June 30, 2014

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim,
President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kim, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 30, 2014, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2300 SD1 HD1 CD1 RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION
ACT 165 (14)

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii
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; 

(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 protection, 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 this 30 day of JUN, 2014

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I