
HOUSE 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
31 motor vehicles are nearby, cannot be understated or
32 underestimated; and
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1 WHEREAS, it is prudent for the State to adopt a proactive,
2 rather than a reactive approach, to this matter; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2026, that the Office of the State Fire Marshal is requested
7 to convene an Electric Vehicle Fires Working Group; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Electric Vehicle Fires
10 Working Group consist of:

- 11 (1) The State Fire Marshal, to serve as Chairperson of the
12 Working Group;
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- 14 (2) The Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance
15 Commissioner's designee;
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- 17 (3) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;
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- 19 (4) The Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, or
20 the Chairperson's designee;
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- 22 (5) A member of the facility maintenance agency of each
23 county of the State; and
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- 25 (6) A member of the building permitting agency of each
26 county of the State; and
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28
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Fire Marshal is
30 requested to invite the following individuals to serve as
31 members of the Electric Vehicle Fires Working Group:
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- 33 (1) A representative for commercial parking structures;
34 and
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- 36 (2) A representative from the condominium industry; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than twenty days prior
39 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027, the Electric
40 Vehicle Fires Working Group is requested to submit to the
41 Legislature a report of its findings and recommendations,
42 including recommendations on:



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

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OFFERED BY: *Aella A. Belotti*

MAR 06 2026

