

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2938

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2645
S.D. 3

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. 2645, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to address several matters relating to fire prevention.

Specifically, the measure:

- (1) Provides that the State Fire Code shall constitute the minimum statewide standard for fire and life safety;
- (2) Establishes the state fire and life safety special fund;
- (3) Repeals statutory language that requires each county fire chief to inspect public thoroughfares;
- (4) Limits fire and safety inspections at state facilities by the Office of the State Fire Marshal to a frequency of once every three years;
- (5) Repeals the establishment of the State Fire Marshal Selection Commission;



- (6) Requires the State Fire Marshal to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate; and
- (7) Amends Act 302, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, which relates to fire protection, by:
 - (A) Changing the Act's total appropriation to an unspecified amount; and
 - (B) Replacing appropriations for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions for fire inspectors and three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions for fire investigators with appropriations for four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions for assistant fire marshals.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Office of the Governor and Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Your Committee finds that this measure proposes necessary changes to establish uniform fire safety standards statewide and to properly administer and enforce those standards.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing each of the fiscal year 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 appropriations for four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) assistant fire marshal positions from \$400,000 to unspecified amounts; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure.

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. 2645, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2645, S.D. 3.



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:		
SB 2645, SD 2	PSM, WAM	3/3/2026		
<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	10	2	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