

RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY TO REEXAMINE ITS POLICY REGARDING FIRE HYDRANTS AND SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, in 1977, the City's Board of Water Supply ("BWS") adopted a rule requiring that before a building permit could be issued for any new construction or upgrade of a single-family home, the home had to be within a maximum distance of 175 feet from the nearest fire hydrant and the hydrant had to have a minimum flow rate of 1,000 gallons per minute; and

WHEREAS, according to media reports, although the BWS adopted the rule in 1977, it had gone unimplemented until April of this year when the BWS decided to start enforcing the rule; and

WHEREAS, to accommodate property owners whose properties were not within 175 feet of the nearest fire hydrant, the BWS decided to allow new home construction or renovation projects to proceed if the property owner installed a fire prevention sprinkler system in the owner's home; and

WHEREAS, several property owners faced with the requirement of having to install a sprinkler system decided not to proceed with their home renovations because of the system's prohibitive cost, which can be in excess of \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, after consulting with the Honolulu Fire Department, the BWS decided to relax its policy regarding the distance that new home construction or renovations have to be from fire hydrants ("fire hydrant policy"), increasing it from 175 feet to 350 feet, although the BWS still requires that the nearest fire hydrants have a minimum flow rate of 1,000 gallons per minute; and

WHEREAS, while more property owners may now qualify to build new homes or renovate existing homes, under the relaxed fire hydrant policy, there may still be significant numbers of property owners who will not be able to build or renovate their homes because:

- (1) Some properties are farther than 350 feet from an existing fire hydrant and the owners cannot afford to install sprinkler systems in their homes; or
- (2) Although some property owners are within 350 feet from the nearest fire hydrant, the hydrant does not have a minimum flow rate of 1,000 gallons per minute;



RESOLUTION

and

WHEREAS, although there are public safety concerns if homes are too far away from fire hydrants, the cost of providing fire fighting capability with respect to residential homes may be better shared by the general public through the installation of more fire hydrants, as opposed to requiring individual property owners to bear the entire cost of providing a means of fighting fires through the installation of sprinkler systems; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the Board of Water Supply to reexamine its fire hydrant policy to: (1) determine its effect on the ability of property owners to build or renovate homes; and (2) determine the cost of providing more fire hydrants in order to provide for fire hydrants that are within reach of all residential properties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Water Supply is requested to provide the Council with a map of Oahu showing the location of every fire hydrant on the island, the minimum flow rate of each hydrant, and the distance between each hydrant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Water Supply is requested to report its findings to the Council in writing within 90 days of the adoption of this Resolution; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply, the Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department, and to all Neighborhood Boards of the City.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ronny M. Lulu
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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 06 2012

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 12-13

Introduced: 01/06/12 By: ROMY CACHOLA

Committee: SAFETY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND
GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS

Title: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY TO REEXAMINE ITS POLICY
REGARDING FIRE HYDRANTS AND SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.

Links: [RES12-13](#)
[CR-47](#)

Voting Legend: Y= Aye, Y* = Aye w/Reservations, N = No, A = Absent, ABN = Abstain

SAFETY,
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
AND GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS

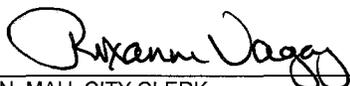
02/07/12 CR-47 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.

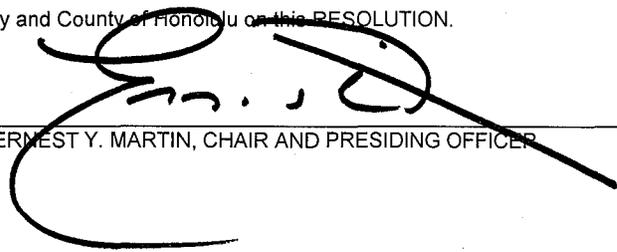
COUNCIL

02/15/12 CR-47 AND RESOLUTION 12-13 WERE ADOPTED.

ANDERSON	Y	BERG	Y	CACHOLA	Y	CHANG	Y	GABBARD	Y
GARCIA	Y	HARIMOTO	Y	KOBAYASHI	Y	MARTIN	Y		

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.


BERNICE K. N. MAU, CITY CLERK


ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER