
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL TO CONVENE AN
ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRES WORKING GROUP.

1 WHEREAS, the use of electric vehicles across the nation,
2 including in Hawaii, has grown in recent years and continues to
3 grow; and
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5 WHEREAS, most of today's all-electric vehicles and plug-in
6 hybrid electric vehicles use lithium-ion batteries; and
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8 WHEREAS, lithium-ion batteries have been known to explode
9 or catch fire due to a phenomenon called thermal runaway, which
10 is a chain reaction that occurs when the battery experiences a
11 rapid increase in temperature, leading to the release of energy
12 and potentially causing a catastrophic failure; and
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14 WHEREAS, lithium-ion batteries can overheat from being
15 damaged or punctured, being overcharged, or being exposed to
16 high temperatures or direct sunlight; and
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18 WHEREAS, the electrolyte liquid inside the battery is
19 flammable, and if the battery is damaged, the liquid can leak
20 out and come into contact with oxygen in the air, potentially
21 igniting and causing a fire or explosion; and
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23 WHEREAS, another major cause of lithium-ion-battery fires
24 is manufacturer defects -- cheap materials and poor quality
25 assurance can introduce impurities or foreign particles into the
26 battery, which can create short circuits and increase the
27 likelihood of thermal runaway; and
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29 WHEREAS, the dangers of a lithium-ion-battery fire
30 occurring in a confined parking structure, particularly if other



1 motor vehicles are nearby, cannot be understated or
2 underestimated; and

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4 WHEREAS, it is prudent for the State to adopt a proactive,
5 rather than a reactive approach, to this matter; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Office of the State
10 Fire Marshal is requested to convene an Electric Vehicle Fires
11 Working Group; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Electric Vehicle Fires
14 Working Group consist of:

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16 (1) The State Fire Marshal, to serve as Chairperson of the
17 Working Group;
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19 (2) The Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance
20 Commissioner's designee;
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22 (3) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;
- 23
24 (4) The Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, or
25 the Chairperson's designee;
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27 (5) A member of the facility maintenance agency of each
28 county of the State; and
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30 (6) A member of the building permitting agency of each
31 county of the State; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Fire Marshal is
34 requested to invite the following individuals to serve as
35 members of the Electric Vehicle Fires Working Group:

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37 (1) A representative for commercial parking structures;
38 and
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40 (2) A representative from the condominium industry; and
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H.C.R. NO. 25

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027, the Electric
3 Vehicle Fires Working Group is requested to submit to the
4 Legislature a report of its findings and recommendations,
5 including recommendations on:

- 6
- 7 (1) Updating the State Fire Code, Building Code, and
8 Electrical Code to make parking structures more
9 resilient to electric vehicle fires and for purposes
10 of fire containment;
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- 12 (2) Additional training for the county fire departments;
13 and
- 14
- 15 (3) Any proposed legislation; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the State Fire Marshal;
19 Insurance Commissioner; Comptroller; Chairperson of the Public
20 Utilities Commission; the director of the facility maintenance
21 agency of each county of the State; and the director of the
22 building permitting agency of each county of the State.

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OFFERED BY:

Ally A. Schmitt

MAR 06 2026

