

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Tuesday, February 14, 2023
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 146, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL

House Bill 146, House Draft 1 proposes to add to the membership of the State Fire Council, and to the membership of advisory committees that the Council may appoint, representatives from the Hawaii State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Unit and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to reflect all non-federal fire-fighting agencies in the State. **The Department supports this measure.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is the primary responder for wildfires on 26% of the land area in Hawai'i and has approximately 150 staff trained to respond. The Division has agreements with federal and county agencies for jointly responding to fire events and works closely on fire response across the state. Becoming a member of the State Fire Council would provide another opportunity for the Division to engage with county fire departments on fire issues that affect natural resources and public safety.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov

February 10, 2023

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Committee Water and Land
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 426
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ichiyama:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 146, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to the State Fire Council (SFC)

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 146, HD 1, which proposes to revise the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §132-16 to add representatives from the Hawaii State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Unit and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) to the SFC.

The SFC was established by the Hawaii State (State) Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's office. It is currently comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs and administratively attached to the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

In accordance with HRS §132, the SFC's primary mission is to develop and support a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. Through the collaborative and unified efforts of each county Fire Chief, the SFC promotes the standardization of fire service reporting, training, sharing of technology, resources, and best management practices. The SFC may advise and assist the county fire departments where appropriate; prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires; and advise the Governor and State Legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection and life safety.

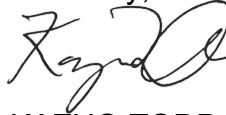
The Hawaii State ARFF Unit and DLNR's DOFAW communicate and collaborate with the county fire departments on a regular basis during emergency incidents and non-emergency administrative matters. The two agencies provide specialty expertise and equipment in emergent and non-emergent environments which the county fire departments do not possess due to training, funding, or mission requirements. The

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Page 2
February 10, 2023

Hawaii State ARFF Unit and DLNR's DOFAW could provide unique perspectives to facilitate accomplishment of the SFC's functions as described in HRS §132. The potential results are greater insight into Hawaii's fire risk and improvements relating to the protection of persons and property against fire. The existing SFC membership believes the addition of representation from the ARFF and DLNR's DOFAW will improve the SFC's capability to fulfill its mission. The SFC urges the committee's approval of HB 146, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo Todd", written in a cursive style.

KAZUO TODD
Chair

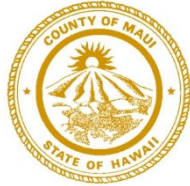
KT/GL

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA
Acting Managing Director

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
www.maui-county.gov

February 10, 2023

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Water and Land Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 426
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Ichiyama,

**SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL (HB) 146, HOUSE DRAFT (HD) 1 RELATING TO
THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL**

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department (MFD). The SFC supports HB 146, HD 1, which proposes to revise the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 132-16 to add representatives from the Hawaii State Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Unit and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildland (DOFAW) to SFC.

The SFC was established by the Hawaii State (State) Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's Office. It is currently comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs and administratively attached to the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR.)

In accordance with HRS § 132, the SFC's primary mission is to develop and support a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. Through the collaborative and unified efforts of each county Fire Chief, the SFC promotes the standardization of fire service reporting, training, sharing of technology, resources, and best management practices. The SFC may advise and assist the county fire departments where appropriate; prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires; and advise the Governor and State Legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection as well as life safety.

The Hawaii State ARFF Unit and DLNR's DOFAW communicate and collaborate with the county fire departments on a regular basis regarding non-emergency administrative matters as well as during emergency incidents. The two agencies provide specialty expertise and equipment in emergent and non-emergent environments which the county fire departments do not possess due to training, funding, or mission requirements. The Hawaii State ARFF and DLNR's DOFAW

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair

February 10, 2023

Page 2

could provide unique perspectives to facilitate accomplishment of SFC's functions as described in HRS § 132. The potential results are greater insight into Hawaii's fire risk and improvements relating to the protection of persons and property against fire. The existing SFC membership believes the addition of representation from the ARFF and DLNR's DOFAW will improve the SFC's capabilities to fulfill its mission. The SFC urges the committee's approval of HB 146, HD 1.

If you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

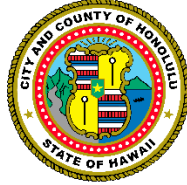
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Ventura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 10, 2023

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Committee Water and Land
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 426
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ichiyama:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 146, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to the State Fire Council (SFC)

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 146, HD 1, which proposes to revise Section 132-16 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to add representatives from the Hawaii State (State) Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) unit and the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) to the SFC.

The SFC was established by the State Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's office. It is currently comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs and administratively attached to the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

In accordance with Section 132 of the HRS, the SFC's primary mission is to develop and support a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and environment for the State. Through the collaborative and unified efforts of each county Fire Chief, the SFC promotes the standardization of fire service reporting, training, sharing of technology, resources, and best management practices. The SFC may advise and assist the county fire departments where appropriate; prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires; and advise the Governor and State Legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and life safety.

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Page 2
February 10, 2023

The State ARFF and the DOFAW communicate and collaborate with the county fire departments on a regular basis during emergency incidents and nonemergency administrative matters. The two agencies provide specialty expertise and equipment in emergent and nonemergent environments, which the county fire departments do not possess, due to training, funding, or mission requirements. The State ARFF and the DOFAW could provide unique perspectives to facilitate accomplishment of the SFC's functions as described in Section 132 of the HRS. The potential results are greater insight into Hawaii's fire risk and improvements relating to the protection of persons and property against fire. The HFD believes the addition of representation from the ARFF and the DOFAW will improve the SFC's capability to fulfill its mission.

The HFD urges the committee's approval of HB 146, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn