
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WILDFIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State recognizes
2 the increasing threat of wildfires to our communities, natural
3 resources, and economy and that the State is committed to
4 proactively addressing this growing challenge through a
5 comprehensive and collaborative approach. Understanding the
6 need for a multifaceted strategy, the legislature further finds
7 that a working group comprising government agencies, fire
8 experts, landowners, and stakeholders is required to identify
9 solutions that address the State's wildfire preparedness and
10 mitigation challenges and improve the State's wildfire
11 preparedness and mitigation practices.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
13 wildfire mitigation working group.

14 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
15 of land and natural resources a wildfire mitigation working
16 group to develop a state wildfire mitigation plan and to advise



1 and make recommendations to state agencies concerning the
2 State's wildfire safety and prevention efforts.

3 (b) The working group shall comprise the following
4 members:

5 (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
6 resources, or the chairperson's designee, who shall
7 serve as co-chair of the working group;

8 (2) The chairperson of the state fire council, who shall
9 serve as co-chair of the working group;

10 (3) The executive officer of the Hawaii emergency
11 management agency or the executive officer's designee;

12 (4) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
13 development or the director's designee;

14 (5) The director of transportation or the director's
15 designee;

16 (6) The director of taxation or the director's designee;

17 (7) A representative of the ranching industry, to be
18 invited by the chairperson of the state fire council;

19 (8) One member who shall be appointed by the president of
20 the senate;



- 1 (9) One member who shall be appointed by the speaker of
- 2 the house of representatives; and
- 3 (10) A representative of a Hawaii wildfire management
- 4 organization, to be invited by the chairperson of the
- 5 state fire council.
- 6 (c) The state wildfire mitigation plan shall:
- 7 (1) Identify and map wildfire susceptibility and
- 8 vulnerability to determine which communities,
- 9 landscapes, buildings, and infrastructure are most
- 10 vulnerable to future wildfires;
- 11 (2) Identify tax incentives and develop recommendations
- 12 for a competitive grant funding opportunity to reduce
- 13 fire risk and support fuels management of private
- 14 lands;
- 15 (3) Develop and make recommendations for a system of
- 16 monetary support for managing public land to reduce
- 17 fire risk;
- 18 (4) Review the emergency resources that are available in
- 19 the State to be deployed to address fires;



- 1 (5) Advise and make recommendations to state agencies
2 concerning the State's wildfire safety, prevention,
3 and mitigation efforts;
- 4 (6) Develop and make recommendations to the public
5 utilities commission related to utility wildfire
6 safety and mitigation performance metrics;
- 7 (7) Develop and make recommendations related to the
8 contents of electric utility wildfire mitigation and
9 protection plans and plan updates, pursuant to section
10 269- , Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- 11 (8) Provide other advice and recommendations related to
12 wildfire safety, as requested by the public utilities
13 commission.
- 14 (d) No member of the working group shall be subject to
15 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the sole reason that
16 the member participates in the working group.
- 17 (e) The working group shall be dissolved on December 31,
18 2026.

19 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
20 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
21 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the



1 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
 2 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
 3 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
 4 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
 5 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
 6 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
 7 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
 8 ceiling are that:

- 9 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
- 10 serve the public interest; and
- 11 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
- 12 addressed by this Act.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
 16 administrative expenses of the wildfire mitigation working group
 17 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act, including the
 18 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
 19 administrative staff position.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 21 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Wildfire Mitigation Working Group; DLNR; Wildfire Safety and Prevention; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to advise and make recommendations to state agencies concerning the State's wildfire safety and prevention efforts. Makes an appropriation. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

