
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that development in the
2 outlying fringe of metropolitan areas and in rural areas is
3 increasing the size of the wildland-urban interface, the area
4 where structures and other human development meet or intermingle
5 with undeveloped wildland. The expansion of the wildland-urban
6 interface in recent decades has significant implications for
7 wildfire management and impact. A growing wildland-urban
8 interface creates an environment in which fire can move readily
9 between structural and vegetation fuels, and it increases the
10 likelihood that wildfires will threaten structures and people.
11 A collaborative effort is necessary to involve builders,
12 homeowners, insurers, mortgage brokers, landscapers, fire
13 service, community leaders, planners, developers, local and
14 state agencies, and others in the effort to protect people,
15 property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire
16 before a fire starts. This approach emphasizes community
17 responsibility for planning in the design of a safe community as
18 well as effective emergency response, and individual



1 responsibility for safer home construction and design,
2 landscaping, and maintenance.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish the wildland-urban
4 interface program in the division of forestry and wildlife,
5 department of land and natural resources, to address the growing
6 fire danger in wildland-urban interface areas.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 185, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 "§185- Wildland-urban interface program. (a) There is
11 established the wildland-urban interface program in the
12 department. The administrator of the forestry and wildlife
13 division shall administer this program.

14 (b) The duties of the program may include:

15 (1) Assisting and supporting wildland-urban interface
16 communities by providing technical expertise in
17 wildland-urban interface, GIS risk mapping, guidelines
18 for creating risk mitigation ordinances, and community
19 grant program participation requirements;

20 (2) Developing a public outreach plan to include printed
21 material and a wildland-urban interface web site with
22 information on creating defensible space and reducing



- 1 wildfire risk, as well as conducting community
2 meetings for public education;
- 3 (3) Providing wildland-urban interface communities with a
4 generalized risk assessment, maps, and data describing
5 a community's general wildland fuels and fire risks;
6 and
- 7 (4) Providing wildland-urban interface communities with
8 specific assessment technology for use in the detailed
9 community assessment work.
- 10 **§185- Wildland-urban interface special fund.** (a) There
11 is established in the state treasury the wildland-urban
12 interface special fund, into which shall be deposited:
- 13 (1) Grant moneys or other contributions from federal,
14 state, or county government sources or private
15 entities to support operations of the wildland-urban
16 interface program; and
- 17 (2) Appropriations made by the legislature to the
18 wildland-urban interface special fund.
- 19 (b) The wildland-urban interface special fund shall be
20 administered by the department of land and natural resources'
21 division of forestry and wildlife. All moneys in the fund shall
22 be expended by the administrator of the forestry and wildlife



1 division to carry out the purposes of the program and to fund
2 staff positions, including a contract coordinator and field
3 office specialists."

4 SECTION 3. Section 185-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
6 and to read as follows:

7 "Wildland-urban interface communities" means communities
8 that have a wildfire emergency action plan in place, or are
9 interested in preparing an action plan to:

- 10 (1) Avoid potential wildfire emergencies by addressing and
- 11 correcting wildland fire hazards;
- 12 (2) Prepare themselves in the event a wildfire threatens;
- 13 and
- 14 (3) Educate the community on wildfire prevention."

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to be
18 deposited into the wildland-urban interface special fund.

19 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the wildland-urban
20 interface special fund the sum of \$ for the purposes
21 of the wildland-urban interface program.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



Report Title:

Wildland-urban Interface Program; Special Fund

Description:

Establishes the wildland-urban interface program in the department of land and natural resources to address the growing fire danger in wildland-urban interface areas. Creates the wildland-urban interface special fund. Makes an appropriation. (HB2485 HD1)

