
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE CODE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Lahaina fires of
2 August 2023, identified as the worst natural disaster in
3 Hawaii's history, caused significant loss of life, property
4 damage, and environmental harm, underscoring the necessity for
5 comprehensive and proactive measures at both the state and
6 county level to address the threat of wildfires. The
7 legislature also finds that the State is committed to fostering
8 resilient and fire-safe communities and recognizes that
9 effective county-planning is integral in preventing catastrophic
10 wildfires in the future.

11 The legislature further finds that there is an inherent
12 responsibility of each county to enforce fire codes and
13 implement mitigation planning strategies to reduce the
14 likelihood and impact of wildfires. The legislature also finds
15 that it is essential to establish a framework for enhanced
16 collaboration and accountability between the State and its



1 counties to ensure that county zoning and development plans
2 prioritize fire safety.

3 The purpose of this Act is to require each county to submit
4 an annual report to the legislature that includes fire code
5 enforcement updates and fire mitigation planning.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
8 and to read as follows:

9 "§132- Counties; annual reports. (a) Each county in
10 the State shall submit a detailed report to the legislature no
11 later than thirty days before the convening of each regular
12 session. The report shall outline the counties fire code
13 enforcement efforts and the status of its fire mitigation plan.

14 (b) The report shall include but not be limited to:

15 (1) An assessment of current fire safety measures;

16 (2) Identification of high-risk areas; and

17 (3) Proposed strategies to enhance fire prevention,
18 preparedness, and response capabilities.

19 (c) The division of forestry and wildlife of the
20 department of land and natural resources, in collaboration with
21 the state fire council and relevant county authorities, shall



1 develop guidelines to assist counties in strengthening their
2 zoning and development plans to address wildfire prevention and
3 mitigation.

4 (d) The legislature shall review the submitted reports
5 and, if necessary, consider additional legislation or funding to
6 address identified gaps in fire safety planning and
7 enforcement."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2042.



Report Title:

Fire Code; Fire Enforcement; Reports

Description:

Requires the counties to submit annual reports on fire code enforcement updates and fire mitigation planning to the Legislature. Takes effect 1/1/2042. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

