



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 27, 2024

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

#### House Bill 1889 HD1– Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1889 HD1 – Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits.

This bill adds cancer types that are common among females to the list of covered cancers as applicable to firefighters. It is important that all types of cancer that are correlated to environmental hazards to which firefighters are exposed are covered.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

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](http://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) 1889, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC strongly supports HB1889, HD1, which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

Over the last decade, the fire profession has experienced an increase in fire fighter deaths related to cancer. The University of Cincinnati and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health conducted studies as a result of the initial findings. They are the most comprehensive investigations into cancer-related diseases incurred by career fire fighters to date and support the initial findings.

A State of Hawaii (State) cancer taskforce performed an investigative study with assistance from medical insurance companies and found that fire fighters in the State are also experiencing elevated levels of exposure to the effects of cancer-related diseases, correlating Hawaii's information with the national studies.

A study published in Public Health in 2023 found that female firefighters may develop a wide variety of cancers and develop them at an earlier age than most other women. This proposed language in HB1889, HD1, ensures inclusion of cancers that may affect female firefighters.

There are approximately 40 female firefighters out of a total of about 2100 active firefighters in the state. Although this is not a high percentage of the total, female firefighters deserve to be covered due to anatomical differences. If passed, this bill will provide female fire fighters and their families with the financial and moral support they require if affected.

The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Page 2  
February 24, 2024

The SFC strongly urges your committees' support on the passage of HB 1889, HD1, for the welfare of all fire fighters in Hawaii.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo Todd", written in a cursive style.

KAZUO TODD  
Chair

KT/GL:



STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

February 27, 2024

To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: H.B. 1889 H.D.1 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION**  
**MEDICAL BENEFITS**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

The **DLIR supports** this proposal which amends Section 386-21.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to improve female firefighters' access to comprehensive medical coverage by expanding workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

§386-21.9 states that the employer is responsible for the medical care, services, and supplies for firefighters suffering from cancer, leukemia multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, or cancer of the lung, brain, stomach, esophagus, intestines, rectum, kidney, bladder, prostate, or testes.

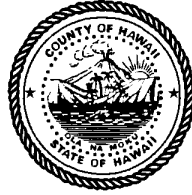
§386-21 requires the employer is to provide to the employee so long as reasonably needed, all medical care, services and supplies as the nature of the injury requires.

**III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL**

The DLIR supports this measure to ensure that firefighters receive timely and appropriate medical treatment to include breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
*Mayor*

**Deanna Sako**  
*Managing Director*



**Kazuo S. K. L. Todd**  
*Fire Chief*

**Eric H. Moller**  
*Deputy Fire Chief*

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 25, 2024

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HB1889 FROM HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Aloha Legislators,

As the Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department, I am writing on behalf of our dedicated team to express our strong support for House Bill No. 1889, which seeks to expand workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs. This legislation represents a significant step forward in acknowledging and addressing the unique health risks faced by female firefighters in the line of duty.

The findings of recent studies, including those highlighted by the National Library of Medicine in April 2023, have underscored the increased risk of certain cancers among female firefighters. These professionals, who dedicate their lives to serving and protecting our communities, face heightened exposure to carcinogens and other toxic substances that can lead to serious health conditions, including cancers that predominantly affect women.

It is imperative that our workers' compensation system reflects the realities of the risks assumed by all firefighters, including those that are gender-specific. By including coverage for breast cancer and cancers of the female reproductive organs, H.B. NO. 1889 ensures that female firefighters have access to the comprehensive medical care and support they need and deserve. This legislation not only addresses a critical gap in medical coverage but also affirms our commitment to the health and well-being of every member of our firefighting community.

The Hawaii Fire Department is steadfast in its mission to safeguard the lives and property of our residents and visitors. Integral to this mission is ensuring the health and safety of our firefighters, who courageously face hazardous conditions to fulfill their duties. H.B. NO. 1889 aligns with our values and our commitment to the care and support of our personnel, enabling us to maintain a resilient and ready force.

We appreciate the Legislature's attention to this important issue and respectfully urge your support for House Bill No. 1889. This legislation is a vital step in providing equitable and comprehensive medical coverage for all firefighters, recognizing the sacrifices they make and the risks they endure in their service to our state.



Mahalo for considering our support for this critical legislation. Together, we can ensure that the heroes who protect our communities are themselves protected, supported, and valued for their indispensable service.

With warmest aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo S. K. L. Todd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kazuo" being the most prominent part.

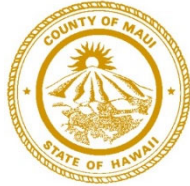
KAZUO S. K. L TODD  
Fire Chief

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director

**BRADFORD K. VENTURA**  
Fire Chief

**GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA**  
Deputy Fire Chief



**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

February 26, 2024

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

Dear Chair Yamashita,

**SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL (HB) 1889, HOUSE DRAFT (HD) 1 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS**

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department. The SFC strongly supports HB 1889, HD 1, which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

Over the last decade, the fire profession has experienced an increase in fire fighter deaths related to cancer. The University of Cincinnati and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health conducted studies as a result of the initial findings. They are the most comprehensive investigations into cancer-related diseases incurred by career fire fighters to date and support the initial findings.

A State of Hawaii (State) cancer taskforce performed an investigative study with assistance from medical insurance companies and found that fire fighters in the State are also experiencing elevated levels of exposure to the effects of cancer-related diseases, correlating Hawaii's information with the national studies.

A study published in Public Health in 2023 found that female firefighters may develop a wide variety of cancers and develop them at an earlier age than most other women. This proposed language in HB1889, HD1, ensures inclusion of cancers that may affect female firefighters.

There are approximately 40 female firefighters out of a total of about 2100 active firefighters in the state. Although this is not a high percentage of the total, female firefighters deserve to be covered due to anatomical differences. If passed, this bill will provide female fire fighters and their families with the financial and moral support they require if affected.

The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Page 2

February 26, 2024

If you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA

Fire Chief



**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA KINAI AHI O HONOLULU  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

636 SOUTH STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 723-7139 • FAX: (808) 723-7111 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



SHELDON K. HAO  
FIRE CHIEF  
LUNA NUI KINAI AHI  
  
JASON SAMALA  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF  
HOPE LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

February 26, 2024

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

Dear Chair Yamashita:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1889, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD strongly supports HB 1889, HD 1, which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for fire fighters (FF) to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

Over the last decade, the fire profession has experienced an increase in FF deaths related to cancer. The University of Cincinnati and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health conducted studies as a result of the initial findings. They are the most comprehensive investigations into cancer-related diseases incurred by career FFs to date and support the initial findings.

A State of Hawaii (State) cancer taskforce performed an investigative study with assistance from medical insurance companies and found that FFs in the State are also experiencing elevated levels of exposure to the effects of cancer-related diseases, thus correlating Hawaii's information with the national studies.

A study published in Public Health in 2023 found that female FFs may develop a wide variety of cancers at an earlier age than most other women. This proposed language in HB 1889, HD 1 ensures inclusion of cancers that may affect female FFs.

There are approximately 40 female FFs out of a total of 2,100 active FFs in the State. Although this is not a high percentage of the total, female FFs deserve to be covered due to anatomical differences. If passed, this bill will provide female FFs and their families with the financial and moral support they require if affected.

The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
February 26, 2024  
Page 2

The HFD strongly urges your committee's support on the passage of HB 1889, HD 1 for the welfare of all FFs in Hawaii.

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 808-723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO  
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn



# INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

**HAWAII DIVISION:** 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • **OAHU DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
**MAUI COUNTY DIVISION:** 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • **KAUAI DIVISION:** 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
**HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

## LOCAL 142

February 26, 2024

The Thirty-Second Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024

### THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

### **STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

On behalf of the ILWU Local 142, I am writing to express our wholehearted endorsement of HB1889, a critical piece of legislation aimed at strengthening workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters in the state of Hawaii. Our Hawai'i firefighters are dedicated men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our communities, and our union recognizes the paramount importance of addressing the unique health challenges they face in the performance of their duties.

The research findings outlined in the bill, particularly the heightened risk of cancer among firefighters due to exposure to contaminants, underscore the necessity for legislative intervention. This commitment to understanding and mitigating the risks associated with firefighting demonstrates a shared dedication to the welfare of our frontline heroes.

It is particularly noteworthy that HB1889 recognizes and addresses the unique vulnerabilities faced by female firefighters, who may be at an elevated risk of breast, cervical, and uterine cancers. The proposed amendment to Section 386-21.9 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, encompassing coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs, aligns with union values around equity and inclusivity in the provision of comprehensive medical coverage.

The ILWU Local 142 urges the committee to support our firefighters by endorsing HB1889.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital matter.

Christian West  
President, ILWU Local 142





HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO  
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929  
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003  
WEBSITE: www.hawaiifirefighters.org

## LATE TESTIMONY

House of Representatives  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024

Committee on Finance  
February 27, 2024

H.B. No. 1889 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL BENEFIT LGO, FIN  
H.D. 1

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO represents more than 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State of Hawaii. The HFFA, on behalf of all our members, strongly supports H.B. No. 1889, H.D. 1, which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) in partnership with the Cancer Firefighter Support Network (CFSN) concluded that female fire fighters have documented "increased risk of developing certain cancers and some are being diagnosed at higher rates compared to female non-fire fighters." Types of cancers and incidents found within the female fire fighter population are alarming.

According to the IAFF/CFSN, female fire fighters are at higher risk of developing cancer of the cervix, breast, thyroid, brain, and other cancers such as bladder, ovarian and melanoma. (see attached)

There are approximately forty female fire fighters through the Counties and State Airports and the exposure to carcinogens are the same as their male counterparts with potentially additional risks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we ask the Committee to pass H.B. 1889, H.D. 1, for further action in the House.



# Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness and Prevention



## Female Fire Fighters and Cancer

Fire fighters face an elevated risk of being diagnosed with occupational cancer than the general public. This includes female fire fighters. The scientific studies that have been done have mainly centered around male fire fighters. This is due to the small percentage of female fire fighters in the workforce. Female fire fighters are being diagnosed with different cancers than their male colleagues and more research is needed to fully evaluate these differences.

Studies that have evaluated cancer risk among female fire fighters suggest that, like their male coworkers, they may be at an elevated risk for overall cancer incidence.<sup>1</sup> These studies also suggest that female fire fighters may be at an elevated risk for breast,<sup>1</sup> cervical, thyroid<sup>2</sup> and bladder cancers.<sup>1</sup>

Reproductive cancers are also of interest because elevated incidence and mortality may be associated with exposures to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the fire fighter population. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals could result in elevated incidence and mortality for reproductive cancers among female fire fighters as well. With the potential that these chemicals could affect female fire fighters, further research needs to be done to gain a better understanding of these health concerns.

Female fire fighters are documented having increased risk of developing certain cancers and some are being diagnosed at higher rates compared to female non-fire fighters:

- Cervical Cancer: 4 times higher risk<sup>1</sup>
- Breast Cancer: Half of all cases<sup>1,3</sup>
- Thyroid Cancer: 3 times higher risk<sup>2,3,4</sup>
- Brain Cancer: 2.54 times higher risk<sup>4</sup>
- Bladder Cancer<sup>4</sup>
- Ovarian Cancer<sup>3,5,6</sup>
- Melanoma: 1.68 times higher risk<sup>4</sup>

Some of these numbers are alarming; however, these studies have very small sample sizes due to the low number of female fire fighters in the workforce. More studies need to be done, and some are currently underway.

### Sources:

1. Daniels, R. D., Kubale, T. L., Yiin, J. H., Dahm, M. M., Hales, T. R., Baris, D., . . . Pinkerton, L. E. (2014). Mortality and cancer incidence in a pooled cohort of US firefighters from San Francisco, Chicago and Philadelphia (1950-2009). *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 71(6), 388-97. doi:10.1136/oemed-2013-101662
2. Ma, F., Fleming, L. E., Lee, D. J., Trapido, E., & Gerace, T. A. (2006). Cancer incidence in Florida professional firefighters, 1981 to 1999. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 48(9), 883-88.
3. Ma, F., Fleming, L. E., Lee, D. J., Trapido, E., Gerace, T. A., Lai, H., & Lai, S. (2005). Mortality in Florida professional firefighters, 1972 to 1999. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 47(6), 509-17.
4. Lee DJ, Koru-Sengul T, Hernandez MN, Caban-Martinez AJ, McClure LA, Mackinnon JA, Kobetz EN. Cancer risk among career male and female Florida firefighters: Evidence from the Florida Firefighter Cancer Registry (1981-2014). *Am J Ind Med*. 2020 Apr;63(4):285-299. doi: 10.1002/ajim.23086. Epub 2020 Jan 12. PMID: 31930542.
5. U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). March 2019. Emerging Health and Safety Issues Among Women in the Fire Service. [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/emerging\\_health\\_safety\\_issues\\_women\\_fire\\_service.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/emerging_health_safety_issues_women_fire_service.pdf)
6. Maronpot RR. Ovarian toxicity and carcinogenicity in eight recent National Toxicology Program studies. *Environ Health Perspect*. 1987 Aug;73:125-30. doi: 10.1289/ehp.8773125. PMID: 3665857; PMCID: PMC1474570.

**HB-1889-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:19:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Turgeon	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Sarah Turgeon, and I have had the honor of serving my community as a member of the Honolulu Fire Department for over ten years. I am here today testifying in strong support of HB 1889, which expands firefighter’s workers compensation medical benefits to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

It is well-documented that firefighters see cancer rates higher than the general population. The International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), in coordination with various other organization and research bodies, have found that certain types of cancers are seen at a significantly higher rate in firefighters when compared to the general population. Of note are over a dozen types of cancers, to include breast cancer, cervical cancer, uterine cancer, and ovarian cancer. Expanding worker’s compensation coverage to include breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would expand care and benefits to the approximately forty female firefighters in the state of Hawai`i. The passage of HB 1889 would also offer greater gender equity in acknowledging that women in the fire service face the same risks as their male counterparts, and would provide them with care in the unfortunate event that they develop any of these types of cancer specific to their gender.

Thank you for your time, and the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1889. Aloha.

**HB-1889-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:39:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaimie Song	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jaimie Song. I am a female Fire Captain with the Honolulu Fire Department and have proudly served my community for 14 years.

I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for not only myself, but for all of my coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which ranks different exposures for their cancer risk based on available science, classifies the occupation of firefighting as class 2B carcinogen, or possibly carcinogenic. Firefighters have higher incidence and higher mortality rates for many cancers. These increased incidence rates are also seen in breast cancer and other cancers involving female reproductive organs.

This bill is a clear statement that gender equity and fair compensation for ALL firefighting-related injuries are important to the state and the communities which we serve as legislators and firefighters.

Thank you,

Jaimie Song

**HB-1889-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:43:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tasha Pagdilao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tasha Pagdilao, and I'm a Maui County Firefighter stationed at the Napili Fire Station. I am in support for this bill as it will provide equal health screenings to include all firefighters--male or female.



**HB-1889-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:39:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lani Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 HD1- Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a female Fire Captain with Maui County Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Lani Gomes

**HB-1889-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:15:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyle Kennedy-Pocock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in SUPPORT OF HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

**HB-1889-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:15:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a male Fire Fighter with 23+ years of service I have proudly served alongside female FFs, During this time I have lost friends, fellow FFs, and children of FFs to various forms of cancer. It is well documented that FFs have higher rates of cancer due to occupational exposures. Female FFs are exposed to all the same risks as males but are sucepatble to additional forms of cancer that are unique to their gender. I support this bill and urge its passing to protect the brave women who risk so much to serve and protect the citizens of and visitors to Honolulu.