



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.hawaii.gov/labor](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)  
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

March 28, 2014

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 320  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey:

Subject: S.B. 2300, S.D. 1 Relating to Fire Protection

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support S.B. 2300, S.D. 1, which proposes to authorize the SFC to establish minimum qualifications for individuals conducting maintenance testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems and coordinate agreements and understandings with other agencies and departments for the effective use of fire and life safety resources.

Fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems require routine maintenance to ensure reliable operability when they are utilized by fire department personnel and to protect building occupants under emergency conditions. Individuals are currently licensed by the HFD and required to pass a written exam every three years. However, the current exam has not been revised for several years. This bill would authorize the SFC to certify individuals to meet minimum standards of competency for vital fire protection systems and appliances. These qualifications would be recognized statewide and based on current adopted state fire codes and nationally recognized standards. This certification is normally under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal's Office. The SFC is Hawaii's equivalent of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The bill also seeks to authorize the SFC to implement statewide memoranda of understanding and agreements for the effective utilization of fire and life safety resources for natural and manmade disasters and emergencies. Currently, each county

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Page 2  
March 28, 2014

fire department may individually enter into agreements and understandings between agencies and departments. This bill would allow the SFC to collectively coordinate these agreements.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's passage of S.B. 2300, S.D. 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair

MPN/LR:clc



**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD  
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732  
(808) 270-7561  
FAX (808) 270-7919  
EMAIL: fire.dept@mauicounty.gov

March 28, 2014

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 320  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey:

Subject: S.B. 2300, S.D. 1 Relating to Fire Protection

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support S.B. 2300, S.D. 1, which proposes to authorize the SFC to establish minimum qualifications for individuals conducting maintenance testing of fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems and coordinate agreements and understandings with other agencies and departments for the effective use of fire and life safety resources.

Fire extinguishers and fire protection and alarm systems require routine maintenance to ensure reliable operability when they are utilized by fire department personnel and to protect building occupants under emergency conditions. Individuals are currently licensed by the MFD and required to pass a written exam every three years. However, the current exam has not been revised for several years. This bill would authorize the SFC to certify individuals to meet minimum standards of competency for vital fire protection systems and appliances. These qualifications would be recognized statewide and based on current adopted state fire codes and nationally recognized standards. This certification is normally under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal's Office. The SFC is Hawaii's equivalent of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The bill also seeks to authorize the SFC to implement statewide memoranda of understanding and agreements for the effective utilization of fire and life safety resources for natural and manmade disasters and emergencies. Currently, each county

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Page 2  
March 28, 2014

fire department may individually enter into agreements and understandings between agencies and departments. This bill would allow the SFC to collectively coordinate these agreements.

The SFC and the MFD urge your committee's passage of S.B. 2300, S.D. 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Murray".

JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
Fire Chief