

1 § **-1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
2 context clearly requires otherwise:

3 "Board" means the wildland-urban fire safety board.

4 "Wildland-urban interface area" means a geographical area
5 where urban structures, including but not limited to residences,
6 and commercial and industrial structures, meet or intermingle
7 with federal, state, or other public land or private lands that
8 are undeveloped, other than by transportation or utility
9 infrastructure.

10 § **-2 State wildland-urban fire safety board, members.**

11 (a) There is established the state wildland-urban fire safety
12 board. The board shall be placed in the department of public
13 safety for administrative purposes.

14 (b) The board shall be comprised of twelve members to be
15 selected as follows:

16 (1) Four members shall be appointed by the governor, to
17 include the following officials or their designated
18 representative:

19 (A) A fire chief from one of the four counties;

20 (B) A planning director from one of the four
21 counties;

22 (C) The state forestry program manager; and



1 (D) The executive director of the Hawaii Fire
2 Fighters Association.

3 (2) Four members shall be appointed by the governor from a
4 list of eight nominees provided by the president of
5 the senate. The nominees of the president shall
6 include:

7 (A) A resident or landowner of property in a
8 wildland-urban interface area;

9 (B) A person who is a property owner and volunteer
10 fire fighter in a wildland-urban interface area;

11 (C) A watershed management expert; and

12 (D) An official or employee of one of the members of
13 Hawaii's congressional delegation, whose
14 participation shall be requested.

15 (3) Four members shall be appointed by the governor from a
16 list of eight nominees submitted by the speaker of the
17 house of representatives. The nominees of the speaker
18 shall include:

19 (A) An official of the United States forest service
20 in Hawaii;



1 (B) A faculty member in the University of Hawaii
2 system who is knowledgeable in forest ecology and
3 the effects of high fuel loads;

4 (C) A person who is a resident of a county with a
5 population of less than five hundred thousand and
6 is knowledgeable in real property development in
7 wildland-urban interface areas; and

8 (D) An architect, licensed pursuant to chapter 464,
9 with expertise in designing residential
10 dwellings.

11 (c) The board shall annually elect a chairperson from
12 among its members. The board shall meet at the call of the
13 chairperson or at the request of at least four members of the
14 board.

15 (d) The members of the board shall serve without
16 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses
17 incurred in the performance of their duties, including travel
18 expenses.

19 (e) Except as provided in this chapter, the board shall be
20 subject to sections 26-34, 26-35, and 26-35.5

21 § -3 **Responsibilities of the board.** The board shall
22 develop recommendations for minimum standards for:



- 1 (1) Safeguarding life and property from wildland fires and
2 related fire hazards;
- 3 (2) Preventing wildland fires and alleviating fire hazards
4 in wildland-urban interface areas;
- 5 (3) Identifying and establishing fire evacuation routes
6 and community alert systems;
- 7 (4) Identifying and creating defensible spaces in
8 wildland-urban interface areas, as authorized by
9 existing county ordinances;
- 10 (5) Applying adaptive management practices to use in
11 monitoring data from treatment programs to assess the
12 effectiveness of those programs in meeting prevention
13 objectives; and
- 14 (6) Doing other things necessary and proper to carry out
15 the purposes of this chapter.

16 § -4 **Report.** The board shall issue an annual report
17 with recommendations to the governor and the legislature by
18 December 31 of each year. The board shall provide a copy of the
19 report to a state library, archives, and public records.

20 § -5 **Wildland-urban interface code.** (a) Any county may
21 adopt a wildland-urban interface code. The code may be adapted
22 from a uniform or model code adopted by a national or



1 international organization for mitigating the hazard to life and
2 property in wildland-urban interface areas.

3 (b) The adoption of a wildland-urban interface code shall
4 be adopted pursuant to chapter 91 and in consultation with
5 federal and state officials."

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Cindy Evans
~~[Signature]~~
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Report Title:

Public Safety; Fire Protection

Description:

Establishes the state wildland-urban fire safety board to develop recommendations for the prevention and control of wildland-urban fires.

