
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[]; may prescribe
7 standard procedures and forms relating to inspections,
8 investigations, and reporting of fires[]; may approve
9 plans for cooperation among the county and state 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 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.



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. (CD1)

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

