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January 28, 2023

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair  
Committee on Labor and  
and Government Operations  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 422  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 143 Relating to the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 143, which authorizes additional uses for and appropriates moneys in the RIPC program special fund to support the SFC and its programs and activities.

The SFC was established by the Hawaii State (State) Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's office. It is comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs and administratively attached to the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes §132, the SFC's primary mission is to develop and support a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. Through the collaborative and unified efforts of each county Fire Chief, the SFC promotes the standardization of fire service reporting, training, sharing of technology, resources, and best management practices. The SFC may advise and assist the county fire departments where appropriate; prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires; and advise the Governor and State Legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection and life safety.

On July 6, 2008, during the 24<sup>th</sup> Hawaii State Legislature Regular Session, Act 218 was passed, and Hawaii became the 36<sup>th</sup> state requiring only RIPC be sold in Hawaii. This law took effect on September 30, 2009. More than 700 brand/style cigarettes were certified by the SFC as being RIPC-compliant. A \$375 fee was also attached for each

brand/style cigarette that was certified for sale in our state. Almost \$660,000 in RIPC certification fees were collected before an RIPC Program Specialist was hired on January 16, 2014.

Since then, a plan has been formulated and instituted to properly administer Hawaii's RIPC law. Besides paying for the RIPC Program Specialist's salary, funds from the RIPC Special Fund has been used to defray office expenses, field inspections, and random independent testing by certified laboratories.

The following chart shows the current status of the RIPC income and expenses and examples on the potential use of funds for statewide programs, training, and a new position:

Average Annual Fees Collected (2015-present)	\$129,900
Average Annual Expenses (2015-present)	\$124,000
Beginning Balance FY23	\$885,000

Program	Current Expense	Recurring Expense
<b>Youth Fire Prevention Intervention Program (triennial)</b>	<b>\$ 24,600</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
Materials, supplies, and equipment	600	600
Contract instructor	5,000	2,500
Personnel	19,000	9,500
<b>Fire Fighter's Safety Guide Program</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>
Materials and printing	32,500	32,500
Personnel	11,500	1,500
<b>SFC Data Analyst</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>72,000</b>
<b>Fire Investigator Training (triennial )</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>2,800</b>
Reid interview techniques	2,500	833
Vehicular fire investigations	2,700	900
International Association of Arson Investigators International Training Council	3,200	1,067
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$149,000</b>	<b>\$123,000</b>

Currently, there are several programs that have been implemented by one or more of our county fire departments. Key among them is the Fire Fighter's Safety Guide, which has been in existence for more than 30 years. Each year, more than 150,000 booklets filled with fire and life safety information are distributed to elementary school children statewide. There have been several accounts where students acknowledged that information learned from the booklet helped them escape and save family members during a fire or other emergency.

Specialized training could include fire/arson investigation and youth fire setter intervention. Community education programs, such as senior fire and fall prevention, fire evacuation planning and drills, fire prevention week mural exhibition projects, and Smoke Alarms For Everyone, could be initiated. Many times, funding at the county-level is lacking or does not exist.

This bill will allow the SFC to fulfill its mission with existing revenue to properly support the educational programs and training for a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. The SFC urges the committee's approval of HB 143.

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



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 143, RELATING TO THE REDUCED IGNITION PROPENSITY CIGARETTE PROGRAM.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023      **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Adam S. Rosenberg, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill amends section 132C-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by authorizing the State Fire Council (SFC) to expand the uses of reduced ignition propensity cigarette program (RIPC) special funds to include defraying "the cost of statewide fire prevention, education, life safety, and preparedness programs, especially as those programs relate to youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities, including the hiring of administrative personnel."

The current functions of the SFC in section 132-16, HRS, do not include the functions listed in the proposed section 132C-9(c), HRS. We recommend conforming the functions of the SFC that are prescribed in section 132-16, HRS, with the uses of the RIPC special funds proposed in amendments to section 132C-9.

Additionally, the bill does not specify whether the funds allowed to be expended for the hiring of administrative personnel at page 8, lines 9-10, would apply to existing staff that are described in section 132-18, HRS, or whether those funds are intended to apply to other staff to be hired after the enactment of the bill. We recommend clarifying whether the additional personnel noted on page 8, lines 9-10, are new or existing staff; whether the staff should be hired with or without regard to chapters 76 and 89; and, if appropriate, amending section 132-18, HRS, to reflect those changes to the administrative staffing for the SFC. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.