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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that some of our nation's  
2 most devastating fires have been the result of lingering  
3 hotspots reigniting, including the Oakland Hills fire of 1991  
4 which destroyed more than two thousand five hundred structures,  
5 the 2021 Boulder County fire which was the most destructive in  
6 Colorado's history, and, the deadliest fire in the United States  
7 in over a century, the 2023 Lahaina fire. While investigations  
8 are still underway, evidence is increasingly pointing to the  
9 widespread California fires of January 2025 being caused by  
10 reignition of previous blazes that were not entirely  
11 extinguished.

12           The legislature further finds that with worsening drought  
13 conditions and more severe weather events associated with strong  
14 wind gusts, it is imperative that fires are monitored even  
15 following initial control and apparent extinguishment actions to  
16 eliminate the chances of reignition.



1           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to clearly define  
2 stages of wildfire suppression efforts.

3           SECTION 2. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
5 and to read as follows:

6           "§132-    Duty to address fire stages.  When discussing the  
7 status of fires with regards to public dissemination of  
8 information, internal guidelines for fire operations and  
9 suppression actions, formal reporting, and fire safety  
10 regulations, the county fire chiefs, state fire marshal, and  
11 state fire council shall use the following terminology:

- 12           (1) "Uncontrolled" means any fire which threatens to  
13               destroy life, property, or natural resources, and  
14               (A) Is not burning within the confines of firebreaks,  
15               or  
16               (B) Is burning with such intensity that it could not  
17               be readily extinguished with ordinary tools  
18               commonly available.

- 19           (2) "Containment" means the status of a wildfire  
20               suppression action signifying that a control line has  
21               been completed around the fire, and any associated



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1 spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop  
2 the fire's spread.

3 (3) "Controlled" means the completion of the control line  
4 around a fire, any spot fires therefrom, and any  
5 interior islands to be saved; burned out any unburned  
6 area adjacent to the fire side of the control lines;  
7 and cooled down all hotspots that are immediate  
8 threats to the control line, until the lines can  
9 reasonably be expected to hold under the foreseeable  
10 condition.

11 (4) "Extinguished" means a previous fire where no hotspots  
12 or smoke are detected within the lines for at least  
13 forty-eight hours and, under red flag warning or  
14 drought conditions, ninety-six hours."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2025



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**Report Title:**

Fire Protection; Fire Status; Fire Operation; Definition

**Description:**

Defines stages of wildfire suppression efforts.

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

