

STATE FIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT - 2010 – 2011

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 four county Fire Chiefs. Its 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 is responsible to adopt a state fire code, apply and administer federal fire-related grants, and administer a Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program. 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 function or activity for which the various county fire departments are responsible.

Each county fire department proceeded with the county ordinance adoption process for the new state fire code, which is based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Uniform Fire Code, 2006 Edition. Through the efforts of its Fire Prevention Committee and the NFPA, the SFC reviewed and proposed amendments to the NFPA 1 Fire Code, 2009 Edition for adoption as the next state fire code. The state fire code, in union with the county fire codes, comprehensively addresses minimum requirements for the protection of life and property to mitigate and prevent the disastrous effects of fire, explosion, and hazardous materials incidents.

The SFC participates as a member of the State Building Code Council (SBCC), which is comprised of county, State, and private 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. An investigative committee chaired by the SFC is concluding its findings on infrastructure standards, systems, costs, and benefits for the 2009 International Residential Code Fire Sprinkler Requirements for New One- and Two-Family Dwellings.

The SFC has administered the RIPC law since its adoption in October 2009. The SFC receives manufacturers' documentation on fire-safe cigarette testing, certifies brands/styles, and deposits the fees collected. A special fund was legislatively established to employ personnel to develop administrative rules to more effectively enforce and administer the program. To date, the SFC collected \$401,625.

The SFC introduced or supported the following legislative bills that were approved with or without the Governor's signature:

1. House Bill 605, relating to establishing a special fund from fees collected from cigarette manufacturers to hire two full-time personnel for the SFC to administer the RIPC Program (Act 189)
2. House Bill 1000, relating to having a single-entity E911 board (Act 168)

3. House Resolution 47, relating to recommending that the SBCC adopt a requirement to install fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings
4. Senate Bill 172, relating to amending the fireworks law to impose new definitions and licensing and permitting requirements (Act 127)
5. Senate Bill 173, relating to banning the sale of novelty lighters (Act 224)
6. Senate Bill 742, relating to allowing the SFC to hire two full-time personnel to perform SFC duties (Act 188)
7. Senate Bill 782, relating to making improvised explosive devices a felony (Act 222)
8. Senate Bill 1025, relating to making the assault of a fire fighter a felony (Act 187)

The SFC introduced or supported the following legislative bills that did not pass the 2011 session:

1. House Bill 171, relating to banning aerial luminaries, except by permit
2. House Bill 262, relating to deleting the sunset date for lifeguard tort liability
3. House Bill 268, relating to allowing counties to conduct criminal background checks on prospective fire department employees
4. House Bill 969, relating to banning consumer fireworks statewide
5. Senate Bill 169, relating to using trained canine to inspect cargo for explosives
6. Senate Bill 170, relating to authorizing the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation to inspect cargo for illegal fireworks

The SFC coordinated Department of Homeland Security, National Fire Academy statewide fire service training courses in Leadership Strategies for Company Success, Personal Success, and Supervisory Success; Incident Command for High-Rise Operations; Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations; Decision Making for Initial Company Operations; and Command and Control of Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Operations for the Structural Chief Officer.

The SFC continues to meet quarterly to fulfill its statutory duties and responsibilities.