

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE FIRE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI RELATING TO FIRE HAZARDS, BRUSH CLEARANCE, FUEL BREAKS, ROADSIDE VEGETATION CLEARING, AND EMERGENCY ACCESS.

1 WHEREAS, the County of Maui has experienced destructive
2 brush and wildfire events before and after the 2023 Maui
3 wildfires and has since identified multiple areas in West Maui
4 where hazardous fuels threaten lives, property, and major access
5 corridors into and out of Lahaina; and
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7 WHEREAS, in December 2024, the County of Maui adopted
8 substantial amendments to the Fire Code of the County of Maui
9 relating to exterior vegetation and wildfire risk reduction,
10 including subsection 10.13.2, which defines "brush",
11 "clearance", "fire hazard", "fuel break", "property",
12 "structure", and "vegetation", and authorizes the Fire Chief of
13 the County of Maui to order vegetation to be removed,
14 maintained, or cleared when the Fire Chief determines that the
15 vegetation constitutes a fire hazard; and
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17 WHEREAS, subsection 10.13.2.3 of the Fire Code of the
18 County of Maui requires any owner, occupant, or other person
19 having control over a property to maintain a brush clearance
20 between thirty and one hundred feet away from structures based
21 on vegetation height, and requires brush to be cleared to less
22 than eighteen inches across the entirety of lots sized one-half
23 acre or less when violations are found; and
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25 WHEREAS, subsection 10.13.2.3 of the Fire Code of the
26 County of Maui further requires the maintenance of effective
27 fuel breaks on plots of land greater than one-half acre in size
28 that are adjacent to areas containing structures and requires
29 vegetation removal near roof lines and chimneys; and
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31 WHEREAS, subsection 10.13.2.6 of the Fire Code of the
32 County of Maui authorizes the clearing of combustibile vegetation
33 along portions of highways and private streets to protect life
34 and property; and



1
2 WHEREAS, recent reporting indicates that the County of Maui
3 has begun warning violators that failure to comply with the
4 updated overgrowth rules may result in fines of up to \$1,000 per
5 day and criminal penalties, but the continuing need for warning
6 letters itself reflects the importance of sustained, visible,
7 and proactive enforcement, especially for large landowners and
8 large unmanaged parcels; and
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10 WHEREAS, wildfire survivors continue to be housed in
11 temporary housing communities and secondary sites in Lahaina,
12 making vegetation management and unobstructed emergency ingress
13 and egress near survivor housing an immediate public safety
14 concern; and
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16 WHEREAS, public reporting from one year after the 2023 Maui
17 wildfires documented continuing concern in West Maui regarding
18 flammable grass and vegetation near homes and roads, with local
19 officials and residents emphasizing that evacuation and roadside
20 vegetation management are high priorities after the catastrophe
21 in Lahaina; and
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23 WHEREAS, prompt enforcement of the provisions of the Fire
24 Code of the County of Maui relating to exterior vegetation, fuel
25 break, and emergency access is necessary to reduce fire risk,
26 protect temporary and permanent housing areas, preserve access
27 for evacuation and emergency response, and ensure that large
28 property owners do not shift avoidable wildfire risk onto
29 neighboring communities; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
33 that the County of Maui is urged to actively enforce subsection
34 10.13.2 of the Fire Code of the County of Maui, including the
35 provisions relating to fire hazards, brush clearance, fuel
36 breaks, roadside vegetation clearing, and emergency access; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Maui is urged to
39 prioritize enforcement on large parcels, parcels adjacent to
40 residential communities, parcels adjacent to temporary housing
41 sites for wildfire survivors, parcels bordering major evacuation
42 corridors, and parcels where overgrown vegetation or



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1 obstructions to access routes present heightened risks to life
2 and property; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Maui is urged to
5 use all available inspection, notice, citation, abatement, and
6 enforcement tools authorized by county law to obtain timely
7 compliance from property owners and other persons having control
8 over hazardous properties; and

9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the County of Maui,
12 Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Administrator of the Maui
13 Emergency Management Agency, and Chair of the Maui County
14 Council.

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OFFERED BY: _____

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.