
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL TO CONVENE A VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP TO STUDY, EVALUATE, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGULATIONS THAT DEFINE PROPERTY OWNER OBLIGATIONS FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY TO MITIGATE WILDFIRE RISK.

1 WHEREAS, on August 8, 2023, catastrophic wildfires swept
2 through various communities on the island of Maui; and

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4 WHEREAS, the wildfires significantly impacted human life
5 and the health, community housing, education, economy, and
6 environment of Maui residents; and

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8 WHEREAS, the presence of grass, trees, and other vegetation
9 adjacent to or under electric utility lines is a significant
10 fire risk; and

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12 WHEREAS, in response to the wildfires, in 2023 the House of
13 Representatives established six interim working groups,
14 including the Wildfire Prevention Working Group, which were
15 charged with evaluating specific topics related to the Lahaina
16 wildfire and making recommendations for specific legislative
17 action; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Wildfire Prevention Working Group found that
20 people are the primary drivers of wildfires in Hawaii, as
21 ninety-nine percent of wildfires are caused by human ignitions;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, the Wildfire Prevention Working Group also found
25 that guinea grass, fountain grass, molasses grass, and
26 buffelgrass can form continuous fuel beds, ignite easily, attain
27 extremely high fine fuel loads, and grow back more vigorously in
28 the post-fire environment than the majority of native
29 vegetation; and

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1 WHEREAS, utility companies have miles of utility lines
2 installed throughout the State on public and private lands,
3 including within the public rights of way and mountainous areas
4 of the State; and

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6 WHEREAS, a significant portion of these public lands is
7 covered with unmanaged grasses, trees, and other vegetation that
8 may pose a significant wildfire risk; and

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10 WHEREAS, additional study into appropriate vegetation
11 management will enable the State to develop appropriate
12 policies, regulations, and guidance for the parties responsible
13 for the management of vegetation on public and private lands to
14 mitigate wildfire risk; now, therefore,

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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2025, that the Office of the State Fire Marshal is requested
19 to convene a Vegetation Management Working Group (Working Group)
20 to study, evaluate, and make recommendations for regulations
21 that define property owner obligations for vegetation management
22 on public and private property to mitigate wildfire risk; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its review of vegetation
25 management, the Working Group is requested to consider the
26 following:

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28 (1) Wildfire risk mitigation actions being proposed as
29 part of the Hawaiian Electric Company's Climate
30 Adaptation Transmission and Distribution and
31 Resilience Program and Wildfire Safety Strategy filed
32 with the Public Utilities Commission as Docket No.
33 2022-0135 and Docket No. 2025-0156, respectively; and
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35 (2) The hazard mitigation plans of electric utilities,
36 including the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, filed
37 with the Public Utilities Commission as part of a non-
38 docketed proceeding under Case No. 2023-04661 in
39 response to Public Utilities Commission Order No.
40 40396; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
2 to include the following members:

- 3
4 (1) The State Fire Marshal, or the Director of Labor and
5 Industrial Relations' designee, who is requested to
6 serve as the chairperson of the Working Group;
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8 (2) The Director of Transportation, or the Director's
9 designee;
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11 (3) The Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, or
12 the Chairperson's designee;
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14 (4) A representative of the Department of Commerce and
15 Consumer Affairs' Division of Consumer Advocacy with
16 experience in matters related to regulated public
17 utilities, to be appointed by the Director of Commerce
18 and Consumer Affairs;
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20 (5) A representative of the Hawaii Invasive Species
21 Council;
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23 (6) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
24 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives;
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27 (7) A member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
28 President of the Senate; and
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30 (8) The mayor of each county, or the mayor's designee; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
33 to invite the following individuals to be members of the Working
34 Group:

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36 (1) A representative of a cooperative electric utility;
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38 (2) A representative of an investor-owned electric
39 utility;
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41 (3) A representative of a telecommunications carrier;
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1 (4) A representative of the International Brotherhood of
2 Electrical Workers, Local 1260; and

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4 (5) A landowner that owns more than one thousand acres of
5 land in the State; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
8 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
9 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
10 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
11 of 2026; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
14 Industrial Relations is requested to provide administrative
15 support to the Working Group, including drafting of the report;
16 and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
19 to dissolve on June 30, 2026; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and
23 Industrial Relations; Director of Transportation; Director of
24 Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Chairperson of the Public
25 Utilities Commission, who is requested to transmit copies of
26 this Resolution to all regulated telecommunications carriers;
27 Mayors of the Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii and Mayor of
28 the City and County of Honolulu; President and Chief Executive
29 Officer of the Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.; Chairperson of
30 the Board of Directors of the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative;
31 and President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical
32 Workers, Local Union 1260.

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OFFERED BY: _____

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