

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MAUI WILDFIRE EXPOSURE STUDY AND MAUI HEALTH
REGISTRY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the 2023 Maui
2 wildfires were the deadliest natural disaster in state history
3 and the deadliest wildfire in the United States in over a
4 century. Beyond the immediate destruction, survivors of the
5 wildfires continue to face toxic exposures, respiratory illness,
6 and mental health trauma. Children, first responders, kūpuna,
7 and medically vulnerable individuals remain at especially high
8 risk.

9 The legislature finds that, in response, the university of
10 Hawai'i and its partners established the Maui wildfire exposure
11 study and the Maui health registry, which together represent the
12 most comprehensive social and health biomonitoring effort ever
13 conducted in the State. To date more than two thousand
14 residents have received services, including medical and mental
15 health screenings, biomonitoring, and referrals to care.
16 Residents and families receiving health care services improves



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1 the resilience of communities and reduces the higher financial
2 burden of long-term health complications and preventable
3 hospitalizations. Community trust has also been built with
4 Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, Hispanic, and
5 Asian, and immigrant populations, ensuring that underserved
6 groups are reached.

7 The legislature further finds that additional funding is
8 needed to continue providing these services, to ensure long-term
9 follow-up care for all participants, and to expand services for
10 up to three thousand individuals, with a focus on children and
11 other high-risk populations.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
15 university of Hawai'i, in collaboration with community partners,
16 to expand and sustain the Maui wildfire exposure study and the
17 Maui health registry, including follow-up and expanded services
18 for children, first responders, kūpuna, and medically vulnerable
19 residents.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
21 Hawai'i for the purposes of this Act.

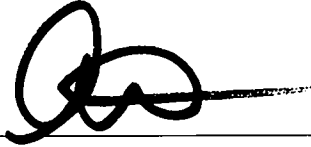


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1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2969

Report Title:

University of Hawai'i; Maui Wildfire Exposure Study; Maui Health Registry; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the University of Hawai'i to expand and sustain services provided by the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study and Maui Health Registry.

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