
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING STATE AGENCIES THAT OWN OR CONTROL LAND IN WEST MAUI TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE AGGRESSIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FUEL REDUCTION, DEFENSIBLE SPACE, AND EMERGENCY ACCESS MEASURES TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK TO LAHAINA AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, Act 302, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025 (Act 302),
2 established the Office of the State Fire Marshal within the
3 Department of Law Enforcement for administrative purposes and
4 charged the Office with reviewing and assessing the fire risk of
5 the State, coordinating fire protection efforts among local
6 agencies, and conducting inspections of state buildings and
7 facilities to ensure fire safety compliance; and

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9 WHEREAS, Act 302 allowed the Office of the State Fire
10 Marshal to oversee development of a statewide wildfire hazard
11 map and to facilitate vegetation management, defensible space,
12 and other fuel modification activities through a community risk
13 reduction program; and

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15 WHEREAS, Act 302 further required the Office of the State
16 Fire Marshal to submit a biennial report to the Legislature
17 regarding community risk reduction and the establishment,
18 administration, and enforcement of defensible space
19 requirements, thereby reflecting a clear statewide policy that
20 wildfire-risk reduction on public lands is an ongoing government
21 responsibility and not a discretionary afterthought; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the this body has continued to consider additional
24 vegetation-management measures to reduce wildfire risk,
25 including proposals to require owners and persons in control of
26 hazardous fire-area property to maintain effective firebreaks
27 and clear flammable vegetation, to establish a community fuels
28 reduction project on state lands adjacent to communities, to



1 require trimming of hazardous vegetation near utility corridors
2 and public rights-of-way by public and private property owners,
3 and to treat hazardous vegetation as a public nuisance subject
4 to abatement; and
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6 WHEREAS, reports on the Lahaina wildfire and its aftermath
7 documented that state-owned lands formed part of the larger,
8 unmanaged, fire-prone grassland landscape around Lahaina and
9 that West Maui remained at high wildfire risk because invasive
10 grasses lacked active management, placing the State on clear
11 notice that similar conditions can again serve as a conduit for
12 the spread of fire into developed areas if hazardous fuels are
13 not systematically reduced; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
16 Corporation controls substantial lands in the Lahaina area,
17 including the Villages of Leialii, which are situated on
18 approximately 1,128 acres of state-owned land mauka of the
19 Lahaina Civic Center, and the State previously leased
20 approximately twenty acres adjacent to the Lahaina Civic Center
21 from the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation for
22 public use and expansion of civic facilities; and
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24 WHEREAS, temporary housing areas for wildfire survivors
25 were developed on approximately fifty-seven acres mauka of the
26 Lahaina Civic Center, and reporting on the temporary housing
27 areas emphasized both the presence of brush conditions before
28 development and the critical role of an emergency evacuation
29 route in allowing escape from Lahaina during the August 2023
30 Maui wildfires; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has direct
33 interests in West Maui, including the Leialii Hawaiian homestead
34 community located just minutes west of Lahaina, and the possible
35 transfer of hundreds of additional acres within the Villages of
36 Leialii project further demonstrates the Department's
37 substantial and growing land-management responsibility in this
38 fire-prone corridor; and
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40 WHEREAS, the Department of Education likewise controls and
41 operates critical school lands and facilities in Lahaina, and
42 the State found it necessary after the August 2023 Maui



1 wildfires to construct a 2.5-mile emergency evacuation route
2 from the Lahainaluna fire lane to the Lahaina Bypass, with
3 additional access improvements, before Lahaina schools could
4 safely reopen, confirming the severe ingress and egress
5 constraints affecting this area; and
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7 WHEREAS, community concern remains acute regarding rampant
8 vegetation growth on large parcels near homes, schools,
9 evacuation corridors, and temporary housing areas for wildfire
10 survivors, and public reporting one and two years after the
11 Lahaina disaster continued to describe broad stretches of
12 unmanaged flammable grass on Maui and to emphasize that large
13 property owners need to do more to reduce fuel loads; and
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15 WHEREAS, the winter of 2025 into 2026 brought repeated
16 periods of heavy rain, flood watches, and saturated ground
17 conditions in the County of Maui, and while the storms reduced
18 immediate dryness in some areas, it is a reasonable inference
19 that repeated winter rain events have accelerated vegetative
20 growth that may cure into additional wildfire fuel as conditions
21 dry later in the year;
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23 WHEREAS, it is vital that the efforts to protect West Maui
24 from the risk of wildfire should be undertaken in alignment with
25 the work currently being performed by the Hawaii Wildfire
26 Management Organization through the recommendations of the Fire
27 Safety Research Institute; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that state agencies owning or
32 controlling land in West Maui, including the Hawaii Housing
33 Finance and Development Corporation, Department of Hawaiian Home
34 Lands, Department of Accounting and General Services, Department
35 of Land and Natural Resources, and any other applicable state
36 agencies, are urged to immediately identify, prioritize, and
37 abate hazardous vegetation, invasive grasses, and other
38 combustibile growth on lands in or adjacent to Lahaina and nearby
39 West Maui communities for the purpose of reducing the risk of
40 wildfires; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that applicable state agencies are
2 urged to establish and maintain defensible space, fuel breaks,
3 and other appropriate fuel-modification measures on state-owned
4 or -controlled lands bordering residential communities, schools,
5 temporary housing areas for wildfire survivors, major evacuation
6 corridors, and other occupied or vulnerable areas in West Maui;
7 and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that applicable state agencies are
10 urged to inspect and maintain all existing emergency access
11 roads, fire lanes, gates, and potential secondary ingress and
12 egress routes serving or affecting state-owned or -controlled
13 lands in West Maui, and where any existing routes are incomplete
14 or inadequate, to work with the Office of the State Fire
15 Marshal, Department of Transportation, Maui Emergency Management
16 Agency, and County of Maui to accelerate additional emergency-
17 access improvements; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the State Fire
20 Marshal is urged to use its authority to inspect state buildings
21 and facilities, assess fire risk, coordinate fire protection
22 efforts, and support community risk reduction to assist in
23 evaluating state-owned or -controlled lands in West Maui and in
24 recommending site-specific corrective actions, including
25 vegetation management, defensible space, and emergency access
26 improvements; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Housing Finance and
29 Development Corporation, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and
30 Department of Education are urged to give immediate priority to
31 parcels in and around the Lahaina Civic Center, Leialii,
32 Lahainaluna, Princess Nahienaena Elementary School, Lahaina
33 Intermediate School, and other state-associated facilities or
34 lands where hazardous vegetation and constrained evacuation
35 routes could endanger residents, students, staff, or wildfire
36 survivors; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
39 Natural Resources, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department
40 of Accounting and General Services, Hawaii Housing Finance and
41 Development Corporation, and any other applicable state agencies



1 are requested to submit a report of their efforts to the
2 Legislature no later than December 31, 2026; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant
6 General, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
7 Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Superintendent of
8 Education, Director of Transportation, Executive Director of the
9 Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation,
10 Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and
11 State Fire Marshal.

