

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO ADOPT ORDINANCES THAT ESTABLISH WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PLANTATION TOWNS AND OTHER HIGH-RISK COMMUNITIES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE COUNTY OF KAUAI'S ORDINANCE NO. PM-2025-425, RELATING TO THE PLANTATION CAMP DISTRICT WILDFIRE AND WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE, AND OTHER STATE AND NATIONAL WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE BEST PRACTICES.

1           WHEREAS, national research has shown that the  
2 wildland-urban interface has expanded substantially over time,  
3 increasing the number of homes and communities exposed to  
4 wildfires, ember intrusion, and structure-to-structure fire  
5 spread; and

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7           WHEREAS, states across the country have increasingly  
8 responded to that expansion by adopting and amending codes and  
9 ordinances to integrate home hardening, defensible space,  
10 vegetation management, and wildfire risk mapping into local land  
11 use and permitting decisions; and

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13           WHEREAS, for example, California applies ignition-resistant  
14 construction standards in designated fire hazard severity zones  
15 and wildland-urban interface areas, Colorado has required  
16 jurisdictions in wildland-urban interface areas to adopt codes  
17 meeting or exceeding statewide minimum wildfire resiliency  
18 standards, Utah jurisdictions have adopted wildland-urban  
19 interface codes governing home hardening and vegetation  
20 management, and Arizona law expressly authorizes municipalities  
21 to adopt current wildland-urban interface codes; and

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23           WHEREAS, in response to increasing wildfire risks, the  
24 County of Kauai adopted Ordinance No. PM-2025-425 on  
25 September 8, 2025, to advance wildfire mitigation in West  
26 Kauai's Plantation Camp District; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the County of Kauai ordinance requires new and  
2 substantially remodeled buildings within the Plantation Camp  
3 District wildland-urban interface area to incorporate wildfire  
4 risk reduction measures, including home hardening standards  
5 intended to reduce ember intrusion, a noncombustible zone  
6 immediately surrounding structures, defensible space around  
7 structures, and vegetation maintenance extending farther from  
8 structures; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the County of Kauai ordinance is significant  
11 because it formally integrates wildfire safety into zoning,  
12 permitting, and community design in a historic plantation town  
13 setting, thereby offering a state-specific model for balancing  
14 cultural preservation with modern fire safety; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the County of Maui likewise contains historic  
17 country towns and plantation-era communities where the built  
18 environment, road pattern, lot configuration, vegetation,  
19 topography, and exposure to wind-driven fire can create  
20 dangerous plantation town wildland-urban interface conditions;  
21 and  
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23           WHEREAS, the County of Maui officially recognizes these  
24 towns within its Country Town Business District framework, and  
25 these communities provide useful examples of plantation town and  
26 historic town conditions in which wildfire risk reduction  
27 measures should be tailored to protect life, property, and  
28 community character; and  
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30           WHEREAS, like Lahaina, many historic plantation towns, such  
31 as Paia and Makawao, retain elements of the plantation past  
32 while continuing to function as living town centers, making  
33 these communities especially relevant examples when considering  
34 wildfire safety standards for the County of Maui's plantation  
35 town wildland-urban interface areas; and  
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37           WHEREAS, the 2023 Maui wildfires demonstrated with tragic  
38 clarity that the County of Maui faces not only a wildland fire  
39 threat, but also the threat of wildfire-driven urban  
40 conflagration, as fire moved from surrounding wildland fuels  
41 into Lahaina's neighborhoods and rapidly transformed into a  
42 destructive urban firestorm; and



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2 WHEREAS, the 2023 Maui wildfires resulted in catastrophic  
3 loss of life, homes, businesses, and irreplaceable cultural and  
4 historic resources, and awakened the State and the County of  
5 Maui to the urgent need to modernize ordinances, codes, and land  
6 use practices to reflect the reality that wildfire and urban  
7 firestorm development can occur together in Hawaii communities;  
8 and  
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10 WHEREAS, the County of Maui's continued wildfire planning  
11 efforts would be strengthened by the adoption and enforcement of  
12 county ordinances that expressly address plantation town  
13 wildland-urban interface conditions through locally tailored  
14 standards for ember-resistant construction, noncombustible zones  
15 near structures, defensible space, vegetation management, access  
16 and water supply considerations, and integration of wildfire  
17 risk into planning, permitting, and redevelopment decisions;  
18 now, therefore,  
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the County of Maui is  
23 urged to adopt ordinances that establish wildland-urban  
24 interface safety standards for plantation towns and other  
25 high-risk communities, taking into account the County of Kauai's  
26 Ordinance No. PM-2025-425, relating to the Plantation Camp  
27 District Wildfire and Wildland Urban Interface, and other state  
28 and national wildland-urban interface best practices; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the requested  
31 ordinances, the County of Maui is urged to consider standards  
32 and procedures relating to ember-resistant and  
33 ignition-resistant construction, noncombustible areas  
34 immediately adjacent to structures, defensible space and  
35 vegetation management requirements, wildfire risk mapping and  
36 applicability thresholds, and the integration of wildfire  
37 mitigation into zoning, permitting, redevelopment, and community  
38 design review for historic and country town areas; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Maui is  
41 encouraged to evaluate plantation town wildland-urban interface  
42 conditions in its communities, and apply the lessons of the 2023



# S.C.R. NO. 181

1 Maui wildfires to other communities in the County facing similar  
2 wildfire and urban firestorm risks; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of the County of Maui, Chair of the Maui County Council, Fire Chief of the Department of Fire and Public Safety of the County of Maui, Administrator of the Emergency Management Agency of the County of Maui, and Director of the Department of Planning of the County of Maui.

OFFERED BY:



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