

BILL062(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 577

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Nov 1, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 3

Name: Josh Keller	Email: JoshKPAC@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Commodore Waikiki AOA	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Oct 26, 2023 @ 06:13 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am concerned about the additional financial burden that this bill will place on condominium associations needing to hire a licensed design professional to provide us with a fire safety score. Associations and owners are burdened with enough taxes and other requirements which don't improve our safety or quality of life. We have annual fire inspections, this should suffice. Thank you.</p>		
Name: James Penoff	Email: jpenoff@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Oct 30, 2023 @ 07:23 AM
Name: cindi flating	Email: robert.flating@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Oct 31, 2023 @ 10:51 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>While I see the extended deadline as a plus, it still does not negate the fact that condo owners are being treated differently than individual homeowners who are not under the same mandate. Requiring sprinklers in new buildings is certainly a plus and understandable, but the idea of retrofitting - and the cost - to condo owners, especially those on fixed incomes, can mean the difference between having a place to live and losing the roof over your head. Retrofitting old buildings should not be mandated.</p> <p>Cindi Flating</p>		
Name: Jane Sugimura	Email: jsugimura@paclawteam.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 31, 2023 @ 03:33 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support enactment of Bill 62 because I believe it will enhance safety in high-rise buildings.</p>		
Name: Charles Lee	Email: success881@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2023 @ 09:09 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in FULL SUPPORT of Bill 62 as it will help condo owners with the ever increasing fees that they're being accessed .. esp now days!</p> <p>It will definitely provide help for seniors who are on fixed incomes who maybe in danger of being priced out of their units!</p> <p>Mahalo</p> <p>Charles Lee</p>		

Proposed Condominium Fire Regulations

Fires can be catastrophic to structures and their occupants. The fire at the Marco Polo Condominium highlighted what unchecked fires in condominiums can do. Honolulu is wrestling with appropriate legislation to address the danger of condominium fires. Good legislation should focus on prevention more than fire control with sprinklers. This would minimize or eliminate fires before they make widespread damage and/or death.

As effective as sprinklers are, they are costly to install and can result in water damage to multiple floors. They require permitting and installation, which can add to years of delay. Implementing fire prevention and containment can be done in a shorter time, be more affordable, and for a lesser price. This approach can decrease numbers and magnitudes of fires, in a shorter time with a cost that is affordable.

Preventing fires should be the first focus. As the old saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". A program focused on correcting hazards, controlling spread, and educating occupants in fire control may do more with less cost.

Steps for prevention:

- Educate residents about fires.
- Mandate appropriate extinguishers and train how to use.
- Remove combustibles.
- Check for and correct unsafe wiring.
- Mandate evacuation plans for residents
- Identify occupants that need help to evacuate buildings.

Expenditures for fire containment

- Fire rated doors in each condominium
- Automatic door closers
- Adequate alarm system with periodic tests
- Sprinklers – consider cost, time required for permitting and installation, and negative aspects such as ancillary water damage.