
HOUSE 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
3

4 WHEREAS, this includes, among other things, providing fire
5 protection to its citizens and property, and protecting the
6 safety of fire fighters who respond to emergencies in the State;
7 and
8

9 WHEREAS, fire departments in the United States responded to
10 an estimated 399,000 home structure fires in 2007, which caused
11 2,865 civilian deaths, 13,600 civilian injuries, and
12 \$7,400,000,000 in direct damage; and
13

14 WHEREAS, approximately 84 percent of all civilian fire
15 deaths in 2007 resulted from home structure fires, and an
16 average of eight people died in home fires in the United States
17 every day; and
18

19 WHEREAS, in the City and County of Honolulu alone, there
20 were 120 home structure fires in 2007, resulting in two civilian
21 deaths, 23 civilian injuries, and \$9,600,000 in direct damage;
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, in the City and County of Honolulu 100 percent of
25 all fire deaths, 77 percent of the fire injuries, and 51 percent
26 of the fire-related dollar loss in 2007 resulted from home
27 structure fires; and
28

29 WHEREAS, automatic fire sprinklers are a proven life-saving
30 system with quick and effective response to the presence of
31 nearby fires; and



1 WHEREAS, the presence of fire sprinklers in the home
2 reduces the chance of death in a fire by approximately 80
3 percent; and
4

5 WHEREAS, people in homes with fire sprinklers are protected
6 against significant property loss, as fire sprinklers reduce the
7 average property loss by 71 percent per fire; and
8

9 WHEREAS, two international building codes, the
10 "International Residential Code" 2009 edition and the "National
11 Fire Protection Association 5000 Building and Construction and
12 Safety Code" 2009 edition, mandate fire sprinklers in new one-
13 and two-family dwelling construction; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the operation of just one fire sprinkler head will
16 contain a fire approximately 90 percent of the time; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the most cost-effective time to install fire
19 sprinklers is during new construction; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the State Building Code Council is studying the
22 issues related to requiring the installation of automatic fire
23 sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the State Building Code
28 Council is requested to adopt the requirement that automatic
29 fire sprinklers be installed when constructing new one- and two-
30 family dwellings, in compliance with the latest editions of
31 nationally-recognized safety codes; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Building Code Council
34 is requested to:
35

- 36 (1) Clarify the definition of one- and two-family
37 dwellings; and
38
39 (2) Address the issues of accessibility and availability
40 of water to all dwellings;
41

42 and
43



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Building Code Council
2 is requested to submit a report of its findings,
3 recommendations, and actions taken pursuant to this Concurrent
4 Resolution, to the Legislature no later than 20 days before the
5 convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller,
9 Chairperson of the State Building Code Council, Chairperson of
10 the State Fire Council, and Fire Chief of each county.

