
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. Section 185-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 " ~~[+]§185-1.5[+]~~ **Responsible agency.** (a) The department
5 shall take measures for the prevention, control, and
6 extinguishment of wildland fires within forest reserves, public
7 hunting areas, wildlife and plant sanctuaries, and natural area
8 reserves and shall cooperate with established fire control
9 agencies of the counties and the federal government in
10 developing plans and programs and mutual aid agreements for
11 assistance for the prevention, control, and extinguishment of
12 fires on forest, grass, brush, and watershed lands not within
13 the department's fire protection responsibilities described
14 above.

15 (b) The department shall establish an independent program
16 relating to the prevention, control, and extinguishment of
17 wildland fires within forest reserves."



1 SECTION 2. Section 185-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) The administrator shall have the power and duty to:

4 (1) Review and approve plans prepared by the managers;

5 (2) Establish procedures and guidelines for the
6 prevention, control, and extinguishment of fires
7 coming within the meaning of this chapter;

8 (3) Establish procedures, guidelines, and conditions for
9 the issuance of burning permits and for determining
10 periods when forest reserves, public hunting areas,
11 wildlife and plant sanctuaries, and natural area
12 reserves shall be closed;

13 (4) Close or partially close forest reserves, public
14 hunting areas, wildlife and plant sanctuaries, and
15 natural area reserves, by restricting certain
16 activities when necessary;

17 (5) Summon, when necessary, additional firefighting
18 assistance, equipment, supplies, and materials needed
19 to extinguish fires; ~~and~~

20 (6) Do any act which the manager is empowered to perform
21 under this chapter ~~[]~~; and



1 structure, or premises; provided that single specimens
2 of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants used
3 as ground cover that do not rapidly transmit fire need
4 not be removed or cleared;

5 (2) Maintain an effective firebreak by removing and
6 clearing flammable vegetation and combustible growth
7 from areas within one hundred feet of the building,
8 structure, or premises when hazardous conditions cause
9 a firebreak of thirty feet to be insufficient to
10 provide reasonable safety; provided that grass and
11 other vegetation located more than thirty feet from
12 buildings or structures and less than eighteen inches
13 in height above the ground need not be removed where
14 necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion;

15 (3) Remove portions of trees that extend within ten feet
16 of any chimney outlet of the building or structure;

17 (4) Remove deadwood from trees adjacent to or overhanging
18 the building or structure; and

19 (5) Maintain the roof of the building or structure free of
20 leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.

21 PART III



1 SECTION 5. (a) The department of land and natural
2 resources shall establish and implement a community fuels
3 reduction project to reduce hazardous wildfire fuels on state
4 lands, particularly on lands adjacent to communities. Where
5 feasible, the community fuels reduction project shall:

6 (1) Reduce hazardous wildfire fuels on the landscape that
7 threaten watersheds, communities, and critical public
8 infrastructure such as powerlines and communication
9 facilities;

10 (2) Create and maintain effective firebreaks along
11 undeveloped state properties that border a developed
12 parcel, including but not limited to schools and
13 residential and commercial properties, by removing and
14 clearing flammable vegetation and combustible growth
15 from areas within thirty feet of the developed parcel;

16 (3) Reduce flammable grasses on the landscape through
17 projects like managed grazing; and

18 (4) Provide water infrastructure for grazing and fire
19 suppression.

20 (b) The department of land and natural resources shall
21 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days



1 prior to the convening of each regular session detailing the
2 progress made toward meeting the requirements of subsection (a).

3 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2026-2027 for the division of forestry and wildlife of the
8 department of land and natural resources' community fuels
9 reduction project to support wildfire prevention and hazardous
10 fuel reduction measures pursuant to section 5 of this Act.

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

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

17 PART IV

18 SECTION 8. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
19 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
20 begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
4 provided that parts I and III shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish an independent program relating to the prevention, control, and extinguishment of wildland fires within forest reserves. Authorizes the Administrator of Forestry and Wildlife to establish and maintain facilities for the performance of fire protection, fire prevention, pest control, and forest and range protection and enhancement activities. 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. (SD2)

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