
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State recognizes
2 the increasing threat of wildfires to our communities, natural
3 resources, and economy, and that the State is committed to
4 proactively addressing this growing challenge through a
5 comprehensive and collaborative approach. Understanding the
6 need for a multifaceted strategy, the legislature further finds
7 that a working group comprised of government agencies, fire
8 experts, economists, legal experts, industry leaders, large
9 landowners, and stakeholders is required to find solutions that
10 address the State's wildfire preparedness and mitigation
11 challenges and increase the State's wildfire preparedness and
12 mitigation practices.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
14 wildfire mitigation working group.

15 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
16 of law enforcement, to be administered by the office of the
17 state fire marshal, a wildfire mitigation working group to. The



1 working group shall be comprised of subcommittees and identify
2 clear deliverables to:

- 3 (1) Develop a system of state tax incentives, penalties,
4 and state-level funding support for managing land to
5 adequately reduce fire risk;
- 6 (2) Chart a plan for retrofitting unsafely designed
7 subdivisions to have adequate evacuation routes;
- 8 (3) Chart the State's course to increase workforce
9 development in land management and wildfire mitigation
10 sectors;
- 11 (4) Work with industry leaders and unions to improve
12 ignition-resistant building strategies that are both
13 safe and cost-effective;
- 14 (5) Integrate food security and climate resilience
15 initiatives with wildfire prevention, safety, and
16 resilience work;
- 17 (6) Identify funding sources and launch a state-level
18 competitive grant funding opportunity to support fuels
19 management on private lands; and
- 20 (7) Integrate cultural stewardship and the development of
21 certified wildfire resilience and stewardship



1 standards that encourage good-faith compliance and
2 responsible land management and provide clear, legally
3 defensible guidance for the State's communities.

4 (b) The working group shall be comprised of the following
5 members:

- 6 (1) The state fire marshal, who shall serve as co-chair;
- 7 (2) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
8 development, who shall serve as co-chair;
- 9 (3) The chair of the house of representatives standing
10 committee on water and land;
- 11 (4) The chair of the senate standing committee on water,
12 land, culture, and the arts;
- 13 (5) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or
14 their designee;
- 15 (6) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
16 resources or their designee;
- 17 (7) The director of transportation or their designee;
- 18 (8) The director of taxation or their designee;
- 19 (9) The airports rescue fire chief from the airports
20 division of the department of transportation;



1 (10) The chairperson of the public utilities commission or
2 their designee;

3 (11) A representative from the land division of the
4 department of land and natural resources;

5 (12) A representative of the state fire council;

6 (13) A fire protection forester from the wildfire
7 management branch of the division of forestry and
8 wildlife within the department of land natural
9 resources;

10 (14) An economist from the university of Hawaii economic
11 research organization, to be selected by the executive
12 director of the university of Hawaii economic research
13 organization;

14 (15) An economist from the university of Hawaii at Manoa,
15 to be selected by the president of the university of
16 Hawaii at Manoa;

17 (16) An economist from the university of Hawaii at Hilo, to
18 be selected by the chancellor of the university of
19 Hawaii at Hilo;

20 (17) A wildfire expert from each county, to be invited by
21 the state fire marshal;



- 1 (18) A representative of the ranching industry, to be
2 invited by the state fire marshal;
- 3 (19) A representative of the Hawaii wildfire management
4 organization, to be invited by the state fire marshal;
- 5 (20) A Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner who has
6 knowledge of traditional land stewardship practices
7 and 'ike kupua that support landscape-scale risk
8 reduction, ecological resilience, and long-term
9 community safety, to be invited by the chairperson of
10 the board of land and natural resources;
- 11 (21) A large landowner, to be invited by the state fire
12 marshal;
- 13 (22) A representative of the public, to be invited by the
14 speaker of the house of representatives; and
- 15 (23) A representative of the public, to be invited by the
16 president of the senate.
- 17 (c) No member of the working group shall be subject to
18 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
19 member's participation on the working group.
- 20 (d) The office of the state fire marshal shall provide
21 administrative support as required by the working group.



1 (e) The working group shall submit a complete report of
2 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
3 legislation, to the legislature no later than thirty days prior
4 to the convening of the regular session of 2028.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
8 the administrative expenses of the wildfire mitigation working
9 group established by section 2 of this Act.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
11 state fire marshal for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



S.B. NO. 17 S.D. 1

Report Title:

OSFM; Wildfire Mitigation Working Group; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group. Requires a report to the Legislature. Requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal to provide administrative support to the working group. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

