

MAR 08 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE
REQUIREMENT THAT AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLERS BE INSTALLED IN
NEW ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS.

1 WHEREAS, the State is concerned with the health, safety,
2 and welfare of its citizens; and
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4 WHEREAS, the State is concerned with providing fire
5 protection to its citizens and property, and is concerned with
6 protecting the safety of those fire fighters who respond to
7 emergencies in the State; and
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9 WHEREAS, fire departments in the United States responded to
10 an estimated 399,000 home structure fires in 2007, and these
11 fires caused 2,865 civilian deaths, 13,600 civilian injuries,
12 and \$7,400,000,000 in direct damage; and
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14 WHEREAS, approximately eighty-four per cent of all civilian
15 fire deaths in 2007 resulted from home structure fires, and an
16 average of eight people died in U.S. home fires every day; and
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18 WHEREAS, in the City and County of Honolulu alone there
19 were one hundred twenty home structure fires in 2007, resulting
20 in two civilian deaths, twenty-three civilian injuries, and
21 \$9,600,000 in direct damage; and
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23 WHEREAS, in the City and County of Honolulu, one hundred
24 per cent of all fire deaths, seventy-seven per cent of the fire
25 injuries, and fifty-one per cent of the fire-related dollar loss
26 in 2007 resulted from home structure fires; and
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28 WHEREAS, automatic fire sprinklers are a proven life-saving
29 system that responds quickly and effectively to the presence of
30 a nearby fire; and
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1 WHEREAS, the presence of sprinklers in the home reduces the
2 chance of death in a fire by approximately eighty per cent; and
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4 WHEREAS, people in homes with sprinklers are protected
5 against significant property loss, as sprinklers reduce the
6 average property loss by seventy-one per cent per fire; and
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8 WHEREAS, two international building codes, the
9 International Residential Code 2009 edition and the National
10 Fire Protection Association 5000 Building and Construction and
11 Safety Code 2009 edition, mandate fire sprinklers in new one-
12 and two-family construction; and
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14 WHEREAS, the operation of just one sprinkler head contains
15 fires approximately ninety per cent of the time; and
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17 WHEREAS, new construction is the most cost-effective method
18 to install fire sprinklers; and
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20 WHEREAS, the State Building Code Council is studying the
21 various issues related to implementing the requirement that
22 automatic fire sprinklers be installed in new one- and two-
23 family dwellings; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the State Building
28 Code Council is requested to adopt the requirement that
29 automatic fire sprinklers be installed in new one- and two-
30 family dwellings, in compliance with the latest editions of
31 nationally recognized safety codes; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller, the
35 Chairperson of the State Building Code Council, the Chairperson
36 of the State Fire Council, and the Fire Chief of each county.
37

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