

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1790-24

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27 , 2024

RE: H.C.R. No. 148  
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 H.C.R. No. 148 entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONVENE A VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP TO STUDY, EVALUATE, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REGULATIONS THAT DEFINE PROPERTY OWNER OBLIGATIONS TO PERFORM VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to convene a Vegetation Management Working Group to study, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding regulations that define property owner obligations to perform vegetation management on public and private property for purposes of wildfire risk mitigation.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Hawaiian Electric and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and Public Utilities Commission.

2024-2516 HCR148 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that vegetation management, including the creation of firebreaks and the removal of buildup of flammable vegetation, is essential for the mitigation of wildfire risks and the promotion of safer conditions for the State's communities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by requesting the Vegetation Management Working Group, in its review of vegetation management, to consider the wildfire mitigation actions that are being proposed as part of the Hawaiian Electric Company's Climate Adaptation Transmission and Distribution Resilience Program in Docket No. 2022-0135 and the electric utilities' (including Kauai Island Utility Cooperative) hazard mitigation plans to be filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) over the next few months, in response to Commission Order No. 40396. These plans will be filed as part of a non-docketed proceeding under Case No. 2023-04661.

Your Committee notes the Department of Land and Natural Resources' concern that establishing a working group without appropriating funds for the administrative support needs of the group would place an unfunded mandate on the Department that would consume substantial time and resources.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 148, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 148, H.D. 1.

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

  
FOR LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair



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

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <i>HCR 148</i>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <i>WAL, FIN</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>3/19/24</i>
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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. <b>ICHIYAMA, Linda (C)</b>	/			
2. <b>POEPOE, Mahina (VC)</b>	/			
3. <b>CHUN, Cory M.</b>	/			
4. <b>GANADEN, Sonny</b>	/			
5. <b>HASHEM, Mark J.</b>	/			
6. <b>MIZUNO, May Besario</b>	/			
7. <b>MORIKAWA, Dee</b>	/			
8. <b>TAKAYAMA, Gregg</b>	/			
9. <b>SOUZA, Kanani</b>	/			
<b>TOTAL (9)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**The recommendation is:**     Adopted     Not Adopted  
 If joint referral, \_\_\_\_\_ did not support recommendation.  
committee acronym(s)

**Vice Chair's or designee's signature:** *Linda Schimge*

**Distribution:** Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO