

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
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LATE

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
Committee on Housing
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 438
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 4 (HCR 4) Convening a Task Force to Study the Issue of Residential Sprinkler Costs in New One- and Two-Family Dwellings

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 HCR 4, which proposes to convene a task force of various stakeholders to study the cost of installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings.

The recent fire at the Marco Polo condominium on July 14, 2017, highlights the dangers of fire in unsprinklered residential buildings. According to the National Fire Protection Association's latest U.S. data, 92% of all civilian structure fire deaths resulted from home structure fires. Fatal residential fires occur in homes despite the presence of modern construction techniques and features, such as smoke alarms, fire-rated drywall, and Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter electrical outlets. Instead, they usually involve the actions and errors of the occupants in combination with the flaws and vulnerabilities of products brought into the home. Research conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology has shown that home fires become deadly in as few as three minutes. New and old homes alike are filled with these newer contents and furnishings, which provide less margin for success for smoke alarms and add to the need for fire sprinklers. Modern lightweight home construction products, especially wood truss roof systems and wood joists, can rapidly fail under fire conditions, an extreme risk to fire fighters responding to a fire. Automatic fire sprinkler systems have proven to be a solution to saving lives and property from fire. Death rates and property

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
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loss are substantially reduced when these systems are installed and properly maintained.

The following is a comparison of fires in the City and County of Honolulu (City) from 2006 to 2015:

Fire Statistics in the City from 2006 to 2015		
	Nonsprinklered Structures	Sprinklered Structures
Fatalities	23	1
Injuries	135	9
Dollar Loss	\$154,978,453	\$6,161,469

Public testimonies during the 29th Legislative Session had a wide disparity in the projected cost of automatic fire sprinkler installations in one- and two-family dwellings, which ranged from \$7,000 to over \$70,000. The purpose of this resolution is to determine accurate installation costs of automatic fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings, so our community may have the correct information on installing residential fire sprinklers.

Life safety is a priority for the SFC and the HFD and we urge your committee's support on the passage of HCR 4.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc



KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I
 DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
 MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

KILIPAKI VAUGHAN
 DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

The Honorable Tom Bower, Chair
 The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

LATE

March 21, 2019; 10:35 am
 Conference Room 423

In consideration of
 House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 4
 Relating to Fire Sprinklers

LATE

Aloha Chair Bower, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

I am Kilipaki Vaughan, Deputy Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The KFD is in **support** of HCR 4, which proposes to convene a task force of various stakeholders to study the cost of installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings.

The recent fire at the Marco Polo condominium on July 14, 2017, highlights the dangers of fire in unsprinklered residential buildings. According to the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) latest U.S. data, 92% of all civilian structure fire deaths resulted from home structure fires. Fatal residential fires occur in homes despite the presence of modern construction techniques and features such as smoke alarms, fire-rated drywall, and Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter electrical outlets. Instead, they usually involve the actions and errors of the occupants in combination with the flaws and vulnerabilities of products brought into the home. Research conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has shown that home fires become deadly in as few as three minutes. New and old homes alike are filled with these newer contents and furnishings, which provide less margin for success for smoke alarms and add to the need for fire sprinklers. Modern lightweight home construction products, especially wood truss roof systems and wood joists, can rapidly fail under fire conditions, an extreme risk to firefighters responding to a fire. Automatic fire sprinkler systems have proven to be a solution to saving lives and property from fire. Death rates and property loss are substantially reduced when these systems are installed and properly maintained. A comparison of fires in the City and County of Honolulu from 2006-2015, revealed 23 to one fatality; 135 to nine persons injured, and \$154,978,453.00 to \$6,161,469.00 in non-sprinklered to sprinklered structure fires.





KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I
DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

KILIPAKI VAUGHAN
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The Honorable Tom Bower, Chair
Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
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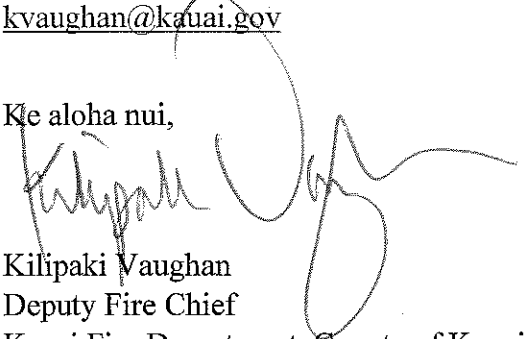
Public testimonies during the 29th Legislative Session had a wide disparity in the projected cost of automatic fire sprinkler installations in one- and two-family dwellings, which ranged from \$7,000 to over \$70,000. The purpose of this resolution is to determine accurate installation costs of automatic fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings, so our community may have the correct information on installing residential fire sprinklers.

As of the start of 2019, there were 6 structure fires on Kauai, none of these structures were protected by fire sprinklers. This measure will move the industry and community to greater fire protection opportunities.

Life safety is a priority for the KFD and we urge your committee's support on the passage of HCR 4.

Should you have questions, please contact me at (808) 241-4980 or via email at kvaughan@kauai.gov

Ke aloha nui,


Kilipaki Vaughan
Deputy Fire Chief
Kauai Fire Department, County of Kauai

KV/dag



HCR-4

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 8:23:23 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/21/2019 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darren Rosario	Hawaii Fire Department and the State Fire Council	Support	No

Comments:

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department and member of the State Fire Council. The Hawaii Fire Department and the State Fire Council (SFC) supports the convening of a task force to study the cost of installing automatic fire sprinkler systems. SFC Neves is submitting written testimony and we support the content in his testimony.

Mahalo,

Darren J. Rosario

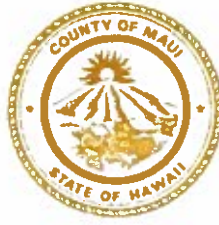
LATE

LATE

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Deputy Fire Chief



LATE

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

LATE

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
Committee on Housing
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 438
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 4 (HCR4) Requesting the Formation of a Task Force to Study the Issue of Residential Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Costs for New One- and Two-Family Dwellings

I am David C. Thyne, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC and the MFD support SCR 4, which proposes to convene a task force of various stakeholders to study the cost of installing automatic fire sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings.

The recent fire at the Marco Polo condominium on July 14, 2017, highlights the dangers of fire in unsprinklered residential buildings. According to the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) latest U.S. data, 92% of all civilian structure fire deaths resulted from home structure fires. Fatal residential fires occur in homes despite the presence of modern construction techniques and features such as smoke alarms, fire-rated drywall, and Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter electrical outlets. Instead, they usually involve the actions and errors of the occupants in combination with the flaws and vulnerabilities of products brought into the home. Research conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has shown that home fires become deadly in as few as three minutes. New and old homes alike are filled with these newer contents and furnishings, which provide less margin for success for smoke alarms and add to the need for fire sprinklers. Modern lightweight home construction products, especially wood truss roof systems and wood joists, can rapidly fail under fire conditions, an extreme risk to firefighters responding to a fire. Automatic fire sprinkler systems have proven to be a solution to saving lives and property from fire. Death rates and property loss are substantially reduced when these systems are installed and properly maintained. A comparison of fires in the City and County of Honolulu from 2006-

2015, revealed 23 to one fatality; 135 to nine persons injured, and \$154,978,453.00 to \$6,161,469.00 in non-sprinklered to sprinklered structure fires.

Public testimonies during the 29th Legislative Session had a wide disparity in the projected cost of automatic fire sprinkler installations in one- and two-family dwellings, which ranged from \$7,000 to over \$70,000. The purpose of this resolution is to determine accurate installation costs of automatic fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings, so our community may have the correct information on installing residential fire sprinklers.

Life safety is a priority for the SFC and the MFD and we urge your committee's support on the passage of HCR 4.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at (808) 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Thyne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DAVID C. THYNE
Fire Chief