

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

January 28, 2023

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair
Committee on Labor and
and Government Operations
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 422
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 146 Relating to the State Fire Council (SFC) Program

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 146, 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 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.

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

HB-146

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:25:19 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/31/2023 9:00:00 AM

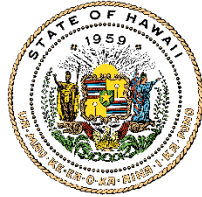
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Walker	DLNR-DOFAW	Support	In Person

Comments:

DLNR supports the passage of HB146, written testimony will be submitted by the department.

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

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Tuesday, January 31, 2023
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

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

House Bill 146 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 Hawaii 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.