
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL AND THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL CLEARLY DEFINE STAGES OF WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION AND RELATED EFFORTS IN THE HAWAII STATE FIRE CODE.

1 WHEREAS, some of our nation's most devastating fires have
2 been the result of lingering hotspots reigniting; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Oakland Hills fire of 1991 which destroyed
5 over 2,500 structures, the 2021 Boulder County fire which was
6 the most destructive fire in Colorado's history, and the 2023
7 Lahaina fire which was the deadliest fire in the United States
8 in over a century, were each caused by the reignition of
9 earlier, seemingly quelled blazes; and

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11 WHEREAS, worsening drought conditions and more severe
12 weather events associated with strong wind gusts intensify the
13 risk of wildfire and increase the difficulty of firefighting
14 efforts; and

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16 WHEREAS, having clear definitions related to wildfire
17 stages when communicating with the public and for internal
18 guidelines for fire operations and suppression actions, formal
19 reporting, and fire safety regulations would allow for cohesion
20 in understanding of terminology and the execution of appropriate
21 protocols; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Office of the State
26 Fire Marshal and the State Fire Council work together to clearly
27 define stages of wildfire suppression and related efforts in the
28 Hawaii State Fire Code; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following terms are
2 included in defined terminology: "uncontrolled", "contained",
3 "controlled", "extinguished", and "fully extinguished"; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the definition of "fully
6 extinguished" include the necessitation of constant monitoring
7 to ensure the absence of hotspots or smoke for a minimum of
8 forty-eight hours, and under red flag warning or drought
9 conditions, ninety-six hours; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the State Fire Marshal,
13 State Fire Council, county fire chiefs, each county's Fire
14 Prevention Bureau, President of the Hawaii State Senate, and
15 Speaker of the Hawaii State House of Representatives.

