
SENATE CONCURRENT 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 THE RESPECTIVE OBLIGATIONS OF PROPERTY OWNERS, LESSEES, LICENSEES, PERMITTEES, AND HOLDERS OF EASEMENTS FOR ACCESS, UTILITY, OR OTHER PURPOSES, FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY TO MITIGATE WILDFIRE RISK, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DEFINE A LINE CLEARANCE TREE TRIMMER AND ESTABLISH MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS, TRAINING, AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS PERFORMING LINE CLEARANCE TREE TRIMMING AT OR NEAR ELECTRIC UTILITY FACILITIES.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that the tree industry average annual fatal-incident rate is thirty times greater than the all-industry average annual fatal-incident rate; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that other state jurisdictions have recognized the additional hazard presented to individuals performing line clearance tree trimming at or near electric utility facilities and have adopted state law requiring minimum safety standards, training, and qualifications for individuals performing such work; and

WHEREAS, additional study into appropriate vegetation management will enable the State to develop appropriate policies, regulations, and guidance for the parties responsible for the management of vegetation on public and private lands to mitigate wildfire risk and establish minimum safety standards, training, and qualifications for individuals performing line clearance tree trimming at or near electric utility facilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of the State Fire Marshal is requested to convene a Vegetation



1 Management Working Group (Working Group) to study, evaluate, and
 2 make recommendations for regulations that define the respective
 3 obligations of property owners, lessees, licensees, permittees,
 4 and holders of easements for access, utility, or other purposes,
 5 for vegetation management on public and private property to
 6 mitigate wildfire risk, and make recommendations that define a
 7 line clearance tree trimmer and establish minimum safety
 8 standards, training, and qualifications for individuals
 9 performing line clearance tree trimming at or near electric
 10 utility facilities; and

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 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its review of vegetation
 13 management, the Working Group is requested to consider the
 14 following:

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 16 (1) Wildfire risk mitigation actions being proposed as
 17 part of the Hawaiian Electric Company's Climate
 18 Adaptation Transmission and Distribution and
 19 Resilience Program and Wildfire Safety Strategy filed
 20 with the Public Utilities Commission as Docket No.
 21 2022-0135 and Docket No. 2025-0156, respectively; and
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 23 (2) The hazard mitigation plans of electric utilities,
 24 including the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, filed
 25 with the Public Utilities Commission as part of a
 26 non-docketed proceeding under Case No. 2023-04661 in
 27 response to Public Utilities Commission Order No.
 28 40396; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
 31 to include the following members:

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 33 (1) The State Fire Marshal, or the Adjutant General's
 34 designee, who is requested to serve as the chairperson
 35 of the Working Group;
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 37 (2) The Director of Transportation, or the Director's
 38 designee;
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 40 (3) The Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural
 41 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
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- 1 (4) The Superintendent of Education, or the
- 2 Superintendent's designee;
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- 4 (5) The Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, or
- 5 the Chairperson's designee;
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- 7 (6) A representative of the Department of Commerce and
- 8 Consumer Affairs' Division of Consumer Advocacy with
- 9 experience in matters related to regulated public
- 10 utilities, to be appointed by the Director of Commerce
- 11 and Consumer Affairs;
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- 13 (7) A representative of the Hawaii Invasive Species
- 14 Council;
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- 16 (8) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
- 17 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- 18 Representatives;
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- 20 (9) A member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
- 21 President of the Senate; and
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- 23 (10) The mayor of each county, or the mayor's designee; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
 26 to invite the following individuals to be members of the Working
 27 Group:

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- 29 (1) A representative of a cooperative electric utility;
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- 31 (2) A representative of an investor-owned electric
- 32 utility;
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- 34 (3) A representative of the International Brotherhood of
- 35 Electrical Workers, Local 1260; and
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- 37 (4) A landowner that owns more than one thousand acres of
- 38 land in the State; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
 41 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
 42 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later



1 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
2 of 2026; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Defense is
5 requested to provide administrative support to the Working
6 Group, including drafting of the report; and

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

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General of
13 the Department of Defense; Director of Transportation;
14 Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of the Department of
15 Land and Natural Resources; Director of Commerce and Consumer
16 Affairs; Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, who is
17 requested to transmit copies of this Concurrent Resolution to
18 all regulated telecommunications carriers; Mayors of the
19 Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii and Mayor of the City and
20 County of Honolulu; President and Chief Executive Officer of the
21 Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.; Chairperson of the Board of
22 Directors of the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative; and President
23 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local
24 Union 1260.

