

STATE FIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT - 2009 – 2010

The State Fire Council (SFC) is administratively attached to the State of Hawaii (State), Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and is comprised of the Fire Chiefs of the four counties. Their primary mission is to develop a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment throughout the State. The SFC may advise and assist county fire departments where appropriate; prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires; and advise the Governor and Legislature with regard to fire prevention and protection, life safety, and any other functions or activities for which the various county fire departments are responsible.

In 2009, the SFC conducted a final review and public hearing for National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1, Uniform Fire Code, 2006 edition as the next state fire code. The code comprehensively addresses minimum requirements for the protection of persons, property, and fire fighters to mitigate and prevent the disastrous effects of fire, explosion, and hazardous materials incidents. The new Hawaii State fire code was adopted on January 1, 2010.

The SFC participates as a member of the State Building Code Council, which is comprised of county and State stakeholders who coordinate the adoption of a comprehensive set of building codes. The State building code applies a consistent and current set of codes based on national standards that affect county, State, commercial, industrial, and residential buildings. The SFC currently chairs an investigative committee for the 2009 International Residential Code Sprinkler Requirements for New One- and Two-Family Dwellings.

The SFC has administered the reduced ignition propensity cigarettes (RIPC) law since its adoption in October 2009. The SFC receives manufacturers' documentation on fire-safe cigarette testing, certifies brands/styles, deposits fees collected, and will develop administrative rules for its enforcement. During this reporting period, the SFC collected \$366,375.

The SFC was instrumental in the passing of two fireworks-related laws. Senate Bill 1059 allows the counties to enact stricter ordinances regarding fireworks and establishes an illegal fireworks task force. House Bill 1987 provides for forfeiture of property. The SFC also supported laws that provided for clarification on fireworks usage and amendments to the RIPC law regarding the use of funds.

The SFC applied for and received training classes from the Department of Homeland Security's National Fire Academy. These classes provide fire service training in strategy and tactics, incident command system, courtroom preparation and testimony, and fire prevention for high-risk populations.