

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov

February 24, 2024

The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1886, House Draft (HD) 1, Relating to Fire Protection

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC offers comments and recommendations for HB1886, HD1, which authorizes the use of the reduced ignition propensity cigarette program special fund to support the State Fire Council and its programs and activities, including the hiring of administrative personnel.

Based on questions from David Tarnas, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs during the committee's hearing on February 8 and consultation from the Deputy Attorney General; the SFC recommends deferment of this measure. §132C-9 does not permit use of the RIPC special funds for the purpose(s) the SFC envisioned when drafting this proposal.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

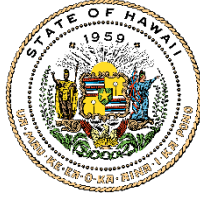
Handwritten signature of Kazuo Todd.

KAZUO TODD
Chair

KT/GL

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
12:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1886 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION

House Bill 1886 House Draft 1 proposes authorizing the use of the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Program Special Fund to support the State Fire Council (Council) and its programs and activities, including hiring administrative personnel. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is the primary responder for wildland fires across 1,368,002 acres or about 26% of the land area of the State including forest and natural area reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, and public hunting areas, and supports federal and county responders on urban interface lands. DOFAW is a member of the Council and supports increased funding to the Council through the Fund for the Council staff to meet the increased demands upon the Council. The funds would provide for statewide educational efforts to protect life, property, and the environment, such as the statewide firefighter safety guide program for Hawai'i's youth and the residential smoke alarm installation program for Hawai'i's at-risk senior population.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.