
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§132- State fire code; county amendments; minimum
5 standards. (a) The state fire code adopted pursuant to section
6 132-3 shall constitute the minimum statewide standard for fire
7 and life safety.

8 (b) No county shall adopt, amend, or enforce any
9 ordinance, rule, or code provision that is less restrictive than
10 the state fire code.

11 (c) A county may propose amendments to the state fire code
12 only where the amendments are equally or more restrictive than
13 the state fire code and are necessary to address unique local
14 conditions.

15 (d) All amendments proposed by a county shall be submitted
16 to the office of the state fire marshal for review and approval
17 before adoption or enforcement.



1 (e) The office of the state fire marshal shall review
2 proposed amendments for consistency with statewide fire and life
3 safety objectives, statutory authority, and nationally
4 recognized standards, and shall approve, approve with
5 conditions, or deny the proposed amendments in writing.

6 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit
7 the authority of the office of the state fire marshal to provide
8 technical assistance, guidance, or model amendments to counties.

9 §132- State fire and life safety special fund. (a)
10 There is established in the state treasury the state fire and
11 life safety special fund, which shall be administered by the
12 office of the state fire marshal.

13 (b) The following shall be deposited into the special
14 fund:

- 15 (1) Federal, state, county, and private grants;
16 (2) Gifts, donations, bequests, and contributions from
17 public or private sources;
18 (3) Rebates, reimbursements, settlements, or cost
19 recoveries related to fire and life safety activities;
20 (4) Any interest earned or accrued on the moneys in the
21 special fund; and



1 (5) Moneys appropriated by the legislature.

2 (c) Moneys in the special fund shall be expended by the
3 office of the state fire marshal, with the support of the
4 department of law enforcement pursuant to part II of this
5 chapter, for the following purposes:

6 (1) Fire and life safety code administration,
7 implementation, and enforcement support;

8 (2) Fire prevention, wildfire mitigation, and community
9 risk reduction programs;

10 (3) Training, education, certification, and professional
11 development, including scholarships and workforce
12 development initiatives;

13 (4) Planning, research, data collection, and risk
14 assessments related to fire and life safety;

15 (5) Public outreach, technical assistance, and
16 intergovernmental coordination; and

17 (6) Any other purposes consistent with the duties of the
18 office of the state fire marshal.

19 (d) Expenditures from the special fund shall comply with
20 all applicable state procurement, accounting, and fiscal control
21 laws.



1 (e) Moneys in the special fund shall not lapse to the
2 general fund at the end of any fiscal year.

3 (f) The state fire marshal shall include information on
4 deposits to and expenditures from the special fund in the office
5 of the state fire marshal's annual report or other reports
6 required by law."

7 SECTION 2. Section 132-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

9 "(a) Each county fire chief, in person or by officers or
10 members of the fire chief's fire department designated by the
11 fire chief for that purpose, shall inspect all buildings[~~7~~] and
12 premises, [~~and public thoroughfares,~~] except the interiors of
13 private dwellings and state facilities, for the purpose of
14 ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable
15 to cause fire or any violation of any law, ordinance, rule, or
16 order relating to fire hazard or to the prevention of fires.

17 (b) The inspection shall be made at least once every five
18 years, or as often as deemed practicable or necessary by the
19 county fire chief, at all other buildings and premises to
20 provide fire prevention and pre-fire planning within the
21 jurisdiction of the county fire chief. The office of the state



1 fire marshal shall conduct fire and safety inspections at all
2 state facilities ~~[at least once a year.]~~ with inspection
3 frequencies not to exceed once every three years, determined by
4 assessed risk and occupancy classification."

5 SECTION 3. Section 132-39, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "[~~+~~]**\$132-39[~~+~~]** State fire marshal ~~[selection commission,~~
8 ~~established.]~~ appointment. [~~a~~] Beginning January 1, [~~2026,~~
9 ~~2027,~~ ~~[there is established the state fire marshal selection~~
10 ~~commission, which shall be placed within the department of law~~
11 ~~enforcement for administrative purposes.~~

12 ~~(b) The state fire marshal selection commission:~~

13 ~~(1) Shall have the authority to appoint and may remove the~~
14 ~~state fire marshal;~~

15 ~~(2) May receive complaints from citizens on the office of~~
16 ~~the fire marshal and the state fire marshal;~~

17 ~~(3) Shall evaluate and conduct an annual performance~~
18 ~~review of the state fire marshal;~~

19 ~~(4) Shall post its agenda and minutes on a website;~~

20 ~~(5) Shall be subjected to the state sunshine laws under~~
21 ~~chapter 92; and~~



~~(6) May adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91.~~

~~(c) The state fire marshal selection commission shall
consist of the following seven members:~~

~~(1) Three members who shall be appointed by the governor
subject to advice and consent of the senate and shall
be voting members; provided that for the initial year,
one member shall serve a one-year term, one member
shall serve a two-year term, and one member shall
serve a three-year term; provided further that after
the initial term, each of the members may serve up to
two consecutive terms for up to eight years with each
term being four years;~~

~~(2) One member who shall be appointed by the speaker of
the house and shall be a voting member; provided that
the member shall serve an initial term of four years
and may serve up to two consecutive terms for up to
eight years with each term being four years;~~

~~(3) One member who shall be appointed by the president of
the senate and shall be a voting member; provided that
the member shall serve an initial term of four years;
provided further that the member may serve up to two~~



1 ~~consecutive terms for up to eight years with each term~~
2 ~~being four years;~~

3 ~~(4) The chair of the Hawaii state fire council or the~~
4 ~~chair's designee, who shall be an ex officio,~~
5 ~~nonvoting member; and~~

6 ~~(5) The adjutant general of the Hawaii national guard or~~
7 ~~the adjutant general's designee, who shall be an ex~~
8 ~~officio, nonvoting member.~~

9 ~~(d) All members of the state fire marshal selection~~
10 ~~commission, both voting and nonvoting, shall elect a chairperson~~
11 ~~and a vice chairperson of the commission; provided that the~~
12 ~~chairperson is not an ex officio member.~~

13 ~~(e) Any action taken by the state fire marshal selection~~
14 ~~commission shall be approved by a simple majority of its~~
15 ~~members; provided that a majority of the members of the~~
16 ~~commission shall constitute a quorum to do business.~~

17 ~~(f) The members of the state fire marshal selection~~
18 ~~commission shall serve without compensation but shall be~~
19 ~~reimbursed for necessary expenses, including travel expenses,~~
20 ~~reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties.~~



1 ~~(g) Notwithstanding this section, if a state fire marshal~~
2 ~~has already been appointed by the state fire council by June 30,~~
3 ~~2025, as set forth in Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, the~~
4 ~~state fire marshal selection commission's authority to appoint~~
5 ~~the state fire marshal shall begin upon the expiration of the~~
6 ~~incumbent state fire marshal's term.]~~ the state fire marshal
7 shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent
8 of the senate."

9 SECTION 4. Act 302, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, is
10 amended by amending section 18 to read as follows:

11 "SECTION 18. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,212,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2026-2027 in the following manner:

16 (1) For fiscal year 2025-2026:

17 (A) \$206,352 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
18 position for the state fire marshal;

19 (B) \$189,804 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
20 position for one deputy state fire marshal;



1 (C) \$40,248 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
2 position for one office assistant IV;
3 ~~[(D) \$160,000 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)~~
4 ~~positions for fire inspectors;~~
5 ~~(E) \$240,000 for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE)~~
6 ~~positions for fire investigators; and]~~
7 (D) \$400,000 for four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE)
8 positions for assistant fire marshals; and
9 ~~[(F)]~~ (E) \$1,375,596 for the operations, costs,
10 equipment, and expenses of the office of the
11 state fire marshal; and
12 (2) For fiscal year 2026-2027:
13 (A) \$214,608 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
14 position for the state fire marshal;
15 (B) \$197,400 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
16 position for one deputy state fire marshal;
17 (C) \$40,248 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
18 position for one office assistant IV;
19 ~~[(D) \$160,000 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)~~
20 ~~positions for fire inspectors;~~



~~(E) \$240,000 for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions for fire investigators; and]~~

(D) \$400,000 for four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions for assistant fire marshals; and

~~[(F)]~~ (E) \$1,359,744 for operations, costs, equipment, and expenses of the office of the state fire marshal.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act."

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Fire Prevention; Office of the State Fire Marshal; Governor;
State Fire Code; State Fire and Life Special Fund; Inspections;
State Facilities; Appointment; Positions.

Description:

Establishes the State Fire Code as the minimum statewide standard for fire safety. Prohibits the counties from adopting, amending, or enforcing any ordinance, rule, or code provision that is less restrictive than the State Fire Code. Establishes the State Fire and Life Safety Special Fund. Limits the frequency of fire and safety inspections at state facilities by the Office of the State Fire Marshal to once every three years. Changes the method of appointment of the State Fire Marshal from selection by the State Fire Marshal Selection Commission to appointment by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Amends Act 302, SLH 2025, by replacing two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions for fire inspectors and three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions for fire investigators with four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions for assistant fire marshals. (Proposed SD2)

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