

JAN 24 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LAHAINA WILDFIRE RECOVERY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Maui wildfires
2 destroyed more than two thousand homes and more than eight
3 hundred places of business. Property damages have been
4 estimated at \$6,000,000,000 and the lost business revenue has
5 been estimated at \$2,700,000 per day. Recovery is expected to
6 take five to ten years.

7 The legislature further finds that establishing a
8 commission to oversee the recovery process, understand the
9 entirety of the recovery, accept input from the public, and
10 provide a public-facing entity for recovery efforts will help to
11 ensure that the recovery efforts consider the needs of all
12 individuals involved.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
14 commission to provide a comprehensive and integrated vision of
15 the 2023 Lahaina wildfire recovery. The legislature does not
16 intend for this commission to take the place of regular
17 information for the community and government, but instead



1 provide a public-facing entity that will simultaneously gather
2 and disseminate information significant to the wildfire victims
3 and the State at-large, as recovery efforts proceed, and provide
4 a conduit through which community-initiated guidance on the
5 recovery efforts may be communicated to the public agencies
6 conducting the recovery, remediation, and restoration
7 activities.

8 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Lahaina recovery
9 oversight commission within the department of accounting and
10 general services for administrative purposes. The purpose of
11 the Lahaina recovery oversight commission shall be to oversee,
12 report on, and guide the efforts taken to rebuild Lahaina, Maui,
13 from the damages caused by the 2023 wildfire.

14 (b) The commission shall consist of the following
15 individuals:

- 16 (1) The mayor of Maui county or the mayor's designee;
- 17 (2) An individual designated by the mayor of Maui county;
- 18 (3) Two members of the Maui county council, to be
19 designated by the Maui county council chair;
- 20 (4) The superintendent of education, or the
21 superintendent's designee;



- 1 (5) The comptroller, or the comptroller's designee;
- 2 (6) The director of business, economic development, and
- 3 tourism, or the director's designee;
- 4 (7) Three individuals designated by the speaker of the
- 5 house of representatives who were residents of
- 6 Lahaina, Maui, at the time of the 2023 Lahaina
- 7 wildfire event; and
- 8 (8) Three individuals designated by the president of the
- 9 senate who were residents of Lahaina, Maui, at the
- 10 time of the 2023 Lahaina wildfire event.
- 11 (c) The commission shall select a chair from among its
- 12 members. The commission may establish working groups.
- 13 (d) The commission shall invite members of the community,
- 14 relevant for-profit and nonprofit entities, and relevant
- 15 federal, state, and Maui county agencies and departments to
- 16 participate in the public meetings of the commission.
- 17 (e) The members of the commission shall serve without
- 18 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
- 19 reasonable travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
- 20 their duties.



1 (f) No later than December 31, 2024, the commission shall
2 establish standards for the recovery, including identifying
3 relevant issues for analysis, establishing goals for rebuilding
4 Lahaina, Maui, and drafting metrics to measure progress toward
5 achieving the goals. The commission shall consult with the
6 community and policy leaders in developing the standards and
7 metrics required by this subsection.

8 (g) With the assistance of the office of enterprise
9 technology services, the commission shall establish a website to
10 serve as a clearinghouse for information related to the Lahaina
11 wildfire recovery. The website shall also accept comments and
12 other input from the public regarding the recovery.

13 (h) The commission's proceedings shall be subject to
14 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

15 (i) Not less than twenty days before the convening of the
16 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030 regular sessions of the
17 legislature, the commission shall submit an annual report to the
18 legislature on the following regarding the recovery of Lahaina,
19 Maui:

20 (1) The status of rebuilding housing, educational
21 facilities, and community facilities;



- 1 (2) The efforts taken for environmental restoration;
- 2 (3) The status of infrastructure restoration;
- 3 (4) Whether the well-being and other needs of impacted
- 4 Maui residents have been addressed;
- 5 (5) The progress toward reaching the goals established by
- 6 subsection (f); and
- 7 (6) Findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation,
- 8 if any.
- 9 (j) The commission shall cease to exist on June 30, 2030.

10 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
11 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
12 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
13 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
14 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
15 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons
16 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
17 appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public
18 interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
2 Lahaina recovery oversight commission.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: _____

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S.B. NO. 2979

Report Title:

Lahaina Recovery Oversight Commission; Maui; Wildfire; OETS;
DAGS; Appropriation; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded

Description:

Establishes the Lahaina Recovery Oversight Commission within the Department of Accounting and General Services to oversee and guide the recovery of Lahaina from the 2023 wildfires. Requires the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to assist in establishing a website for the Commission. Requires annual reports. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

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

