, the following bill was signed into law:

SB193 SD1 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL  
**ACT 142**

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on JUN 29 2023

THE SENATE  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023  
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 193  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 1  
C.D. 1

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 1979, the  
2 legislature abolished the state fire marshal's office and  
3 created the state fire council, which comprises the four county  
4 fire chiefs and is administratively attached to the department  
5 of labor and industrial relations. The goal of the state fire  
6 council is to develop and maintain a comprehensive fire service  
7 emergency management network for the protection of life,  
8 property, and the environment throughout the State. The state  
9 fire council is tasked with reviewing and adopting the state  
10 fire code, providing administrative oversight of the reduced  
11 ignition propensity cigarettes program, providing assistance  
12 with the application for and administration of federal grants  
13 for the fire service, assisting with and coordinating the  
14 statewide delivery of fire training programs, coordinating the  
15 collection of fire data, and supporting contingency planning  
16 needs for fire fighters. The state fire council is required to  
17 establish statewide qualifications for testing, certifying, and  
18 credentialing individuals who perform maintenance and testing of



1 portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire  
2 alarm systems. The state fire council may also advise the  
3 governor and the legislature on matters related to fire  
4 prevention, fire protection, and life safety. The state fire  
5 council is a voting member of the state building code council,  
6 whose responsibilities are delineated in section 107-24, Hawaii  
7 Revised Statutes.

8 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii state  
9 aircraft rescue fire fighting unit and the division of forestry  
10 and wildlife of the department of land and natural resources  
11 communicate and collaborate with the county fire departments on  
12 a regular basis during emergency incidents and non-emergency  
13 administrative matters. The two agencies provide specialty  
14 expertise and equipment in emergent and non-emergent  
15 environments that the county fire departments do not possess due  
16 to training, funding, or mission requirements. The Hawaii state  
17 aircraft rescue fire fighting unit and the division of forestry  
18 and wildlife of the department of land and natural resources  
19 could provide unique perspectives to facilitate accomplishment  
20 of the state fire council's functions as described in  
21 section 132-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The potential results



1 are greater insight into Hawaii's fire risk and improvements  
2 relating to the protection of persons and property against fire.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to add to the  
4 membership of the state fire council, and to the membership of  
5 advisory committees that the council may appoint,  
6 representatives from the Hawaii state aircraft rescue fire  
7 fighting unit and the division of forestry and wildlife of the  
8 department of land and natural resources to reflect all  
9 non-federal fire fighting agencies in the State.

10 SECTION 2. Section 132-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended as follows:

12 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

13 "(a) There is established a state fire council, which  
14 shall be placed within the department of labor and industrial  
15 relations for administrative purposes. The state fire council  
16 shall consist of the fire chiefs of the counties[-], the fire  
17 chief of the Hawaii state aircraft rescue fire fighting unit,  
18 and a representative of the division of forestry and wildlife of  
19 the department of land and natural resources. The state fire  
20 council may appoint an advisory committee to assist it in  
21 carrying out its functions under this chapter. The advisory



1 committee may include the heads of the various county building  
2 departments, a licensed architect recommended by the Hawaii  
3 Society of the American Institute of Architects, a licensed  
4 electrical engineer and a licensed mechanical engineer  
5 recommended by the Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii, a  
6 representative of the Hawaii Rating Bureau, a representative of  
7 the Hawaii [~~firefighters association,~~] Fire Fighters  
8 Association, representatives of the county fire departments, a  
9 representative of the Hawaii state aircraft rescue fire fighting  
10 unit, a representative of the division of forestry and wildlife  
11 of the department of land and natural resources, and [such]  
12 other members of the public as the state fire council may  
13 determine can best assist it. The state fire council shall  
14 elect a chairperson from among its members."

15 2. By amending subsection (c) to read:

16 "(c) The state fire council may also:

17 (1) Appoint advisory committees [~~comprised of~~] comprising  
18 representatives from each county fire department, a  
19 representative of the Hawaii state aircraft rescue  
20 fire fighting unit, and a representative of the  
21 division of forestry and wildlife of the department of



1 land and natural resources to assist in drafting the  
2 state fire code and coordinating statewide training,  
3 data collection, and contingency planning needs for  
4 firefighters;

5 (2) Advise and assist the county and state fire  
6 departments where appropriate[7]; may prescribe  
7 standard procedures and forms relating to inspections,  
8 investigations, and reporting of fires[7]; may approve  
9 plans for cooperation among the county and state fire  
10 departments[7]; and may advise the governor and the  
11 legislature with respect to fire prevention and  
12 protection, life safety, and any other functions or  
13 activities for which the various county and state fire  
14 departments are generally responsible; and

15 (3) Establish, in conformance with the adopted state fire  
16 code and nationally recognized standards, statewide  
17 qualifications and procedures, to be administered by  
18 the county fire departments, for testing, certifying,  
19 and credentialing individuals who perform maintenance  
20 and testing of portable fire extinguishers,  
21 water-based fire protection systems, other fire



1 protection systems, private fire hydrants, and fire  
2 alarm systems; provided that the county fire  
3 departments may establish and charge reasonable  
4 certification fees."

5 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 29th day of June, 2023



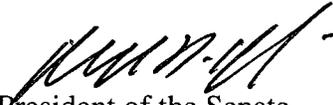
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: May 2, 2023  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 193, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 2, 2023  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives