
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 and coordinating with 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



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

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



1 section 132-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The potential results
2 are greater insight into Hawaii's fire risk and improvements
3 relating to the protection of persons and property against fire.

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

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

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

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



1 carrying out its functions under this chapter. The advisory
2 committee may include the heads of the various county building
3 departments, a licensed architect recommended by the Hawaii
4 Society of the American Institute of Architects, a licensed
5 electrical engineer and a licensed mechanical engineer
6 recommended by the Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii, a
7 representative of the Hawaii Rating Bureau, a representative of
8 the Hawaii firefighters association, representatives of the
9 county fire departments, a representative of the Hawaii state
10 aircraft rescue fire fighting unit, a representative of the
11 division of forestry and wildlife of the department of land and
12 natural resources, and [~~such~~] other members of the public as the
13 state fire council may determine can best assist it. The state
14 fire council shall 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, may prescribe standard
7 procedures and forms relating to inspections,
8 investigations, and reporting of fires, may approve
9 plans for cooperation among the county fire
10 departments, 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 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.



Report Title:

State Fire Council Package; Composition; Members

Description:

Adds to the membership of the State Fire Council, and to the membership of advisory committees that the Council may appoint, representatives from the Hawaii State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Unit and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to reflect all non-federal fire fighting agencies in the State. (SD1)

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