
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE FIRE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI RELATING TO FIRE HAZARDS, BRUSH CLEARANCE, FUEL BREAKS, ROADSIDE VEGETATION CLEARING, AND EMERGENCY ACCESS.

1 WHEREAS, the County of Maui has experienced destructive
2 brush and wildfire events before and after the 2023 Maui
3 wildfires and has since identified multiple areas in West Maui
4 where hazardous fuels threaten lives, property, and major access
5 corridors into and out of Lahaina; and

6
7 WHEREAS, in December 2024, the County of Maui adopted
8 substantial amendments to the Fire Code of the County of Maui
9 relating to exterior vegetation and wildfire risk reduction,
10 including subsection 10.13.2, which defines "brush",
11 "clearance", "fire hazard", "fuel break", "property",
12 "structure", and "vegetation", and authorizes the Fire Chief of
13 the County of Maui to order vegetation to be removed,
14 maintained, or cleared when the Fire Chief determines that the
15 vegetation constitutes a fire hazard; and

16
17 WHEREAS, subsection 10.13.2.3 of the Fire Code of the
18 County of Maui requires any owner, occupant, or other person
19 having control over a property to maintain a brush clearance
20 between thirty and one hundred feet away from structures based
21 on vegetation height, and requires brush to be cleared to less
22 than eighteen inches across the entirety of lots sized one-half
23 acre or less when violations are found; and

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25 WHEREAS, subsection 10.13.2.3 of the Fire Code of the
26 County of Maui further requires the maintenance of effective
27 fuel breaks on plots of land greater than one-half acre in size
28 that are adjacent to areas containing structures and requires
29 vegetation removal near roof lines and chimneys; and
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1 WHEREAS, subsection 10.13.2.6 of the Fire Code of the
2 County of Maui authorizes the clearing of combustible vegetation
3 along portions of highways and private streets to protect life
4 and property; and
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6 WHEREAS, recent reporting indicates that the County of Maui
7 has begun warning violators that failure to comply with the
8 updated overgrowth rules may result in fines of up to \$1,000 per
9 day and criminal penalties, but the continuing need for warning
10 letters itself reflects the importance of sustained, visible,
11 and proactive enforcement, especially for large landowners and
12 large unmanaged parcels; and
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14 WHEREAS, wildfire survivors continue to be housed in
15 temporary housing communities and secondary sites in Lahaina,
16 making vegetation management and unobstructed emergency ingress
17 and egress near survivor housing an immediate public safety
18 concern; and
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20 WHEREAS, public reporting from one year after the 2023 Maui
21 wildfires documented continuing concern in West Maui regarding
22 flammable grass and vegetation near homes and roads, with local
23 officials and residents emphasizing that evacuation and roadside
24 vegetation management are high priorities after the catastrophe
25 in Lahaina; and
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27 WHEREAS, prompt enforcement of the provisions of the Fire
28 Code of the County of Maui relating to exterior vegetation, fuel
29 break, and emergency access is necessary to reduce fire risk,
30 protect temporary and permanent housing areas, preserve access
31 for evacuation and emergency response, and ensure that large
32 property owners do not shift avoidable wildfire risk onto
33 neighboring communities; now, therefore,
34

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
37 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the County of Maui is urged
38 to actively enforce subsection 10.13.2 of the Fire Code of the
39 County of Maui, including the provisions relating to fire
40 hazards, brush clearance, fuel breaks, roadside vegetation
41 clearing, and emergency access; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Maui is urged to
2 prioritize enforcement on large parcels, parcels adjacent to
3 residential communities, parcels adjacent to temporary housing
4 sites for wildfire survivors, parcels bordering major evacuation
5 corridors, and parcels where overgrown vegetation or
6 obstructions to access routes present heightened risks to life
7 and property; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Maui is urged to
10 use all available inspection, notice, citation, abatement, and
11 enforcement tools authorized by county law to obtain timely
12 compliance from property owners and other persons having control
13 over hazardous properties; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the County
17 of Maui, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Administrator of the
18 Maui Emergency Management Agency, and Chair of the Maui County
19 Council.
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OFFERED BY:



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