
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST WILDLAND FIRE
PROTECTION AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW HAWAII
TO JOIN AS A MEMBER.

1 WHEREAS, following the Maui wildfires in August 2023, the
2 Speaker of the House of Representatives established six
3 bipartisan interim working groups tasked with evaluating
4 specific topics in the aftermath of the wildfires and making
5 recommendations for appropriate legislative action in the
6 Regular Session of 2024; and

7
8 WHEREAS, members of the working groups collaborated with
9 federal, state, and county agencies, along with community
10 stakeholders and interested parties, to identify immediate
11 issues that require temporary or transitional relief for the
12 people and businesses of West Maui; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Wildfire Prevention Working Group was
15 specifically tasked with identifying the causes of wildfires and
16 preventative action that may be taken to reduce the risk of
17 wildfires throughout the State; and

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19 WHEREAS, the State is facing a growing wildfire crisis
20 exacerbated by the mounting impacts of climate change; and

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22 WHEREAS, the annual area burned by wildfires in the State
23 has increased three hundred percent between 1904 and 2022; and

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25 WHEREAS, every year, about 0.50 percent of the State's
26 total land area burns, which is greater than the proportion of
27 land area burned across the entire United States mainland; and
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1 WHEREAS, despite this situation, Hawaii spends less than
2 other states on wildfire prevention and response, budgeting an
3 annual average of \$3,200,000 over the past decade; and
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5 WHEREAS, to promote the effective prevention,
6 pre-suppression, and control of forest fires in the Northwest
7 wildland region of the United States and adjacent areas of
8 Canada, the United States Congress enacted the Northwest
9 Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Agreement) under Public Law
10 105-377; and
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12 WHEREAS, this Agreement allows members to request aid from
13 other members in controlling or preventing wildland fires; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Agreement provides a way for member states,
16 provinces, and territories to cope with wildland fires that
17 might be beyond the capabilities of a single member agency,
18 through information, technology, and resources sharing
19 activities; and
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21 WHEREAS, the members of the Agreement develop procedures
22 that will facilitate and coordinate the sharing of information,
23 technology, and resources in order to mitigate and manage the
24 effect of wildland fires in a safe, effective, and efficient
25 manner through the compact area of responsibility; and
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27 WHEREAS, however, membership to this Agreement is limited
28 to Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, the Yukon
29 Territory, the Province of British Columbia, and the Province of
30 Alberta, including any other state, province, or territory that
31 is contiguous to any member; and
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33 WHEREAS, while membership is limited to certain
34 geographical constraints, the State has much to benefit from the
35 Agreement to prevent a tragedy similar to the Maui wildfires
36 form reoccurring; now, therefore,
37

38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
40 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the current members
41 of the Northwest Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Agreement)



1 under Public Law 105-377 are requested to amend the Agreement to
2 allow Hawaii to join as a member; and

3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governors of the
6 states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington;
7 Lieutenant Governors of the provinces of British Columbia,
8 Alberta, and Saskatchewan; and Commissioners of the Yukon and
9 Northwest Territories.

