

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 07 2025**

RE: S.B. No. 1383  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Labor and Technology, to which was referred S.B. No. 1383 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the laws concerning the Office of the State Fire Marshal to best effectuate the recommendations of the "Phase 3" Forward-Looking Report by the Fire Safety Research Institute on the 2023 Maui wildfires.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Governor, Department of Defense, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Hawaiian Electric, Hawaii Insurers Council, and Kamehameha Schools.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committees find that currently, the State Fire Council is administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. However, the evolving nature of fire-related emergencies, including wildfires and other large-scale



incidents, necessitates a more integrated approach with the State's emergency management and response infrastructure. The Department of Defense, which encompasses the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, is better positioned to provide the necessary support and coordination for statewide fire prevention and response efforts.

Your Committees further find that this measure, by transferring the State Fire Marshal and State Fire Council to the Department of Defense, represents a strategic enhancement of the State's fire protection and emergency response capabilities. By aligning these entities with the State's primary emergency management agency, a more coordinated, efficient, and effective approach to safeguarding local communities from fire-related hazards is ensured.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Office of the State Fire Marshal may explore additional opportunities to reduce wildfire risk, including engaging with the Insurance Commissioner regarding insurance policy coverage provisions, underwriting standards, insurance rates, and any other insurance related topic relevant to enhancing the protection of property from wildfires at a reasonable cost; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committees note that the "Phase 3" Forward-Looking Report can be found on the Department of the Fire Safety Research Institute's website.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Labor and Technology that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1383, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1383, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Public Safety and  
Military Affairs and Labor and  
Technology,

  
HENRY J.C. AQUINO, Chair

  
BRANDON J.C. ELLPANTE, Chair





The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Labor and Technology**  
**LBT**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB1383</b>	Committee Referral: <b>PSM/LBT, WAM/JDC</b>	Date: <b>2/3/25</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (C)	x			
LEE, Chris (VC)	x			
IHARA, Jr., Les	x			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	x			
FEVELLA, Kurt	x			
<b>TOTAL</b>	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

**\*Only one measure per Record of Votes**