

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2943

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR - 6 2026

RE: S.B. No. 17
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 17, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WILDFIRE MITIGATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to identify methods to mitigate wildfire risks and increase the State's wildfire preparedness.

Specifically, this measure establishes and appropriates moneys for a Wildfire Mitigation Working Group within the Department of Law Enforcement.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Office of the Governor, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Public Utilities Commission, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Kamehameha Schools, The Nature Conservancy, Hawaiian Electric, and one individual.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization.

Your Committee finds that the increasing threat that wildfires pose to the State's communities, natural resources, and



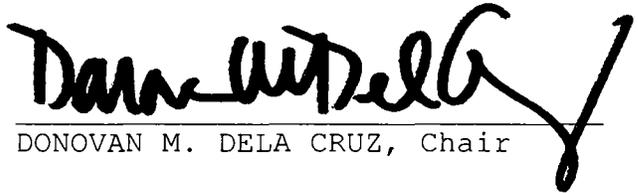
economy must be addressed through a comprehensive and collaborative approach. Your Committee believes that the establishment of a working group of stakeholders, including government agencies, fire experts, economists, legal experts, industry leaders, and large landowners, will help the State identify solutions that address Hawaii's wildfire preparedness and mitigation challenges.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language that amends the appropriations made by Act 302, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, to revise the positions funded for the Office of the State Fire Marshal; and
- (2) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 17, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 17, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB17, SD1	PSM/WLA, WAM	03/04/2020		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt				X
TOTAL	12	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Committee	Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes