

A Bill for an Act Relating to Fire Protection.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need to set minimum qualification standards in testing and certification of individuals, operators, and contractors who perform maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems. The legislature further finds that these certifications should be recognized throughout the State of Hawaii and be based on the currently adopted state fire code and standards.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the state fire council to establish statewide qualifications and procedures for testing, certifying, and credentialing individuals who perform maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems to be administered by county fire departments; provided that the county fire departments may establish and charge reasonable certification fees.

SECTION 2. Section 132-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§132-16 State fire council; composition; functions. (a) There is established a state fire council which shall be placed within the department of labor and industrial relations for administrative purposes. The state fire council shall consist of the fire chiefs of the counties. The state fire council may appoint an advisory committee to assist it in carrying out its functions under this chapter. The advisory committee may include the heads of the various county building departments, a licensed architect recommended by the Hawaii Society of the American Institute of Architects, a licensed electrical engineer and a licensed mechanical engineer recommended by the Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii, a representative of the Hawaii Rating Bureau, a representative of the Hawaii firefighters association, representatives of the county fire departments, and such other members of the public as the state fire council may determine can best assist it. The state fire council shall elect a chairperson from among its members.

(b) In addition to adopting a state fire code pursuant to section 132-3, the state fire council shall:

- (1) Administer the requirements for reduced ignition propensity cigarettes, in accordance with chapter 132C; and
 - (2) Serve as a focal point through which all applications to the federal government for federal grant assistance for fire-related projects shall be made. Upon the receipt of any such federal grants, the state fire council shall administer those federal grants.
- (c) The state fire council may also:
- (1) Appoint advisory committees comprised of representatives from each county fire department to assist in drafting the state fire code and coordinating statewide training, data collection, and contingency planning needs for firefighters; ~~and~~
 - (2) Advise and assist the county fire departments where appropriate, may prescribe standard procedures and forms relating to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires, may approve plans for cooperation among the county fire departments, and may advise the governor and the legislature with respect to fire prevention and pro-

tection, life safety, and any other functions or activities for which the various county fire departments are generally responsible[-]; and

- (3) Establish, in conformance with the adopted state fire code and nationally recognized standards, statewide qualifications and procedures, to be administered by the county fire departments, for testing, certifying, and credentialing individuals who perform maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems; provided that the county fire departments may establish and charge reasonable certification fees.

(d) The state fire council may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 for purposes of this section.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 30, 2014.)