

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 83, Session Laws
2 of Hawaii 2012, extended the prohibition of counties from
3 requiring the installation or retrofitting of automatic fire
4 sprinklers or automatic fire sprinkler systems in new or
5 existing detached residential one- and two-family dwelling units
6 and non-residential agricultural and aquacultural buildings and
7 structures located outside of urban areas, except to meet
8 firefighting road access or water supply requirements for
9 residential one- and two-family dwelling units. Because of
10 their reliability and effectiveness in suppressing fires in
11 their initial stages, national residential building codes have
12 required residential fire sprinklers since 2009.

13 The legislature further finds that prohibiting any measure
14 that may be considered and adopted at the local level to improve
15 and enhance the fire survivability and reduce fire losses of
16 community residents is not in the best interest of public
17 safety. Further, residential fire sprinklers greatly reduce



1 fire spread, thereby significantly reducing property damage and
2 loss.

3 The legislature also finds that the intensity, severity,
4 and spread of fires in residential buildings are directly
5 related to the building's contents and furnishings. Although
6 improvements have been made in building construction, design,
7 and materials, the volatility and toxicity of today's synthetic
8 materials allow untenable conditions to be reached more rapidly.

9 The legislature recognizes that the counties face unique
10 challenges and issues related to fire protection, including
11 population density, proximity of structures, infrastructure,
12 access, and limited fire-protection resources. Therefore, the
13 intention of this Act is to recognize and establish the
14 authority of individual counties. According to a report by the
15 National Fire Protection Association's fire sprinkler
16 initiative, twenty states currently allow counties to adopt
17 codes requiring the installation and retrofitting of fire
18 sprinklers in residential family units.

19 The legislature additionally finds that the state building
20 code council is responsible for adopting, amending, and updating
21 building codes and standards in the State. In 2024, the state



1 building code council adopted the state residential code, which
2 requires all state construction of new one- and two-family
3 dwellings to include residential fire sprinklers.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend Act 83 to
5 repeal section 46-19.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, on June 30,
6 2026.

7 SECTION 2. Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, as amended
8 by Act 53, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, is amended by amending
9 section 3 to read as follows:

10 "SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012;
11 provided that on June 30, [2027,] 2026, this Act shall be
12 repealed."

13 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

16

INTRODUCED BY:



By Request



S.B. NO. 2501

Report Title:

State Fire Council Package; Public Safety; Fire Protection;
Automatic Fire Sprinklers; Counties

Description:

Repeals on 6/30/2026 the provision prohibiting counties from requiring the installation or retrofitting of automatic fire sprinklers or automatic fire sprinkler systems in certain new or existing detached residential one- and two-family dwelling units and non-residential agricultural and aquacultural buildings and structures.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

