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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO AMEND THE  
WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT TO ALLOW HAWAII TO JOIN  
AS A MEMBER.

1           WHEREAS, following the Maui wildfires in August of 2023,  
2 the Speaker of the State House of Representatives established  
3 six bipartisan interim working groups tasked with evaluating  
4 specific topics in the aftermath of the wildfires and making  
5 recommendations for appropriate legislative action in the  
6 Regular Session of 2024; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, members of the working groups collaborated with  
9 federal, state, and county agencies, along with community  
10 stakeholders and interested parties, to identify immediate  
11 issues that require temporary or transitional relief for the  
12 people and businesses of West Maui; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, the Wildfire Prevention Working Group was  
15 specifically tasked with identifying the causes of wildfires and  
16 preventative action that may be taken to reduce the risk of  
17 wildfires throughout the State; and

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19           WHEREAS, the State is facing a growing wildfire crisis  
20 exacerbated by the mounting impacts of climate change; and

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22           WHEREAS, the annual area burned by wildfires in the State  
23 has increased three hundred percent between 1904 and 2022; and

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25           WHEREAS, every year, about 0.50 percent of the State's  
26 total land area burns, which is greater than the proportion of  
27 land area burned across the entire United States mainland; and  
28



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1 WHEREAS, despite this, Hawaii spends less than other states  
2 on wildfire prevention and response, budgeting an annual average  
3 of \$3,200,000 over the past decade; and  
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5 WHEREAS, to promote the effective prevention,  
6 pre-suppression, and control of forest fires in the Northwest  
7 wildland region of the United States and adjacent areas of  
8 Canada, the United States Congress enacted the Northwest  
9 Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Agreement) under Public Law  
10 105-377; and  
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12 WHEREAS, this Agreement allows members to request aid from  
13 other members in controlling or preventing wildland fires; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the Agreement provides a way for member states,  
16 provinces, and territories to cope with wildland fires that  
17 might be beyond the capabilities of a single member agency,  
18 through information, technology, and resources sharing  
19 activities; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the members of the Agreement develop procedures  
22 that will facilitate and coordinate the sharing of information,  
23 technology, and resources in order to mitigate and manage the  
24 effect of wildland fires in a safe, effective, and efficient  
25 manner through the compact area of responsibility; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, however, membership to this Agreement is limited  
28 to Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, the Yukon  
29 Territory, the Province of British Columbia, or the Province of  
30 Alberta, including any other state, province, or territory that  
31 is contiguous to any member; and  
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33 WHEREAS, while membership is limited to certain  
34 geographical constraints, the State has much to benefit from the  
35 Agreement to prevent a tragedy similar to the Maui wildfires  
36 form reoccurring; now, therefore,  
37

38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
40 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's  
41 congressional delegation is requested to amend Public Law



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1 105-377 to expand the membership of the Agreement to include  
2 Hawaii; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to members of Hawaii's  
6 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chen Chen*

JAN 18 2024

