
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LAHAINA WILDFIRE RECOVERY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the August 2023 Maui
2 wildfires destroyed more than two thousand homes and more than
3 eight hundred places of business. Property damage has been
4 estimated at \$6,000,000,000, and lost business revenue has been
5 estimated at \$2,700,000 per day. Recovery is expected to take
6 five to ten years.

7 The legislature further finds that establishing a
8 commission to oversee the recovery process, understand the
9 entirety of the recovery, accept input from the public, and
10 provide a public-facing entity for recovery efforts will help to
11 ensure that the recovery efforts consider the needs of all
12 individuals involved.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
14 commission to provide a comprehensive and integrated vision of
15 the 2023 Lahaina wildfire recovery. The legislature does not
16 intend for this commission to take the place of a regular



1 information source for the community and government but instead
2 provide:

3 (1) A public-facing entity that will simultaneously gather
4 and disseminate information significant to the
5 wildfire victims and the State at large, as recovery
6 efforts proceed; and

7 (2) A conduit through which community-initiated guidance
8 on the recovery efforts may be communicated to the
9 public agencies conducting the recovery, remediation,
10 and restoration activities.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Lahaina recovery
12 oversight commission within the department of accounting and
13 general services for administrative purposes. The purpose of
14 the Lahaina recovery oversight commission shall be to oversee,
15 report on, and guide the efforts taken to rebuild Lahaina, Maui,
16 from the damages caused by the 2023 Lahaina wildfire.

17 (b) The commission shall consist of the following
18 individuals, who shall serve as voting members:

19 (1) A member of the senate who represents the senate
20 district that includes Lahaina;



- 1 (2) A member of the house of representatives who
- 2 represents the house district that includes Lahaina;
- 3 (3) The mayor of Maui county, or the mayor's designee;
- 4 (4) An individual designated by the mayor of Maui county;
- 5 (5) Two members of the Maui county council, to be
- 6 designated by the Maui county council chair; one of
- 7 whom shall be from the west Maui district;
- 8 (6) The superintendent of education, or the
- 9 superintendent's designee;
- 10 (7) The comptroller, or the comptroller's designee;
- 11 (8) The director of business, economic development, and
- 12 tourism, or the director's designee;
- 13 (9) Three individuals designated by the speaker of the
- 14 house of representatives who were residents of
- 15 Lahaina, Maui, at the time of the 2023 Lahaina
- 16 wildfire event; and
- 17 (10) Three individuals designated by the president of the
- 18 senate who were residents of Lahaina, Maui, at the
- 19 time of the 2023 Lahaina wildfire event.
- 20 (c) The state disaster recovery coordinator shall serve as
- 21 a nonvoting member of the commission.



1 (d) The commission shall select a chair from among its
2 members. The commission may establish working groups.

3 (e) The commission shall invite members of the community;
4 relevant for-profit and nonprofit entities; and relevant
5 federal, state, and Maui county agencies and departments to
6 participate in the public meetings of the commission.

7 (f) The members of the commission shall serve without
8 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
9 reasonable travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
10 their duties.

11 (g) No later than December 31, 2024, the commission shall
12 establish standards for the recovery, including identifying
13 relevant issues for analysis; establishing goals for rebuilding
14 Lahaina, Maui; and drafting metrics to measure progress toward
15 achieving the goals. The commission shall consult with the
16 community and policy leaders in developing the standards and
17 metrics required by this subsection.

18 (h) With the assistance of the office of enterprise
19 technology services, the commission shall establish a website to
20 serve as a clearinghouse for information related to the 2023



1 Lahaina wildfire recovery. The website shall also accept
2 comments and other input from the public regarding the recovery.

3 (i) The commission's proceedings shall be subject to
4 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5 (j) No later than twenty days before the convening of the
6 regular sessions of 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030, the
7 commission shall submit an annual report to the legislature
8 regarding the recovery of Lahaina, Maui, on the following
9 matters:

- 10 (1) The status of rebuilding housing, educational
11 facilities, and community facilities;
- 12 (2) The efforts taken for environmental restoration;
- 13 (3) The status of infrastructure restoration;
- 14 (4) Whether the well-being and other needs of impacted
15 Maui residents have been addressed;
- 16 (5) The progress toward reaching the standards and goals
17 established pursuant to subsection (g); and
- 18 (6) Findings, recommendations, and any proposed
19 legislation.
- 20 (k) The commission shall cease to exist on June 30, 2030.



1 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
2 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
3 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
4 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
5 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
6 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons
7 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
8 appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public
9 interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
13 the Lahaina recovery oversight commission.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

DAGS; Lahaina Recovery Oversight Commission; Maui; Wildfire;
OETS; Reports; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Establishes the Lahaina Recovery Oversight Commission within the Department of Accounting and General Services to oversee and guide the recovery of Lahaina from the 2023 wildfires. Requires the Commission, with the assistance of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, to establish a website to serve as an information clearing house and public forum. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Takes effect 7/1/2112. (SD1)

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