

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Craig K. Hirai
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 16, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

In consideration of
H.B. 1461, H.D. 1
RELATING TO FIRE SPRINKLERS.

The HHFDC **supports the intent** of H.B. 1461, H.D. 1, which would reduce the costs associated with the development and maintenance of HHFDC-assisted affordable housing projects by prohibiting counties from charging fees for the inspection of automatic fire sprinklers or automatic fire sprinkler systems in these projects.

We note for the Committee's information that under the 201H expedited approvals process for affordable housing, the counties have waived the fee for Fire Department plan review. Annual inspections of fire systems in housing projects are conducted by independent fire services, not county fire departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
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February 15, 2017

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
Committee on Housing
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 315
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1461, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fire Sprinklers

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 strongly oppose HB 1461, HD 1 and request the bill be deferred indefinitely. This bill proposes to prevent charging for automatic fire sprinkler inspections in any housing project while also preventing the counties from requiring automatic fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings.

This bill prevents the counties from charging for automatic fire sprinkler inspections in housing projects. We confirmed with the State Building Code Council that they do not require a separate charge for inspecting fire sprinklers in housing projects and find this bill unnecessary.

As such, the SFC and the HFD believe this bill is unnecessary for the purpose intended and urge your committee's deferral on the passage of HB 1461, HD 1.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Specialist Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. P. Neves".

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

Hawai'i State Fire Council
c/o Honolulu Fire Department
636 South Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE

February 15, 2017

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
Committee on Housing
The State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 315
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: HB 1461, HD 1 Relating to Fire Sprinklers

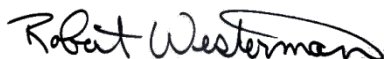
I am Robert F. Westerman, Vice-Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC strongly oppose HB 1461, HD 1 and request the bill be deferred indefinitely. This bill proposes to prevent charging for automatic fire sprinkler inspections in any housing project while also preventing the counties from requiring automatic fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings.

This bill prevents the counties from charging for automatic fire sprinkler inspections in housing projects. We confirmed with the State Building Code Council that they do not require a separate charge for inspecting fire sprinklers in housing projects and find this bill unnecessary.

As such, the SFC believes this bill is unnecessary for the purpose intended and urge your committee's deferral on the passage of HB 1461, HD 1.

Please contact me at (808) 241-4975 or rwesterman@kauai.gov should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Westerman
Vice Chair, Hawai'i State Fire Council

RFW/eld

1065 Ahua Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: 808-833-1681 FAX: 839-4167
Email: info@gcahawaii.org
Website: www.gcahawaii.org



GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

Uploaded via Capitol Website

February 16, 2017

TO: HONORABLE TOM BROWER, CHAIR, HONORABLE NADINE NAKAMURA, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

LATE

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF H.B. 1384, HD1, RELATING TO FIRE SPRINKLERS.** Extends the prohibition that prevents the counties from requiring fire sprinklers in specific family dwelling units and agricultural and aquacultural buildings. Effective July 1, 2112. (HB1384 HD1)

SUPPORT OF H.B. 1461, HD1, RELATING TO FIRE SPRINKLERS. Prohibits counties from charging for automatic fire sprinkler or automatic fire sprinkler system inspections in any HHFDC housing projects. Effective July 1, 2112. (HB1461 HD1)

HEARING

DATE: February 16, 2017
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 423

Dear Chair Brower, Vice Chair Nakamura and Members of the Committee:

The General Contractors Association (GCA) is an organization comprised of over five hundred general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii whose mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

GCA **supports** H.B. 1384, HD1, Relating to Fire Sprinklers, which proposes to make permanent the prohibition that on the counties from requiring fire sprinklers in specific family dwelling units and agricultural and aquacultural buildings with exceptions.

GCA **supports** H.B. 1461, HD1, Relating to Fire Sprinklers, which prohibits counties from charging for automatic fire sprinkler or automatic fire sprinkler inspections. It also repeals the existing sunset date so that the counties may not mandate the use of fire sprinklers in one or tow family dwelling unit.

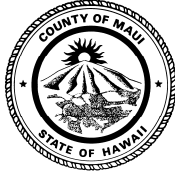
GCA understands the necessity of protection and safety in homes. However, GCA is opposed to mandates that would present a significant cost burden to homebuilders, homeowners and renters alike. Instead, GCA encourages incentives that would encourage homebuilders and homeowners to install fire safety measures that would reduce the likelihood of fire hazards.

GCA is opposed to the mandated installation of automatic sprinklers in residential homes for the following reasons: new homes are built safer; newer technologies to address fire hazards may be available in near future, negating installation of fire sprinklers; unknown costs not only for installation but maintenance, and incentives are encouraged, rather than mandates.

GCA is in support of both H.B. 1384, HD1 and H.B. 1461, HD1 and would respectfully request that this Committee passes these measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ALAN M ARAKAWA
MAYOR



JEFFREY MURRAY
FIRE CHIEF

ROBERT SHIMADA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732
(808) 270-7561
Fax (808) 270-7919

LATE

February 15, 2017

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
Committee on Housing
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 315
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Brower:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1461, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fire Sprinklers

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 strongly oppose HB 1461, HD 1 and request the bill be deferred indefinitely. This bill proposes to prevent charging for automatic fire sprinkler inspections in any housing project while also preventing the counties from requiring automatic fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings.

This bill prevents the counties from charging for automatic fire sprinkler inspections in housing projects. We confirmed with the State Building Code Council that they do not require a separate charge for inspecting fire sprinklers in housing projects and find this bill unnecessary.

As such, the SFC and the MFD believe this bill is unnecessary for the purpose intended and urge your committee's deferral on the passage of HB 1461, HD 1.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Specialist Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

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

JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief