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# 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 our 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 comprised 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 a  
13 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 who shall  
7 serve as co-chair of the working group;

8 (3) The executive officer of the Hawaii emergency  
9 management agency or the executive officer's designee;

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

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

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

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

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

19 (9) One member who shall be appointed by the speaker of  
20 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) The state wildfire mitigation plan shall:
- 5           (1) Identify and map wildfire susceptibility and
- 6               vulnerability to determine which communities,
- 7               landscapes, buildings, and infrastructure are most
- 8               vulnerable to future wildfires;
- 9           (2) Identify tax incentives and develop recommendations
- 10               for a competitive grant funding opportunity to reduce
- 11               fire risk and support fuels management of private
- 12               lands;
- 13           (3) Develop and make recommendations for a system of
- 14               monetary support for managing public land to reduce
- 15               fire risk;
- 16           (4) Review the emergency resources that are available in
- 17               the State to be deployed to address fires; and
- 18           (5) Advise and make recommendations to state agencies
- 19               concerning the state's wildfire safety, prevention,
- 20               and mitigation efforts.



1 (d) No member of the working group shall be subject to  
2 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the sole reason that  
3 the member participates in the working group.

4 (e) The working group shall be dissolved on December 31,  
5 2026.

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

- 17 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
18 serve the public interest; and  
19 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
20 addressed by this Act.



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

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

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Establishes the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group to advise and make recommendations to state agencies concerning the State's wildfire safety and prevention efforts. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

