

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

March 18, 2026

To: The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair,
The Honorable Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

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

**Re: H.B. 2387 H.D.1 RELATING TO WORKERS'
COMPENSATION MEDICAL BENEFITS**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The **DLIR supports** this measure to ensure first responders receive timely and appropriate medical treatment associated with firefighting duties.

HB2387 HD1 proposes to amend HRS Chapter 386-21.9 by:

- Expanding workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters as defined in §386-21 to include coverage for adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the respiratory system; cancer of the buccal cavity, cervix, colon, esophagus, ovary, pharynx, skin, female reproductive organs, including the uterus, endometrium, and fallopian tubes, and thyroid; and malignant melanoma.
- Specifying that an employer may prove that the cancer or disease was not associated with the firefighting duties to deny medical benefits under workers' compensation law.

II. CURRENT LAW

§386-21.9 defines medical care, services, and supplies for firefighters suffering from cancer. If a claim for leukemia, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, or cancer of the lung, brain, stomach, esophagus, intestines, rectum, kidney, bladder, prostate, or testes filed by an employee with five or more years of service as a firefighter is accepted or determined to be compensable, §386-21 shall remain applicable; provided that the employer shall be liable for medical care, services and supplies for a minimum of one hundred ten per cent, and not to exceed one hundred fifty per

cent of fees prescribed in the Medicare Resource Based Relative Value Scale applicable to Hawaii as prepared by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

§386-21 defines medical care, services, and supplies and provides that immediately after a work injury sustained by an employee and so long as reasonably needed the employer shall furnish to the employee all medical care, services, and supplies as the nature of the injury requires.

§386-73.5 states the DLIR Director has original jurisdiction over all controversies and disputes arising out of workers' compensation.

§386-85 states the presumption of employment and compensation for a work-covered work injury in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The Department fully supports this measure to ensure that first responders receive timely and appropriate medical treatment to include coverage for adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the respiratory system; cancer of the buccal cavity, cervix, colon, esophagus, ovary, pharynx, skin, female reproductive organs, including the uterus, endometrium, and fallopian tubes, and thyroid; and malignant melanoma when it is determined that said cancer or disease was associated with firefighting duties.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
Director

ERNEST J. ROBELLO
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

March 17, 2026

LATE

The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair
Committee on Labor and Technology
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 217
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Elefante:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2387, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department. The SFC supports HB 2387, HD 1, which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for fire fighters (FF) to include coverage for adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the respiratory system; cancer of the buccal cavity, cervix, colon, esophagus, ovary, pharynx, skin, female reproductive organs, including the uterus, endometrium, and fallopian tubes, and thyroid; and malignant melanoma.

There's abundant epidemiological evidence in peer-reviewed medical and scientific literature that document a causal relationship between occupational exposure as a FF and certain cancers.

Fire fighting is a complex activity that involves potential exposure to a variety of carcinogenic hazards resulting from fires and other emergency events. FFs can be exposed to many carcinogenic hazards, including combustion products (e.g., polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs] and particulates), asbestos, chemicals in fire fighting foams (e.g., perfluorinated and polyfluorinated substances [PFAS]), flame retardants, diesel exhaust, ultraviolet radiation, and night shift work. Biological uptake of fire effluents and other chemicals can occur through dermal absorption, inhalation, and ingestion.

Furthermore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found Maui FFs who responded to the August 2023 wildfires had higher levels of PFAS in their bloodstream when compared with other first responders a month later. The CDC's National Institute for

The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair
Page 2
March 17, 2026

Occupational Safety and Health found high concentrations of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), a form of PFAS, in Maui FFs.

The SFC urges your committee's support of the passage of HB 2387, HD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO
Chair

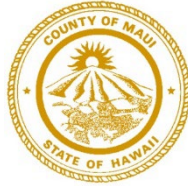
SKH/GL:cn

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

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair
Committee on Labor and Technology
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 217
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Elefante:

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL (HB) 2387 HOUSE DRAFT (HD) 1 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the MauiFire Department. The SFC supports HB 2387, HD 1, which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the respiratory system; cancer of the buccal cavity, cervix, colon, esophagus, ovary, pharynx, skin, female reproductive organs, including the uterus, endometrium, and fallopian tubes, and thyroid; and malignant melanoma.

There's abundant epidemiological evidence in peer reviewed medical and scientific literature that documents a causal relationship between occupational exposure as a firefighter and certain cancers.

Firefighting is a complex activity that involves potential exposure to a variety of carcinogenic hazards resulting from fires and other emergency events. Firefighters can be exposed to many carcinogenic hazards, including combustion products (e.g., polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs], and particulates), asbestos, chemicals in firefighting foams (e.g., perfluorinated and polyfluorinated substances [PFAS]), flame retardants, diesel exhaust, ultraviolet radiation, and night shift work. Biological uptake of fire effluents and other chemicals can occur through dermal absorption, inhalation, and ingestion.

Furthermore, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found Maui firefighters who responded to the August 2023 wildfires had higher levels of PFAS in their bloodstream when compared with other first responders a month later. The CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health found high concentrations of perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), a form of PFAS, in Maui firefighters.

The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair

Page 2

March 17, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

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

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:57:35 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeremey irvine	Testifying for Hawaii Fire Fighters Association L1463	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since the introduction of this bill, we recently found out that a 20 year firefighter with the County of Maui has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Cancer that undoubtedly developed from the discharge of his duties as a fire fighter. Fire fighters are repeatedly exposed to toxic carcinogens throughout our careers. Compounded by the forever chemicals in our protective gear, constant exposure to diesel exhaust, and prolonged disruption of our sleep cycles, Firefighting as a career is now classified as a Group 1 Carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (part of the WHO). Exposure to OUR JOB is proven to cause cancer! Prove to our fire fighters you have their back! Please support this bill.

HB2387 – Relating to Workers’ Compensation Medical Benefits

Aloha Members of the Committee,

My name is **Tanner Mosher**, and I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of HB2387** on behalf of myself as **Maui Division Chair** for **HFFA Local 1463**.

Firefighters accept that this profession comes with sacrifice. We answer the call into smoke, heat, toxic atmospheres, hazardous materials, vehicle fires, structure fires, wildland incidents, and countless other emergencies because that is what our communities need from us. We do this work willingly and with pride. But the danger does not always end when the scene is cleared, the hose is rolled, or the gear is put back on the rig. For many firefighters, the greatest threat can come years later in the form of occupational cancer.

HB2387 matters because it recognizes what firefighters and our families already know too well: repeated exposure to carcinogens is part of this job. This measure expands workers’ compensation medical benefits for firefighters by adding coverage for additional cancers, including adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the respiratory system, cancers of the buccal cavity, cervix, colon, esophagus, ovary, pharynx, skin, female reproductive organs including the uterus, endometrium, and fallopian tubes, thyroid cancer, and malignant melanoma. The bill also provides that an employer may deny benefits only if it proves the cancer or disease was not associated with firefighting duties.

That is not a special favor. That is fairness.

Firefighters are asked to put themselves in harm’s way for strangers every day. We enter environments filled with smoke, combustion byproducts, chemicals, diesel exhaust, and contaminated gear, knowing that not every exposure can be seen and not every consequence is immediate. Over the course of a career, those exposures accumulate. They become part of the hidden cost of public service. When a firefighter develops cancer linked to that service, that firefighter should not have to endure a second battle just to prove they deserve care.

As Maui Division Chair, I think not only about the firefighters serving today, but also about their spouses, children, and loved ones who carry these burdens with them. A cancer diagnosis affects an entire family. It brings fear, uncertainty, financial strain, and emotional hardship at a time when that family should be focused on treatment, healing, and time together. The men and women who devote their lives to protecting the people of Hawai‘i deserve to know that if this job harms them, the system will stand behind them.

This bill is also about dignity. It tells firefighters across Hawai‘i that their service is seen, that the risks they carry are acknowledged, and that their government understands the long-term consequences of this work. It tells their families that their sacrifices matter too. And it tells future

firefighters that when they step forward to serve, they will not be abandoned if the dangers of this profession follow them home.

For Maui, this issue carries even deeper meaning. Our firefighters serve island communities where mutual reliance, trust, and sacrifice are part of daily life. We train together, work together, respond together, and stand by one another when one of our own is hurting. Supporting firefighters with job-related cancer is not just a labor issue or a policy issue. It is a moral obligation. It is about taking care of the people who spend their careers taking care of everyone else.

I respectfully ask you to pass HB2387 and continue moving this measure forward. Please stand with Hawaii's firefighters and their families. Please recognize the realities of this profession and help ensure that those who develop job-related cancer receive the care, support, and protection they have earned through their service.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Tanner R. Mosher
Maui Division Chair
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463



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.hawaii firefighters.org

THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026
March 18, 2026
Committee on Labor and Technology

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. 2387 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO WORKERS’ COMPENSATION MEDICAL BENEFITS LBT,
WAM

Dear Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the committee,

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO represents more than 2,000 active-duty and 1,000 retired professional fire fighters throughout the State of Hawaii. The HFFA, on behalf of all our members, **strongly supports** H.B. 2387, which expands medical benefits for firefighters under workers' compensation to include additional types of cancers.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study identified that fire fighters have a 9% greater chance of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% greater chance of dying from cancer than the general U.S. population.” Fire fighters are exposed to carcinogenic agents from fire combustion products that can be inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through dermal exposure, fire fighting foam, diesel exhaust from fire apparatus, and even the turnouts, which provide thermal stability, contain PFAS. The Grace LeMasters’ study found a direct correlation occupational exposure and the increased risk for cancer.

H.B. 2387 H.D. 1 provides the workers’ compensation coverage for our fire fighters diagnosed and require cancer treatment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we ask the Committee to pass H.B. 2387 H.D.1.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:14:32 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas lawson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:29:14 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven O'Donnell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill to protect firefighters for the work they are exposed to on the job.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:38:02 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chad adolpho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:43:15 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Mullalley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mike Mullalley. I support the HB2387.

As a fire fighter on Maui for 21 years, I have only witnessed the employer group take more than they give from our earned retirement and pension: age increase, years of service increase, medical coverage for spouse, base pay not including overtime, viable years in retirement, etc.

In contrast, what we have gained: cancer as the number one killer of fire fighters, carcinogens in our turnouts, cardiac issues, increased call volume, sleepless nights, PTSD, suicide, inflation, covid vaccine health issues, divorce, etc.

September 11, 2026 will be the 25th anniversary. Post 9-11 legislation was passed to protect fire fighters. Please consider passing a bill that will protect Hawaii fire fighters for the job exposures they risked while protecting others. Give something back, medical coverage for cancer!

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:13:20 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Kikukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Luke Kikukawa and I'm writing in support of this bill to provide critical medical benefits for firefighters who are harmed through their work. As a lifelong resident and community member I strongly believe we need to be looking out for those who protect us and our natural resources. Firefighters provide a vital service to our state and need to be supported. We do not want to discourage people from entering this critical pillar of community safety because they aren't being supported.

As a PA-S and former pulmonary medical researcher I can attest to the damage and carcinogenic potential of fires, gas leaks, and chemical spills that firefighters respond to. Even in minor doses with respirator protections, the small damage that these substance cause builds up over time and greatly increases the risk of cellular mutation, dysplasia, cancer, and metastatic spread. Lung cancer is the most common cause of spine cancer as well as a number of other debilitating malignancies. How are we to expect firefighters to protect us when we aren't protecting them.

Mahalo,

-Luke Kikukawa

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:37:21 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KAMUELA GUTH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kamuela Guth, and I serve as a Fire Captain with the Maui Fire Department and member of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association Local 1463. I am writing in strong support of HB2387.

As firefighters, we are regularly exposed to smoke, toxic chemicals, and hazardous environments while protecting our communities. These exposures significantly increase our risk of developing occupational cancers over the course of our careers. HB2387 helps ensure that firefighters who develop job-related cancers are properly covered under workers' compensation.

Firefighters accept the risks that come with the job, but we should not have to fight a second battle to prove that the illnesses caused by those risks are work-related. This bill provides reasonable protections for those who dedicate their lives to serving the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2387 and for your continued support of Hawaii's firefighters.

Respectfully,
Kamuela Guth
Fire Captain - Maui Fire Department
Member - Hawaii Fire Fighters Association Local 1463

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:50:33 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nona P Irvine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Firefighters put their lives on the line every day they report to work to protect the lives of our community. HB2387 protects these brave men and women who are exposed to hazardous conditions that have proven to cause cancer. I strongly support HB2387.

It's a no brainer.

Nona Irvine, RN, MS

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:40:37 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia M Kamikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Firefighters put their lives on the line every day they report to work to protect the lives of our community. HB2387 protects these brave men and women who are exposed to hazardous conditions that have proven to cause cancer. I strongly support HB2387.

It's a no brainer.

Cynthia Kamikawa RN MS

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:07:51 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Matsuo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our first responders put their lives in danger on a daily basis to protect the community. They chose a profession that puts them in danger. They are so deserving of having protection against the environmental risks that can have devastating impacts on their lives and their families. Please support this Bill.

Alison Matsuo, RN

HB23387 — Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits

Aloha Senate Labor Committee,

My name is Jeremy Evert, and I serve as a firefighter with Maui Fire Department. I

respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB2387.

Every time we answer a call, we are exposed to hazards that the public never sees after the scene is cleared. Smoke, toxic fumes, carcinogens, contaminated gear, and diesel exposure are

part of this profession. We do this work proudly because we care about our communities, but

the long-term health consequences are real. HB2387 recognizes that reality by expanding medical benefits for additional cancers tied to firefighting and by strengthening the protections

available to firefighters under workers' compensation law.

This bill is about fairness. Firefighters who get sick from occupational exposure should be able to focus on treatment and their families, not on proving why they deserve support.

Please pass HB2387.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Evert

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:16:10 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chayce Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department and am writing in support of HB2387 on behalf of my fellow firefighters.

When we take the oath to serve, we accept the risks that come with the job. We do it because we care deeply about protecting our communities. But cancer has become one of the most serious threats firefighters face, and it affects even the healthiest among us.

I have personally worked alongside great firefighters who are battling this disease. Between the long hours, sleepless nights, traumatic calls, and hazardous environments, this job already asks a lot of our first responders. When cancer enters the picture, it changes lives overnight. Firefighters and their families are suddenly left to bear the heavy burden, often hanging on to the hope of receiving help from anyone who will offer it. Supporting firefighters facing cancer is a small way to give back to those who give so much to their communities. Firefighter cancer bill HB2387 is an important step in doing that.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:45:36 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Stankis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One of the leading causes of death for firefighters nationwide is cancer. It has been proven over and over again that firefighters contract various cancers at a higher rate than the general public due to the carcinogens they are exposed to from a variety of sources-the products of burning materials encountered at fires of all types, fumes from various chemicals, and even carcinogenic chemicals in their required protective gear.

Protecting and covering them while working and in retirement, without them having to fight for coverage, is the right thing to do for these responders who put their lives on the line for their communities day in and day out. There could be no greater injustice than forcing these heroes to fight for coverage as they fight for their lives against cancer.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 5:27:39 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nohea Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2387 – Relating to Workers’ Compensation Medical Benefits

Aloha Senate Labor Committee,

My name is Nohea Williams, and I serve as a firefighter with [DEPARTMENT]re and Public Safety. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB2387.

Every time we answer a call, we are exposed to hazards that the public never sees after the scene is cleared. Smoke, toxic fumes, carcinogens, contaminated gear, and diesel exposure are part of this profession. We do this work proudly because we care about our communities, but the long-term health consequences are real. HB2387 recognizes that reality by expanding medical benefits for additional cancers tied to firefighting and by strengthening the protections available to firefighters under workers’ compensation law.

This bill is about fairness. Firefighters who get sick from occupational exposure should be able to focus on treatment and their families, not on proving why they deserve support. Please pass HB2387.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nohea Williams

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 5:28:07 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Sakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I have served Maui County as a firefighter for the past 25 years. I am humbly asking you to support and pass this bill. We as firefighters have come to realize that cancer is more often than not our reality. It has been proven that firefighters have the highest rate of cancer, for all types of cancer. This is due to constant exposure to fires and hazardous materials, which is part of our daily job. Our firefighting gear, firefighting foam and the fact that we constantly bring contamination back to our stations are contributing factors. We accept the fact that there are many factors like these that are unavoidable for us to do our jobs, yet we show up every day willing to serve our communities. This bill will help reduce the stress and burdens on our families if should we develop cancer. Again I ask for your support in passing this bill.

Mahalo,

Kris Sakamoto Maui County Firefighter

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:41:42 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas A Pananganan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nick Pananganan, and I am a concerned citizen as well as a career firefighter testifying in support of this Bill. Having personally witnessed fellow active and retired firefighters be diagnosed with, battle and succumb to cancer, I believe that further expansion of presumptive cancer is the right thing to do. The most current data shows an increased risk to firefighters due to modern materials in home construction as well as everyday household items and the gear we wear. These hazards create a lasting, compounding effect to firefighters' health, and it will follow us well into our later years.

Mahalo

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:54:26 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Herrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The importance of the continuous support those who who dedicate themselves to the protection of their community can not be understated.

Thank you.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:11:28 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Shinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 2387 H.D.1

RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR
FIREFIGHTERS

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Justin Shinn, and I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of H.B. 2387 H.D.1.

Firefighters routinely operate in environments where we are exposed to toxic smoke, carcinogens, and hazardous chemicals released during fires and other emergency incidents. Despite improvements in protective equipment and decontamination practices, repeated exposure over the course of a career significantly increases the risk of developing cancer and other serious illnesses.

This measure is important because it strengthens protections for firefighters who develop cancers and diseases associated with these occupational exposures. The bill appropriately recognizes that firefighters with at least five years of service who develop covered cancers should receive medical benefits unless the employer can demonstrate that the illness is not related to firefighting duties.

Firefighters willingly accept risk in order to protect our communities. Ensuring that those who develop occupational cancers receive appropriate medical care and support is both reasonable and necessary. This legislation reflects the growing body of scientific evidence linking

firefighting to increased cancer risk and provides important safeguards for the men and women who serve our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to pass H.B. 2387 H.D.1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Shinn

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:30:05 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Satta	Testifying for Fire department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 2387 H.D.1

RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR
FIREFIGHTERS

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alan Satta, and I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of H.B. 2387 H.D.1.

Firefighters are routinely exposed to toxic smoke, carcinogens, and hazardous environments while protecting our communities. These exposures accumulate over years of service and significantly increase the risk of developing cancer and other serious illnesses. H.B. 2387 appropriately expands workers' compensation medical coverage for firefighters diagnosed with covered cancers and diseases and places the burden on the employer to demonstrate that the illness is not related to firefighting duties.

Ensuring that firefighters who develop occupational cancers receive appropriate medical care is a reasonable and necessary step to support those who accept these risks in service to the public.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support and pass H.B. 2387 H.D.1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Satta

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:38:51 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoki Nakoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider passing this bill. It will help to keep us fire fighters safe so that we may continue to keep YOU and YOUR families safe as well.

Mahalo Piha,

Keoki Nakoa

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:15:16 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Moyazaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Travis Miyazaki, and I'm a firefighter here in Hawai'i for just over 10 years. I'm writing in support of HB2387 HD1.

From the frontline perspective, I feel this bill moves us in the right direction. Anything that strengthens public safety, improves our ability to respond, or supports firefighter readiness has a direct impact on the people we serve. We see the gaps every day — and we also see how much difference it makes when the system actually backs the work we're trying to do.

Hawai'i's emergencies are getting more complex, and our communities rely on us to be ready for anything. HB2387 HD1 helps make that possible. It supports safer operations, better outcomes, and a stronger response across the board.

Mahalo for considering this measure and for your continued support of public safety.

Respectfully,
Travis Miyazaki
County of Kauai - Firefighter

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:44:46 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jason Luke. I am a career fire fighter in support of this bill. Cancer is a very real and prominent issue in our profession and further recognition of the risk is needed for our profession. Mahalo.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:30:56 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Fujita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jay Fujita and I am in full support of HB2387. It has been proven that our Firefighter profession comes with exposures which lead to increased risk of developing cancers and long term disabilities. In a lot of cases, the cancers or diseases do not manifest until after retirement. Even as I write this testimony, one of our own retirees is battling stage 4 lung cancer. This coverage is long overdue. Please help us as we have helped others all these years.

Thank you

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:46:56 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Hasegawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

From understanding the materials and components in our PPE that we wear to keep us safe, the IDLH we enter for calls, and the history of firefighters with cancer; I support this bill.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:50:41 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiea Pa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2387 HD1 for presumptive cancer care.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:40:36 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad Sambrano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chad P. Sambrano and I serve as a Fire Captain with the Maui Fire Department and member of the Hawai'i Fire Fighters Association Local 1463. I am writing in strong support of HB2387.

As firefighters, we are regularly exposed to smoke, toxic chemicals, and hazardous environments while protecting our communities. These exposures significantly increase our risk of developing occupational cancers over the course of our careers. HB2387 helps ensure that firefighters who develop job-related cancers are properly covered under workers' compensation.

Firefighters accept the risks that come with the job, but we should not have to fight a second battle to prove that the illnesses caused by those risks are work-related. This bill provides reasonable protections for those who dedicate their lives to serving the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2387 and for your continued support of Hawai'i's firefighters.

Respectfully,
Chad P. Sambrano
Fire Captain - Maui Fire Department
Member - Hawai'i Fire Fighters Association Local 1463

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:59:58 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of HB2387.

Firefighters face unavoidable exposure to toxic smoke, carcinogens, and hazardous materials every time they respond to fires. Over the course of a career, these exposures accumulate and significantly increase the risk of cancer. Cancer is now the leading cause of firefighter line-of-duty deaths.

Many of these cancers develop years after exposure, making it difficult for firefighters to prove causation when seeking care. This bill recognizes the realities of firefighting and expands workers' compensation medical coverage to include cancers clearly linked to these exposures.

Firefighters risk their health to protect our communities. This measure ensures we stand behind them when that risk becomes illness.

Mahalo for your support.

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:51:41 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika Blackburn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ikaika Blackburn, and I serve as a Fire Fighter with the Maui Fire Department and member of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association Local 1463. I am writing in strong support of HB2387.

As firefighters, we are regularly exposed to smoke, toxic chemicals, and hazardous environments while protecting our communities. These exposures significantly increase our risk of developing occupational cancers over the course of our careers. HB2387 helps ensure that firefighters who develop job-related cancers are properly covered under workers' compensation.

Firefighters accept the risks that come with the job, but we should not have to fight a second battle to prove that the illnesses caused by those risks are work-related. This bill provides reasonable protections for those who dedicate their lives to serving the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2387 and for your continued support of Hawai'i's firefighters.

Respectfully,

Ikaika Blackburn

Fire Fighter - Maui Fire Department
Member - Hawaii Fire Fighters Association Local 1463

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:38:49 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Deter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB2387. Firefighters are one of the most respected emergency responders. When called into service they don't calculate the personal or financial cost or hazards they may encounter. They don't hesitate; they respond. They do what it takes to support and keep their community safe. As a community we should not hesitate to support our firefighters when the personal cost of their service puts them in peril. Firefighters need our kokua. HB2387 is the right thing to do!

Mahalo,

Leslie Deter

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 5:33:22 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ELEANOR LEIALOHA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of this measure to expand workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters.

Firefighters face unique and well-documented occupational hazards that extend far beyond the immediate dangers of flames and smoke. In the course of their duties, they are repeatedly exposed to toxic chemicals, carcinogens, and hazardous environments even the sun, that significantly increase their risk of developing serious illnesses, including various forms of cancer.

This bill is an important and necessary step in recognizing the long-term health consequences of firefighting. By expanding coverage to include cancers such as adenocarcinoma, mesothelioma of the respiratory system, and cancers affecting the buccal cavity, colon, thyroid, skin, and reproductive organs, the measure reflects current medical understanding of the risks firefighters face throughout their careers.

This issue is deeply personal to me. My son is a new firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. He understands the risks that come with the job and has chosen this path because he feels a strong calling to serve his community. As a parent, while I am proud of his commitment—I am very concerned with his long-term health.

I hope he never faces a life-changing illness like cancer as a result of his service. But if he or others do, they deserve the assurance that they will be supported and cared for without having to fight for coverage while already facing such a difficult diagnosis. It shouldn't be a question - they should just be supported and all measures taken to help them and their families when in need.

The provision placing the burden on the employer to demonstrate that a disease was not associated with firefighting duties is both fair and necessary. Firefighters should not be asked to prove what years of research and experience have already shown—that their profession carries elevated risks of serious illness.

Ensuring access to these medical benefits provides critical support to firefighters and their families when they need it most. It also sends a clear message that we value their service and are committed to standing behind them—not only in moments of crisis, but throughout their lives.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:42:23 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaikane Beam	Testifying for Maui Fire Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kaikane Beam. I have been a firefighter for the Maui Fire department for 5 1/2 years. I am writing this in support of Bill 2387. Over the course of my career, I see firsthand the toxic and dangerous situations we are put in to serve our community. We answer the call everyday no matter what is put in front of us.

We are taught and trained to always wear our protective gear, however we are still constantly exposed to things that the general public are not. It is well studied and documented that those in the fire service have a much higher chance of being diagnosed with cancers and other illnesses directly related to what we encounter on our job. We deserve better and the passing of this bill will prove to us that you care for our safety just as much as you do of the public we serve.

We go home to our families after each shift, and they are the ones who ultimately suffer when our job comes in the way of that. I humbly ask you to support this bill so we can be reassured that our policymakers have our back and we can continue to do our jobs the best we can.

Mahalo,

Kaikane Beam - Engine 1

LATE

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:42:51 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Mors	Testifying for Maui Fire Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Justin Mors. I am a firefighter with Maui Fire Department. I support Bill 2387. As firefighters we have the privilege to serve our community. With this privilege comes exposure to carcinogens. There is a high rate of cancer amongst firefighters and I feel we should be protected both during our career and into our retirement. That is why I support Bill 2387.

Mahalo,

Justin Mors

LATE

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:49:33 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liam Kahoe-Morrison	Testifying for Maui Fire Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Liam (Kamahao) Kahoe-Morrison and I work as a firefighter at Wailuku Fire station. I am in support of this bill because it will have a positive impact on myself, my family members, my fellow firefighters, and their family members. Getting coverage for these various conditions/illnesses is necessary to support those in the fire service and our loved ones in the struggles that accompany our constant exposures to hazardous conditions/materials. These exposures can impact our service members long after the incident. I often hear about retired members who suffer these effects without any assistance or compensation. This puts unjust physical, mental, and financial stress on service members and those we hold dear. Expanding our coverage can create opportunity and support for those who serve our community with discipline and dedication but unfortunately find themselves in difficult situations as a result.

LATE

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:43:45 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryant Kubo	Testifying for Maui Fire Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Bryant Kubo and I am a firefighter for the Maui Fire Department. I heavily encourage you to consider passing this bill as I have seen one too many of my brothers fall ill from the effects that this occupation holds. We do what we do because we love our community and take pride in who we protect so it would be nice to feel supported when we ourselves have to go through the fight of our lives.

Me Kaha'aha'a,

Bryant Kubo

LATE

HB-2387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:48:18 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimana Gerard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an important bill for first responders as we are exposed to many cancer causing things that may affect us during and after our career.