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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that each year brushfires  
2 endanger people and property on each island of the state. In  
3 2007 alone, brushfires burned thousands of acres on the Waianae  
4 Coast and North Shore of Oahu, Lahaina and the Kula Forest  
5 Reserve on Maui, and Waikoloa on Hawaii. These fires threatened  
6 homes and businesses in these areas, and they required vast  
7 amounts of resources and personnel to bring them under control.

8           The purpose of this Act is to reduce the danger of  
9 wildfires throughout the state by requiring the state fire  
10 council to develop a comprehensive statewide brushfire  
11 mitigation plan.

12           SECTION 2. The state fire council shall develop a  
13 statewide brushfire mitigation plan. The plan shall include:

- 14           (1) Identification of private and public methods of  
15           accomplishing the goal of brushfire reduction;
- 16           (2) Development of a program to educate the public on  
17           brushfire prevention and safety; and



1 (3) Exploration of additional resources to prevent  
2 brushfires and mitigate the effects of brushfires when  
3 they occur.

4 SECTION 3. In developing the statewide brushfire  
5 mitigation plan, the state fire council shall investigate the  
6 potential effects of widespread use of reduced-ignition-  
7 propensity cigarettes in the prevention of brushfires throughout  
8 the state.

9 SECTION 4. Section 132-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **"§132-16 State fire council; composition; functions. (a)**  
12 There is established a state fire council which shall be placed  
13 within the department of labor and industrial relations for  
14 administrative purposes. The state fire council shall consist  
15 of the fire chiefs of the counties. The state fire council may  
16 appoint an advisory committee to assist it in carrying out its  
17 functions under this chapter. The advisory committee may  
18 include the heads of the various county building departments, a  
19 licensed architect recommended by the Hawaii Society of the  
20 American Institute of Architects, a licensed electrical engineer  
21 and a licensed mechanical engineer recommended by the Consulting  
22 Engineers Council of Hawaii, a representative of the Hawaii



1 Rating Bureau, a representative of the Hawaii firefighters  
2 association, representatives of the county fire departments, and  
3 such other members of the public as the state fire council may  
4 determine can best assist it. The state fire council shall  
5 elect a chairperson from among its members.

6 (b) In addition to adopting a state fire code pursuant to  
7 section 132-3, the state fire council shall serve as a focal  
8 point through which all applications to the federal government  
9 for federal grant assistance for fire-related projects shall be  
10 made. Upon the receipt of any such federal grants, the state  
11 fire council shall administer those federal grants.

12 (c) The state fire council may also:

13 (1) Appoint advisory committees comprised of  
14 representatives from each county fire department to  
15 assist in drafting the state fire code and  
16 coordinating statewide training, data collection, and  
17 contingency planning needs for firefighters; and

18 (2) Advise and assist the county fire departments where  
19 appropriate, may prescribe standard procedures and  
20 forms relating to inspections, investigations, and  
21 reporting of fires, may approve plans for cooperation  
22 among the county fire departments, and may advise the



1 governor and the legislature with respect to fire  
2 prevention and protection, life safety, and any other  
3 functions or activities for which the various county  
4 fire departments are generally responsible.

5 (d) The state fire council shall establish a full-time  
6 position for an administrator and a full-time position for an  
7 administrative assistant to provide staff support to the state  
8 fire council, including assisting the council with:

- 9 (1) Developing a statewide brushfire mitigation plan; and
- 10 (2) Implementing a public education program on brushfire  
11 prevention and safety."

12 SECTION 5. The state fire council shall develop  
13 recommendations for proposed legislation designed to reduce the  
14 occurrence of brushfires in the State and mitigate the harmful  
15 effects of brushfires when they occur. The state fire council  
16 shall report its findings, including proposed legislation, to  
17 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
18 of the regular session of 2009.

19 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the  
22 purposes of this Act, including the establishment and staffing



1 of two full-time positions, an administrator and an  
2 administrative assistant, to provide staff support for the state  
3 fire council, pursuant to section 132-16, Hawaii Revised  
4 Statutes.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
6 labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

State Fire Council; Brushfire Mitigation Plan

**Description:**

Requires the state fire council to develop a statewide brushfire mitigation plan. Appropriates funds to implement a public education program on brushfire prevention and safety.

Establishes 2 full-time positions within the state fire council.  
(HB2376 SD1)

