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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THAT A WORKING GROUP BE CONVENED TO MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT THE RE-OCCURRENCE OF WILDFIRES  
ON WAAHILA RIDGE NEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.

1 WHEREAS, wildfires have recurred in the lower part of  
2 Waahila Ridge near the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the most recent wildfire, in September 2020,  
5 threatened homes and other structures, including an elementary  
6 school, and temporarily cut off local electrical service; and  
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8 WHEREAS, similar fires have broken out in the Waahila Ridge  
9 area in 2015 and 2017; and  
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11 WHEREAS, after these wildfires, among the first species of  
12 vegetation to grow back on Waahila Ridge are invasive grasses  
13 that quickly grow and dry, becoming fire-prone; and  
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15 WHEREAS, according to the College of Tropical Agriculture  
16 and Human Resources of the University of Hawaii, an estimated  
17 twenty-five percent of the total land in Hawaii is covered by  
18 fire-prone, non-native grasses and shrubs; and  
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20 WHEREAS, experts recommend implementation of a more  
21 permanent fire prevention strategy beyond removing the  
22 vegetation that fuels wildfires; now, therefore,  
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
25 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
26 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and  
27 Natural Resources is requested to convene a working group to  
28 make recommendations on wildfire mitigation at the portion of  
29 Waahila Ridge located near and above the University of Hawaii at



1 Manoa, Mid-Pacific Institute, Noelani Elementary School, and  
2 Kalawao Street near Manoa Hillside Estates; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group comprise the  
5 following members:

- 6  
7 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
8 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee, who shall  
9 serve as Chair of the working group;  
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11 (2) A member of the House of Representatives whose  
12 district includes at least a portion of Manoa, who  
13 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
14 Representatives; and  
15  
16 (3) A member of the Senate whose district includes at  
17 least a portion of Manoa, who shall be appointed by  
18 the President of the Senate;  
19  
20 (4) The President of the University of Hawaii, or the  
21 President's designee;  
22  
23 (5) The Chairperson of the City and County of Honolulu  
24 Board of Water Supply Board of Directors, or the  
25 Chair's designee;  
26  
27 (6) The Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department, or the  
28 Chief's designee;  
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30 (7) The Director of Human Services, or the Director's  
31 designee;  
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33 (8) A representative of public recreational advocacy  
34 interests; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
37 to invite the following persons to join the working group:  
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- 39 (1) A fire expert from the Pacific Fire Exchange; and  
40  
41 (2) An individual living near the subject area; and  
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group  
44 shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for



1 travel and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance  
2 of their official duties; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the working group  
5 shall be made subject to Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
6 solely because of that member's participation on the working  
7 group; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include input  
10 from residents of the communities that have been or may be  
11 impacted by wildfires occurring on Waahila Ridge; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
14 to report its findings and recommendations, including any  
15 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
16 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall cease  
19 to exist on June 30, 2023; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Speaker of  
23 the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, Mayor of  
24 the City and County of Honolulu, and Chair of the Honolulu City  
25 Council.  
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