

Honolulu, Hawaii  
, 2024

**MAR 27**

RE: H.R. No. 127  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.R.  
No. 127 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES TO CONVENE A VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP TO  
STUDY, EVALUATE, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING  
REGULATIONS THAT DEFINE PROPERTY OWNER OBLIGATIONS TO PERFORM  
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR  
PURPOSES OF WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the Department of Land  
and Natural Resources to convene a Vegetation Management Working  
Group to study, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding  
regulations that define property owner obligations to perform  
vegetation management on public and private property for purposes  
of wildfire risk mitigation.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from Hawaiian Electric. Your Committee received comments on this  
measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources;  
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and Public Utilities  
Commission.

Your Committee finds that vegetation management, including  
the creation of firebreaks and the removal of buildup of flammable



vegetation, is essential for the mitigation of wildfire risks and the promotion of safer conditions for the State's communities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by requesting the Vegetation Management Working Group, in its review of vegetation management, to consider the wildfire mitigation actions that are being proposed as part of the Hawaiian Electric Company's Climate Adaptation Transmission and Distribution Resilience Program in Docket No. 2022-0135 and the electric utilities' (including Kauai Island Utility Cooperative) hazard mitigation plans to be filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) over the next few months, in response to Commission Order No. 40396. These plans will be filed as part of a non-docketed proceeding under Case No. 2023-04661.

Your Committee notes the Department of Land and Natural Resources' concern that establishing a working group without appropriating funds for the administrative support needs of the group would place an unfunded mandate on the Department that would consume substantial time and resources.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 127, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 127, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water & Land,

  
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LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair



