

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 20 , 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2842 S.D. 2 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 2842, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WILDFIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a Wildfire Mitigation Working Group to develop a state wildfire mitigation plan and to advise and make recommendations to state agencies concerning the State's wildfire safety and prevention efforts.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Hawaii State Fire Council; Hawai'i Forest Industry Association; Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Lāhainā Strong; Maui Chamber of Commerce; and four individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Public Utilities Commission.

Your Committee finds that the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group proposed by this measure will help the State improve its efforts at wildfire safety, prevention, preparedness, and mitigation.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- Not explicitly specifying that the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group is established within the Department of Land and Natural Resources;
- (2) Clarifying that the Chairperson of the State Fire Council may designate a designee to serve on and as cochair of the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group;
- (3) Changing the working group member representing the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency from the Executive Officer to the Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency;
- (4) Removing certain responsibilities of the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group, including:
  - (A) Developing and making recommendations to the Public Utilities Commission related to utility wildfire safety and mitigation performance metrics;
  - (B) Developing and making recommendations related to the contents of electric utility wildfire mitigation and protection plans and plan updates; and
  - (C) Providing other advice and recommendations related to wildfire safety, as requested by the Public Utilities Commission; and
- (5) Requiring the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group to submit the state wildfire mitigation plan and a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature by December 1, 2026;
- (6) Changing its effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.



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As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2842, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2842, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Water & Land,

LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chai



State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR 1228-24

## Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Dat	e:	
(B2842(D2	WALIFIN		3/12/2	4
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
WAL Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. ICHIYAMA, Linda (C)				
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)				
3. CHUN, Cory M.				
4. GANADEN, Sonny				
4. Onthe Bert, Bonny				
5. HASHEM, Mark J.				
5. HASHEWI, Mark J.				
6. MIZUNO, May Besario	/			
6. MIZUNO, May Besario				
7. MORIKAWA, Dee				
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	1			
9. SOUZA, Kanani				
TOTAL (9)	B	0	0	1
The recommendation is: 🗹 Adopted 🗆 Not Adopted				
If joint referral, did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				