
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WILDFIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State recognizes
2 the increasing threat of wildfires to its communities, natural
3 resources, and economy and that the State is committed to
4 proactively addressing this growing challenge through a
5 comprehensive and collaborative approach. Understanding the
6 need for a multifaceted strategy, the legislature further finds
7 that a working group consisting of government agencies, fire
8 experts, landowners, and stakeholders is required to find
9 solutions that address the State's wildfire preparedness and
10 mitigation challenges and increase the State's wildfire
11 preparedness and mitigation practices.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and
13 appropriate funds for a wildfire mitigation working group.

14 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a wildfire mitigation
15 working group to develop a state wildfire mitigation plan and to
16 advise and make recommendations to state agencies concerning the
17 State's wildfire safety and prevention efforts.



1 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
2 members:

3 (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
4 resources or the chairperson's designee, who shall
5 serve as co-chair of the working group;

6 (2) The chairperson of the state fire council or the
7 chairperson's designee, who shall serve as co-chair of
8 the working group;

9 (3) The administrator of the Hawaii emergency management
10 agency or the administrator's designee;

11 (4) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
12 development or the director's designee;

13 (5) The director of transportation or the director's
14 designee;

15 (6) The director of taxation or the director's designee;

16 (7) A representative of the ranching industry, to be
17 invited by the chairperson of the state fire council;

18 (8) One member who shall be appointed by the president of
19 the senate;

20 (9) One member who shall be appointed by the speaker of
21 the house of representatives; and



1 (10) A representative of a Hawaii wildfire management
2 organization, to be invited by the chairperson of the
3 state fire council.

4 (c) In developing the state wildfire mitigation plan, the
5 wildfire mitigation working group shall:

6 (1) Identify and map wildfire susceptibility and
7 vulnerability to determine which communities,
8 landscapes, buildings, and infrastructure are most
9 vulnerable to future wildfires;

10 (2) Identify tax incentives and develop recommendations
11 for a competitive grant funding opportunity to reduce
12 fire risk and support fuels management on private
13 lands;

14 (3) Develop and make recommendations for a system of
15 monetary support for managing public land to reduce
16 fire risk;

17 (4) Review the emergency resources that are available in
18 the State to be deployed to address fires; and

19 (5) Advise and make recommendations to state agencies
20 concerning the State's wildfire safety, prevention,
21 and mitigation efforts.



1 (d) No member of the working group shall be subject to
2 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
3 member's participation in the working group.

4 (e) The working group shall submit the state wildfire
5 mitigation plan and a report of its findings and
6 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
7 legislature by December 1, 2026.

8 (f) The working group shall be dissolved on December 31,
9 2026.

10 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
11 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
13 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
14 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
15 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
16 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
17 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
18 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
19 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
20 ceiling are that:



1 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
2 serve the public interest; and

3 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
4 addressed by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
8 administrative expenses of the wildfire mitigation working group
9 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act, including the
10 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
11 administrative staff position.

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

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Wildfire Mitigation Working Group; DLNR; Wildfire Safety and Prevention; Report; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Establishes the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group to develop a state wildfire mitigation plan and advise and make recommendations to state agencies concerning the State's wildfire safety and prevention efforts. Requires report to Legislature. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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