
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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



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

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

(1) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, or the Chairperson's designee, who shall serve as Chair of the working group;

(2) A member of the House of Representatives whose district includes at least a portion of Manoa, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(3) A member of the Senate whose district includes at least a portion of Manoa, who shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to invite the following persons to join the working group:

(1) A fire expert from the Pacific Fire Exchange; and

(2) An individual living near the subject area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the working group shall be made subject to Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's participation on the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include input from residents of the communities that have been or may be impacted by wildfires occurring on Waahila Ridge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to report its findings and recommendations, including any



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1 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
2 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall cease
5 to exist on June 30, 2023; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Speaker of
9 the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, Mayor of
10 the City and County of Honolulu, and Chair of the Honolulu City
11 Council.
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OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 10 2022

