

HAWAII STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC) ANNUAL REPORT FY 2016-17

The State Fire Council (SFC) is administratively attached to the State of Hawaii (State), Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and comprised of four county Fire Chiefs. Its primary mission is to develop a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and environment throughout the State. The SFC is responsible for adopting a state fire code, applying and administering federal fire-related grants, and administering a Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program. The SFC may establish qualifications for testing and certifying individuals who perform maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers, fire protection systems, and fire alarm systems. They may also advise and assist county fire departments where appropriate and prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires. It also advises the Governor and legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection, life safety, and any other function or activity for which the various county fire departments are responsible.

The currently adopted State Fire Code uses the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code, 2012 Edition. The State Fire Code Investigative Committee, which is comprised of one member from each county fire department and an NFPA representative, met regularly throughout the fiscal year to review and amend the NFPA 1 Fire Code, 2015 Edition. 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 has been a voting member of the State Building Code Council (SBCC) since its inception in 2007. Its 11 voluntary members are comprised of county, State, and private stakeholders who review and approve a comprehensive set of national model building codes and standards for design and construction in the State. These approved codes are used as the basis for the county building codes. The State Department of Accounting and General Services, to which the SBCC is administratively attached, is authorized to adopt the approved State building codes as administrative rules. On March 27 and March 31, 2017, the State Electrical Code and the State Energy Conservation Code were adopted. The SBCC continued its review of the International Building Code, the International Residential Code, the Uniform Plumbing Code, and the NFPA 1 Fire Code. Act 120 appropriated funds for the SBCC for a Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursable grant to update the State building and residential code standards for hurricane mitigation.

After the passage of Act 218, 2008 Legislative Session, Hawaii became the 36th state, along with the District of Columbia, requiring that only RIPC be sold in the State effective September 30, 2009. By the end of 2011, all 50 states and the District of Columbia had passed RIPC laws. The SFC administers the RIPC program. The purpose of this law is to reduce the number of accidental fires involving smoking-related materials and decrease the number of injuries and fatalities. A total of 748 brand/styles of cigarettes are approved for sale in the State. Retail inspections reveal that closer to 250 of those brand/styles are actually being sold in retail outlets. Work in progress

includes administrative rules, enforcement procedures, independent compliance testing, fire investigation statistical analysis, and “roll your own” compliance issues.

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	TOTAL
Inspections	0	19	415	793	1227
Brands Tested/Cost	0/0	100/ \$27,041	244/ \$103,307	604/ \$221,190	948/ \$352,538
Fees Collected	\$43,500	\$109,500	\$136,125	\$44,607	\$333,732

Total RIPC certification fees collected to date: \$953,625.00
 Approximate current RIPC fund balance: \$695,698.74

The SFC supported and submitted testimony during the 2017 Legislative Session on bills related to prohibiting counties from requiring residential fire sprinklers in new or existing one- and two-family dwellings; a cancer presumptive bill for fire fighters; a residential sprinkler tax credit; fireworks housekeeping; increasing pyrotechnic display permit fees; and prohibiting the statewide use of consumer fireworks on three designated holidays. Act 53 extended the prohibition for the counties to require residential sprinklers for ten years. The SFC continues to advocate for residential fire sprinklers to reduce future fire deaths, injuries, and property losses. None of the other bills passed.

The SFC coordinated statewide fire service training courses in Who Protects Fire Fighters from Fire Fighters, Preparation for Initial Company Operations, Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction, Shaping the Future, Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction, and Initial Fire Investigation for First Responders. The SFC met quarterly to fulfill its statutory duties and responsibilities.