

JAN 28 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that prescribed burning
2 is a technique used nationwide to reduce fuel, such as dry
3 grasses, that spark wildfires when combined in a chemical
4 reaction with sufficient heat and oxygen. By denying one of the
5 elements of the chemical reaction, catastrophic fires resulting
6 in widespread damage and potential loss of life may be
7 prevented. The usefulness of prescribed burning at preventing
8 wildfires is reflected in its codification in national and state
9 legislation, such as in Florida, Nevada, and Utah.

10 The legislature further finds that Act 302, Session Laws of
11 Hawaii 2025, established the office of the state fire marshal
12 and gave the office authorization to develop and administer a
13 community risk reduction program. Unlike Act 303, Session Laws
14 of Hawaii 2025, which required the department of land and
15 natural resources to establish a similar community fuels
16 reduction plan for lands under their control and to report on
17 progress made to the legislature, the office of the state fire



1 marshal and the county fire departments were given discretionary
2 authority to implement and support their program.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 4 (1) Require the office of the state fire marshal and the
5 county fire departments to develop and administer the
6 community risk reduction program;
- 7 (2) Define "prescribed burn" explicitly and include it as
8 a required part of the community risk reduction
9 program; and
- 10 (3) Require the office of the state fire marshal to make
11 annual reports to the legislature on the status and
12 progress of the community risk reduction program.

13 SECTION 2. Section 132-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
15 and to read as follows:

16 ""Prescribed burn" means a planned fire intentionally
17 ignited for the purposes of fuel reduction."

18 SECTION 3. Section 132-43, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended to read as follows:



1 "[f]§132-43[]] **Community risk reduction program.** (a) The
2 office [may] shall develop and administer a community risk
3 reduction program that:

4 (1) Emphasizes education and methods for the prevention of
5 wildfire risk;
6 (2) Encourages cost-effective hardening and retrofitting
7 of structures that creates fire-resistant homes,
8 businesses, and public buildings; and
9 (3) Facilitates vegetation management, prescribed burns,
10 the creation and maintenance of defensible space, and
11 other fuel modification activities that provide
12 neighborhood or community-wide benefits against
13 wildfire.

14 (b) The [e]counties may county fire departments shall opt
15 into the community risk reduction program to provide resources
16 and localized knowledge of the community.

17 (c) The office or [e]counties county fire departments may
18 contract with educational or other nonprofit entities to assist
19 with the administration of the community risk reduction program.

20 (d) The office shall submit a report to the legislature no
21 later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular



1 session detailing the progress made toward meeting the
2 requirements of subsection (a) ."

3 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

6

INTRODUCED BY: Mark W. Paterik



S.B. NO. 3059

Report Title:

Office of the State Fire Marshal; County Fire Departments; Community Risk Reduction Program; Prescribed Burn; Reports

Description:

Requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the County Fire Departments to develop and administer the Community Risk Reduction Program. Defines "prescribed burn" and includes its use within the Community Risk Reduction Program. Requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal to make annual reports to the Legislature.

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