
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The state fire council shall amend the state
3 fire code to require that every owner or other person having
4 charge of or control over any building, structure, or other
5 premises located in a hazardous fire area shall:

6 (1) Maintain an effective firebreak by removing and
7 clearing flammable vegetation and combustible growth
8 from areas within thirty feet of the building,
9 structure, or premises; provided that single specimens
10 of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants used
11 as ground cover that do not rapidly transmit fire need
12 not be removed or cleared;

13 (2) Maintain an effective firebreak by removing and
14 clearing flammable vegetation and combustible growth
15 from areas within one hundred feet of the building,
16 structure, or premises when hazardous conditions cause
17 a firebreak of thirty feet to be insufficient to



- 1 provide reasonable safety; provided that grass and
2 other vegetation located more than thirty feet from
3 buildings or structures and less than eighteen inches
4 in height above the ground need not be removed where
5 necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion;
- 6 (3) Remove portions of trees that extend within ten feet
7 of any chimney outlet of the building or structure;
- 8 (4) Remove deadwood from trees adjacent to or overhanging
9 the building or structure; and
- 10 (5) Maintain the roof of the building or structure free of
11 leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.

12 PART II

13 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
14 resources shall establish and implement a community fuels
15 reduction project to reduce hazardous wildfire fuels on State
16 lands, particularly on lands adjacent to communities. Where
17 feasible, the community fuels reduction project shall:

- 18 (1) Reduce hazardous wildfire fuels on the landscape that
19 threaten watersheds, communities, and critical public
20 infrastructure such as powerlines and communication
21 facilities;



- 1 (2) Create and maintain effective firebreaks along
2 undeveloped state properties that border a developed
3 parcel, including but not limited to schools and
4 residential and commercial properties, by removing and
5 clearing flammable vegetation and combustible growth
6 from areas within thirty feet of the developed parcel;
7 (3) Reduce flammable grasses on the landscape through
8 projects like managed grazing; and
9 (4) Provide water infrastructure for grazing and fire
10 suppression.

11 (b) The department of land and natural resources shall
12 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days
13 prior to the convening of each regular session detailing the
14 progress made toward meeting the requirements of subsection (a).

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2026-2027 for the department of land and natural resources'
20 division of forestry and wildlife's community fuels reduction



1 project to support wildfire prevention and hazardous fuel
2 reduction measures pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. Beginning with fiscal year 2027-2028 and each
6 fiscal year thereafter, the department of land and natural
7 resources shall establish the community fuels reduction project
8 as a separate line item within the department's budget.

9 PART III

10 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
11 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
12 begun before its effective date.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
14 provided that part II shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



Report Title:

DLNR; State Fire Council; State Fire Code; Property Owners;
Hazardous Fire Areas; Fire Prevention; Community Fuels Reduction
Project; Report; Budget; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the State Fire Council to amend the State Fire Code to require certain owners and occupants of properties located in hazardous fire areas to maintain effective firebreaks within thirty feet of the property and to practice other fire prevention activities. Establishes the Community Fuels Reduction Project to be administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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