

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1178

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 3, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 3, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 2645, S.D. 3, H.D. 1,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION.
ACT 078

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on JUN 3 2026

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 078
S.B. NO. 2645
S.D. 3
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§132- State fire code; county amendments; minimum
5 standards. (a) The state fire code adopted pursuant to section
6 132-3 shall constitute the minimum statewide standard for fire
7 and life safety.

8 (b) No county shall adopt, amend, or enforce any
9 ordinance, rule, or code provision that is less restrictive than
10 the state fire code.

11 (c) A county may propose amendments to the state fire code
12 only where the amendments are equally or more restrictive than
13 the state fire code and are necessary to address unique local
14 conditions.

15 (d) All amendments proposed by a county shall be submitted
16 to the office of the state fire marshal for review and approval
17 before adoption or enforcement.



1 (e) The office of the state fire marshal shall review
2 proposed amendments for consistency with statewide fire and life
3 safety objectives, statutory authority, and nationally
4 recognized standards, and shall approve, approve with
5 conditions, or deny the proposed amendments in writing.

6 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit
7 the authority of the office of the state fire marshal to provide
8 technical assistance, guidance, or model amendments to counties.

9 §132- State fire and life safety special fund. (a)
10 There is established in the state treasury the state fire and
11 life safety special fund, which shall be administered by the
12 office of the state fire marshal.

13 (b) The following shall be deposited into the special
14 fund:

- 15 (1) Federal, state, county, and private grants;
- 16 (2) Gifts, donations, bequests, and contributions from
17 public or private sources;
- 18 (3) Rebates, reimbursements, settlements, or cost
19 recoveries related to fire and life safety activities;
- 20 (4) Any interest earned or accrued on the moneys in the
21 special fund; and



- 1 (5) Moneys appropriated by the legislature.
- 2 (c) Moneys in the special fund shall be expended by the
- 3 office of the state fire marshal, with the support of the
- 4 department of law enforcement pursuant to part II of this
- 5 chapter, for the following purposes:
- 6 (1) Fire and life safety code administration,
- 7 implementation, and enforcement support;
- 8 (2) Fire prevention, wildfire mitigation, and community
- 9 risk reduction programs;
- 10 (3) Training, education, certification, and professional
- 11 development, including scholarships and workforce
- 12 development initiatives;
- 13 (4) Planning, research, data collection, and risk
- 14 assessments related to fire and life safety;
- 15 (5) Public outreach, technical assistance, and
- 16 intergovernmental coordination; and
- 17 (6) Any other purposes consistent with the duties of the
- 18 office of the state fire marshal.
- 19 (d) Expenditures from the special fund shall comply with
- 20 all applicable state procurement, accounting, and fiscal control
- 21 laws.



1 (e) Moneys in the special fund shall not lapse to the
2 general fund at the end of any fiscal year.

3 (f) The state fire marshal shall include information on
4 deposits to and expenditures from the special fund in the office
5 of the state fire marshal's annual report or other reports
6 required by law."

7 SECTION 2. Section 132-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

9 "(a) Each county fire chief, in person or by officers or
10 members of the fire chief's fire department designated by the
11 fire chief for that purpose, shall inspect all buildings~~[7]~~ and
12 premises, [and public thoroughfares,] except the interiors of
13 private dwellings and state facilities, for the purpose of
14 ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable
15 to cause fire or any violation of any law, ordinance, rule, or
16 order relating to fire hazard or to the prevention of fires.

17 (b) The inspection shall be made at least once every five
18 years, or as often as deemed practicable or necessary by the
19 county fire chief, at all other buildings and premises to
20 provide fire prevention and pre-fire planning within the
21 jurisdiction of the county fire chief. The office of the state



1 fire marshal shall conduct fire and safety inspections at all
2 state facilities [~~at least once a year.~~] with inspection
3 frequencies not to exceed once every three years, determined by
4 assessed risk and occupancy classification."

5 SECTION 3. Act 302, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, is
6 amended by amending section 18 to read as follows:

7 "SECTION 18. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,212,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
11 2026-2027 in the following manner:

12 (1) For fiscal year 2025-2026:

13 (A) \$206,352 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
14 position for the state fire marshal;

15 (B) \$189,804 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
16 position for one deputy state fire marshal;

17 (C) \$40,248 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
18 position for one office assistant IV;

19 [~~(D) \$160,000 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)~~
20 ~~positions for fire inspectors;~~



- 1 ~~(E) \$240,000 for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE)~~
- 2 ~~positions for fire investigators; and]~~
- 3 (D) \$400,000 for four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE)
- 4 positions for assistant fire marshals; and
- 5 ~~[+F)]~~ (E) \$1,375,596 for the operations, costs,
- 6 equipment, and expenses of the office of the
- 7 state fire marshal; and
- 8 (2) For fiscal year 2026-2027:
- 9 (A) \$214,608 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
- 10 position for the state fire marshal;
- 11 (B) \$197,400 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
- 12 position for one deputy state fire marshal;
- 13 (C) \$40,248 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
- 14 position for one office assistant IV;
- 15 ~~[(D) \$160,000 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)~~
- 16 ~~positions for fire inspectors;~~
- 17 ~~(E) \$240,000 for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE)~~
- 18 ~~positions for fire investigators; and]~~
- 19 (D) \$400,000 for four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE)
- 20 positions for assistant fire marshals; and



S.B. NO. 2645
S.D. 3
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 3rd day of June, 2026




GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII


THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2645, SD 3, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives