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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in the aftermath of  
2 the 2023 Maui wildfires, the department of the attorney general  
3 initiated an investigation and retained the independent,  
4 third-party Fire Safety Research Institute, part of UL Research  
5 Institutes, to assess the performance of state and county  
6 agencies in preparing for and responding to the 2023 Maui  
7 wildfires. The investigation led to three reports -- a  
8 "Phase 1" comprehensive timeline report, a "Phase 2" incident  
9 analysis report, and a "Phase 3" forward-looking report.

10       The "Phase 3" forward-looking report organized these  
11 findings and provided a prioritized list of action items of  
12 changes to be made to improve Hawaii's response to wildfires for  
13 the State and all counties. The report calls for changes and  
14 improvements to the office of the state fire marshal, which was  
15 established by Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024 -- among  
16 them, bolstering statutory authority of the office of the state  
17 fire marshal to address the wide spectrum of fire safety issues,



1 delineating responsibilities and reporting structures between  
2 the state fire marshal and the state fire council, and creating  
3 an organizational structure to immediately address the State's  
4 fire-safety priorities effectively.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 6 (1) Effectuate the recommendations of the "Phase 3"  
7 forward-looking report;  
8 (2) Establish a state fire marshal selection commission;  
9 and  
10 (3) Place the office of the state fire marshal under the  
11 department of law enforcement.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by designating sections 132-1 to 132-19 as part I and  
14 inserting a title before section 132-1 to read as follows:

15 **"PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS"**

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
18 to read as follows:

19 **"PART . OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL"**

20 **§132-A Definitions.** As used in this part:



1 "Defensible space" means a natural or human-made area in  
2 which material capable of supporting the spread of fire has been  
3 treated, cleared, or modified to slow the rate and intensity of  
4 advancing wildfires and allowing space for fire suppression  
5 operations to occur.

6 "Office" means the office of the state fire marshal.

7 "Structure hardening" means the installation, replacement,  
8 or retrofitting of building materials, systems, or assemblies  
9 used in the exterior design and construction of existing  
10 structures with the primary purpose of reducing risk to  
11 structures from wildfire and in compliance with the provisions  
12 of the state fire code relating to structure or home hardening.

13 **§132-B Office of the state fire marshal; established.** (a)

14 The office of the state fire marshal shall be established within  
15 the department of law enforcement for administrative purposes.

16 The office shall be headed by the state fire marshal.

17 (b) The state fire marshal may organize and reorganize the  
18 administrative structure of the office as the state fire marshal  
19 considers appropriate to properly conduct the work of the  
20 office.



1 (c) The state fire marshal may divide the functions of the  
2 office into administrative divisions. The state fire marshal  
3 may appoint an individual to administer each division. Each  
4 individual appointed under this subsection shall be well-  
5 qualified by technical training and experience in the functions  
6 to be performed by the individual.

7 **§132-C Powers and duties generally.** (a) The office  
8 shall:

- 9 (1) Review and assess the fire risk of the State;  
10 (2) Coordinate fire protection efforts among local  
11 agencies for the State;  
12 (3) Review and propose amendments to the state fire code,  
13 in consultation with and in consideration of  
14 recommendations provided by the state fire council for  
15 the state fire council's consideration in its adoption  
16 of or amendments to the state fire code;  
17 (4) Review the emergency resources that are available in  
18 the State to be deployed to address fires;  
19 (5) Work with state and county law enforcement agencies  
20 for enforcement of the state fire code; provided that



1 law enforcement agencies shall have primary law  
2 enforcement jurisdiction;

3 (6) Upon request of a county official having enforcement  
4 responsibility and a showing of unusual fire hazard or  
5 other special circumstances, investigate and make  
6 appropriate recommendations. The state fire marshal  
7 may investigate or cause an investigation to be made  
8 to determine the probable cause, origin, and  
9 circumstances of any fire and shall classify the  
10 findings as the state fire marshal may find  
11 appropriate to promote fire protection and prevention.  
12 The state fire marshal shall coordinate and consult  
13 with county authorities in the event that the state  
14 fire marshal needs to summon witnesses related to a  
15 fire investigation;

16 (7) Conduct inspections of state buildings and facilities  
17 to ensure fire safety compliance;

18 (8) Oversee the training and certification of fire  
19 inspectors and investigators in the State; and

20 (9) Maintain records of all fires in the State, including  
21 the causes and circumstances.



1 (b) The office shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
2 necessary to implement this part.

3 **§132-D Discretionary powers.** The office may:

4 (1) Establish headquarters and county offices of the  
5 office at places the office of the governor considers  
6 advisable for the protection of the State;

7 (2) Allow the state fire marshal and deputy state fire  
8 marshals to operate authorized emergency vehicles as  
9 defined by section 291C-1;

10 (3) Use land and buildings for the accommodation of office  
11 employees and office vehicles and equipment;

12 (4) Contract or otherwise cooperate with any person or  
13 public agency for the procurement of necessary  
14 services or property, subject to chapter 103D where  
15 applicable, including by entering into lease  
16 agreements and taking title to real property as  
17 necessary for the performance of the duties of the  
18 office;

19 (5) As an emergency services agency, control and regulate  
20 the acquisition, operation, use, maintenance, and



1 disposal of, and access to, motor vehicles and  
2 equipment for official state fire business;

3 (6) Accept and transfer gifts, grants, donations, and  
4 funds from any source, including services and  
5 property, to carry out the duties of the office;

6 (7) Provide training, or enter into contracts to obtain  
7 training services, in fire suppression and fire safety  
8 inspection, to departments and agencies that issue  
9 licenses;

10 (8) Explore additional opportunities to reduce wildfire  
11 risk, including engaging with:

12 (A) The insurance commissioner, as defined in section  
13 431:2-102, regarding insurance policy coverage  
14 provisions, underwriting standards, insurance  
15 rates, and any other insurance-related topic  
16 relevant to enhancing the protection of property  
17 from wildfire at a reasonable cost;

18 (B) Electric utilities regarding further actions to  
19 protect public safety, reduce risk to electric  
20 company customers, and promote electrical system  
21 resilience to wildfire damage; and



(C) Federal agencies to expand opportunities for cost-share partnerships for wildfire mitigation and develop strategies for improvements to federal fire management policies applicable to the State;

(9) Oversee the development and maintenance of a comprehensive statewide wildfire hazard map that displays wildfire hazard zones; and

(10) Perform any other duties necessary to discharge its duties under this part.

**§132-E Preparation of statistical reports.** Every two years, the state fire marshal shall prepare statistical reports on the history and condition of state fire defenses and an analysis of contributing factors of fire causes for the period of the report. The reports shall be posted on the office's website and publicly available upon request, subject to a fee not to exceed the cost of printing and distribution. The reports compiled under this section shall include a compilation or summary of the county fire chiefs' records prepared pursuant to section 132-1(a), in addition to any other sources the state fire marshal deems appropriate.





**§132-F Powers and duties relating to wildfire readiness.**

The office shall increase the State's wildfire readiness capacity to the extent that the office of the governor receives funding for the increase, by means including:

(1) Increasing the number of fire prevention personnel and fire administrative support personnel to address planning, communications, training, deployment, and safety;

(2) Implementing innovative technologies and modernizing systems to expedite fire resource deployment in an efficient and safe manner;

(3) Entering into contracts or agreements with federal or state agencies, counties, other states, corporations, and authorities, having jurisdiction for fire prevention, suppression, coordination, and response; and

(4) Coordinating with the Hawaii emergency management agency.

**§132-G Utilization of firefighting resources.** The state

fire marshal, in consultation with the Hawaii emergency management agency, shall provide advice and counsel to the



1 governor on the most practical utilization of the firefighting  
2 resources of the State.

3       **§132-H State fire marshal; terms of employment.** (a) The  
4 state fire marshal shall be the administrator of the office. If  
5 a state fire marshal has not already been appointed by the state  
6 fire council by June 30, 2025, as set forth in Act 209, Session  
7 Laws of Hawaii 2024, the state fire marshal shall be appointed  
8 by the governor from a list of three names submitted by the  
9 state fire council. The state fire marshal shall serve for a  
10 term of five years. The appointment of the state fire marshal  
11 shall be made without regard to chapters 76 and 89, and shall  
12 not be subject to the advice and consent of the senate. If a  
13 vacancy occurs, the state fire council shall meet expeditiously  
14 to submit a list of three names to the governor for a new state  
15 fire marshal to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

16       (b) The state fire marshal shall be qualified to direct  
17 the technical and executive work of the office and shall have  
18 education or training related to the programs of the office and  
19 significant experience in managing fire protection or related  
20 programs.



1       **§132-I Deputies and assistants.** The state fire marshal  
2 shall appoint two deputy state fire marshals, exempt from  
3 chapters 76 and 89, whose duties shall be to assist in  
4 implementing this chapter. The office may also employ other  
5 assistants and employees, subject to chapter 76, and incur other  
6 expenses as the state fire marshal may deem necessary to  
7 effectively administer the office. Each deputy state fire  
8 marshal shall be well-qualified by technical training and  
9 experience in the functions to be performed by the individual.  
10 The state fire marshal may remove any deputy state fire marshal  
11 for cause.

12       **§132-J Salary.** The salary of the state fire marshal and  
13 deputy state fire marshal shall be equal to the salary of the  
14 director and deputy director of human resources development,  
15 respectively.

16       **§132-K Recordkeeping.** The office shall keep a record of  
17 all fires occurring in the State and of all facts concerning the  
18 same, including statistics as to the extent of the fires and the  
19 damage caused, whether the losses were covered by insurance, and  
20 if so, in what amount. All the records shall be public, except  
21 information protected from disclosure pursuant to chapter 92F.



1 The records compiled under this section shall be a compilation  
2 of the county fire chiefs' records prepared pursuant to section  
3 132-1(a) .

4 **§132-L Community risk reduction program.** (a) The office  
5 may develop and administer a community risk reduction program  
6 that:

7 (1) Emphasizes education and methods for the prevention of  
8 wildfire risk;

9 (2) Encourages cost-effective hardening and retrofitting  
10 of structures that creates fire-resistant homes,  
11 businesses, and public buildings; and

12 (3) Facilitates vegetation management, the creation and  
13 maintenance of defensible space, and other fuel  
14 modification activities that provide neighborhood or  
15 community-wide benefits against wildfire.

16 (b) The counties may opt into the community risk reduction  
17 program to provide resources and localized knowledge of the  
18 community.

19 (c) The office or counties may contract with educational  
20 or other nonprofit entities to assist with the administration of  
21 the community risk reduction program.



1       **§132-M State fire marshal; biennial report; deadline;**  
2 **contents.** (a) Beginning with the regular session of 2027, no  
3 later than twenty days before the convening in each odd-numbered  
4 year of a regular session, the office shall submit to the  
5 legislature a report regarding the activities of the state fire  
6 marshal and the counties in implementing this chapter.

7       (b) The report shall include, at a minimum:

8       (1) A status report concerning:

9           (A) Community risk reduction; and

10          (B) The establishment, administration, and

11           enforcement of defensible space requirements;

12       (2) The amount of moneys expended during the previous  
13       fiscal biennium for:

14           (A) Community risk reduction;

15          (B) The establishment, administration, and

16           enforcement of defensible space requirements; and

17          (C) Fire suppression; and

18       (3) Any recommendations for the state fire marshal for  
19       legislative action, including but not limited to  
20       current or future resource and funding needs for:

21           (A) Community risk reduction; and



(B) The establishment, administration, and enforcement of defensible space requirements.

**§132-N Provision of uniforms, response apparatus, motor vehicles, and all emergency supplies and equipment; uniform design.** (a) The office shall provide office employees with standard uniforms, response apparatus, motor vehicles, and all other emergency supplies and equipment necessary to carry out the duties of the office.

(b) The state fire marshal shall specify a pattern and distinctive design for the uniforms described in subsection (a).

(c) The state fire marshal may enter into agreements with other governmental agencies for the purpose of resource sharing of response apparatus, motor vehicles, and all other emergency supplies and equipment necessary to carry out the fire safety and prevention laws of the State.

**§132-O Minimum defensible space requirements; duties of the state fire marshal; enforcement powers of the counties; assistance to the counties.** (a) With regard to minimum defensible space requirements, the state fire marshal:

(1) Shall consult with the state fire council to establish minimum defensible space requirements;



1 (2) Shall establish requirements that are consistent with  
2 and do not exceed the standards pertaining to  
3 defensible space in generally accepted evidence-based  
4 codes and standards;

5 (3) May consider best practices specific to the State and  
6 traditional and customary practices relating to  
7 defensible space to establish the requirements;

8 (4) Shall periodically reexamine generally accepted  
9 evidence-based codes and standards and update the  
10 requirements to reflect the current best practices,  
11 which may be conducted in consultation with the state  
12 fire council;

13 (5) Shall enforce the requirements that are applicable to  
14 state lands within the jurisdiction of a county;

15 (6) Shall adopt rules governing administration of the  
16 requirements;

17 (7) May develop, in consultation with the state fire  
18 council, a graduated fine structure for the counties'  
19 use in assessing civil penalties on property owners  
20 for noncompliance with the requirements;



1 (8) Shall consult with stakeholders, such as the counties,  
2 on implementation of the requirements; and

3 (9) May adopt rules concerning requirements by the  
4 counties as described in subsection (b).

5 (b) Each county fire chief may adopt and enforce local  
6 requirements for defensible space that are greater than the  
7 minimum defensible space requirements established by the state  
8 fire marshal. Any local requirements that a county fire chief  
9 adopts for defensible space shall be defensible space standards  
10 selected from the framework set forth in generally accepted  
11 evidence-based codes or standards or other best practices suited  
12 to the State.

13 (c) The office may provide financial, administrative,  
14 technical, or other assistance to a county to facilitate the  
15 administration and enforcement of the minimum defensible space  
16 requirements within the jurisdiction of the county. The county  
17 shall expend financial assistance provided by the state fire  
18 marshal under this subsection to give priority to the creation  
19 of defensible space:

20 (1) On lands where members of socially and economically  
21 vulnerable communities, persons with limited





1 proficiency in English, and persons of lower income  
2 reside;

3 (2) For critical or emergency infrastructure; and

4 (3) For schools, hospitals, and facilities that serve  
5 seniors."

6 SECTION 4. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
8 and to read as follows:

9 "§132- State fire marshal selection commission;

10 established. (a) Beginning January 1, 2026, there is  
11 established the state fire marshal selection commission, which  
12 shall be placed within the department of law enforcement for  
13 administrative purposes.

14 (b) The state fire marshal selection commission:

15 (1) Shall have the authority to appoint and may remove the  
16 state fire marshal;

17 (2) May receive complaints from citizens on the office of  
18 the fire marshal and the state fire marshal;

19 (3) Shall evaluate and conduct an annual performance  
20 review of the state fire marshal;

21 (4) Shall post its agenda and minutes on a website;



1       (5) Shall be subjected to the state sunshine laws under  
2       chapter 92; and

3       (6) May adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91.

4       (c) The state fire marshal selection commission shall  
5       consist of the following seven members:

6       (1) Three members who shall be appointed by the governor  
7       subject to advice and consent of the senate and shall  
8       be voting members; provided that for the initial year,  
9       one member shall serve a one-year term, one member  
10       shall serve a two-year term, and one member shall  
11       serve a three-year term; provided further that after  
12       the initial term, each of the members may serve up to  
13       two consecutive terms for up to eight years with each  
14       term being four years;

15       (2) One member who shall be appointed by the speaker of  
16       the house and shall be a voting member; provided that  
17       the member shall serve an initial term of four years  
18       and may serve up to two consecutive terms for up to  
19       eight years with each term being four years;

20       (3) One member who shall be appointed by the president of  
21       the senate and shall be a voting member; provided that



1           the member shall serve an initial term of four years;  
2           provided further that the member may serve up to two  
3           consecutive terms for up to eight years with each term  
4           being four years;

5       (4) The chair of the Hawaii state fire council or the  
6           chair's designee, who shall be an ex officio,  
7           nonvoting member; and

8       (5) The adjutant general of the Hawaii national guard or  
9           the adjutant general's designee, who shall be an ex  
10          officio, nonvoting member.

11       (d) All members of the state fire marshal selection  
12       commission, both voting and nonvoting, shall elect a chairperson  
13       and a vice chairperson of the commission; provided that the  
14       chairperson is not an ex officio member.

15       (e) Any action taken by the state fire marshal selection  
16       commission shall be approved by a simple majority of its  
17       members; provided that a majority of the members of the  
18       commission shall constitute a quorum to do business.

19       (f) The members of the state fire marshal selection  
20       commission shall serve without compensation but shall be



1 reimbursed for necessary expenses, including travel expenses,  
2 reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties.

3 (g) Notwithstanding this section, if a state fire marshal  
4 has already been appointed by the state fire council by June 30,  
5 2025, as set forth in Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, the  
6 state fire marshal selection commission's authority to appoint  
7 the state fire marshal shall begin upon the expiration of the  
8 incumbent state fire marshal's term."

9 SECTION 5. Section 76-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

11 "(b) The civil service to which this chapter applies shall  
12 comprise all positions in the State now existing or hereafter  
13 established and embrace all personal services performed for the  
14 State, except the following:

15 (1) Commissioned and enlisted personnel of the Hawaii  
16 National Guard and positions in the Hawaii national  
17 guard that are required by state or federal laws or  
18 regulations or orders of the National Guard to be  
19 filled from those commissioned or enlisted personnel;

20 (2) Positions filled by persons employed by contract where  
21 the director of human resources development has



1 certified that the service is special or unique or is  
2 essential to the public interest and that, because of  
3 circumstances surrounding its fulfillment, personnel  
4 to perform the service cannot be obtained through  
5 normal civil service recruitment procedures. Any  
6 contract may be for any period not exceeding one year;

7 (3) Positions that must be filled without delay to comply  
8 with a court order or decree if the director  
9 determines that recruitment through normal recruitment  
10 civil service procedures would result in delay or  
11 noncompliance, such as the Felix-Cayetano consent  
12 decree;

13 (4) Positions filled by the legislature or by either house  
14 or any committee thereof;

15 (5) Employees in the office of the governor and office of  
16 the lieutenant governor, and household employees at  
17 Washington Place;

18 (6) Positions filled by popular vote;

19 (7) Department heads, officers, and members of any board,  
20 commission, or other state agency whose appointments



1 are made by the governor or are required by law to be  
2 confirmed by the senate;

3 (8) Judges, referees, receivers, masters, jurors, notaries  
4 public, land court examiners, court commissioners, and  
5 attorneys appointed by a state court for a special  
6 temporary service;

7 (9) One bailiff for the chief justice of the supreme court  
8 who shall have the powers and duties of a court  
9 officer and bailiff under section 606-14; one  
10 secretary or clerk for each justice of the supreme  
11 court, each judge of the intermediate appellate court,  
12 and each judge of the circuit court; one secretary for  
13 the judicial council; one deputy administrative  
14 director of the courts; three law clerks for the chief  
15 justice of the supreme court, two law clerks for each  
16 associate justice of the supreme court and each judge  
17 of the intermediate appellate court, one law clerk for  
18 each judge of the circuit court, two additional law  
19 clerks for the civil administrative judge of the  
20 circuit court of the first circuit, two additional law  
21 clerks for the criminal administrative judge of the



1 circuit court of the first circuit, one additional law  
2 clerk for the senior judge of the family court of the  
3 first circuit, two additional law clerks for the civil  
4 motions judge of the circuit court of the first  
5 circuit, two additional law clerks for the criminal  
6 motions judge of the circuit court of the first  
7 circuit, and two law clerks for the administrative  
8 judge of the district court of the first circuit; and  
9 one private secretary for the administrative director  
10 of the courts, the deputy administrative director of  
11 the courts, each department head, each deputy or first  
12 assistant, and each additional deputy, or assistant  
13 deputy, or assistant defined in paragraph (16);

14 (10) First deputy and deputy attorneys general, the  
15 administrative services manager of the department of  
16 the attorney general, one secretary for the  
17 administrative services manager, an administrator and  
18 any support staff for the criminal and juvenile  
19 justice resources coordination functions, and law  
20 clerks;



- 1           (11)   (A) Teachers, principals, vice-principals, complex  
2                   area superintendents, deputy and assistant  
3                   superintendents, other certificated personnel,  
4                   and no more than twenty noncertificated  
5                   administrative, professional, and technical  
6                   personnel not engaged in instructional work;
- 7                   (B) Effective July 1, 2003, teaching assistants,  
8                   educational assistants, bilingual or bicultural  
9                   school-home assistants, school psychologists,  
10                  psychological examiners, speech pathologists,  
11                  athletic health care trainers, alternative school  
12                  work study assistants, alternative school  
13                  educational or supportive services specialists,  
14                  alternative school project coordinators, and  
15                  communications aides in the department of  
16                  education;
- 17                  (C) The special assistant to the state librarian and  
18                  one secretary for the special assistant to the  
19                  state librarian; and
- 20                  (D) Members of the faculty of the [~~University~~]  
21                  university of Hawaii, including research workers,





1 extension agents, personnel engaged in  
2 instructional work, and administrative,  
3 professional, and technical personnel of the  
4 university;

5 (12) Employees engaged in special, research, or  
6 demonstration projects approved by the governor;

7 (13) (A) Positions filled by inmates, patients of state  
8 institutions, and persons with severe physical or  
9 mental disabilities participating in the work  
10 experience training programs;

11 (B) Positions filled with students in accordance with  
12 guidelines for established state employment  
13 programs; and

14 (C) Positions that provide work experience training  
15 or temporary public service employment that are  
16 filled by persons entering the workforce or  
17 persons transitioning into other careers under  
18 programs such as the federal Workforce Investment  
19 Act of 1998, as amended, or the Senior Community  
20 Service Employment Program of the Employment and  
21 Training Administration of the United States



1 Department of Labor, or under other similar state  
2 programs;

3 (14) A custodian or guide at Iolani Palace, the Royal  
4 Mausoleum, and Hulihee Palace;

5 (15) Positions filled by persons employed on a fee,  
6 contract, or piecework basis, who may lawfully perform  
7 their duties concurrently with their private business  
8 or profession or other private employment and whose  
9 duties require only a portion of their time, if it is  
10 impracticable to ascertain or anticipate the portion  
11 of time to be devoted to the service of the State;

12 (16) Positions of first deputies or first assistants of  
13 each department head appointed under or in the manner  
14 provided in section 6, article V, of the Hawaii State  
15 Constitution; three additional deputies or assistants  
16 either in charge of the highways, harbors, and  
17 airports divisions or other functions within the  
18 department of transportation as may be assigned by the  
19 director of transportation, with the approval of the  
20 governor; one additional deputy in the department of  
21 human services either in charge of welfare or other



1 functions within the department as may be assigned by  
2 the director of human services; four additional  
3 deputies in the department of health, each in charge  
4 of one of the following: behavioral health,  
5 environmental health, hospitals, and health resources  
6 administration, including other functions within the  
7 department as may be assigned by the director of  
8 health, with the approval of the governor; two  
9 additional deputies in charge of the law enforcement  
10 programs, administration, or other functions within  
11 the department of law enforcement as may be assigned  
12 by the director of law enforcement, with the approval  
13 of the governor; three additional deputies each in  
14 charge of the correctional institutions,  
15 rehabilitation services and programs, and  
16 administration or other functions within the  
17 department of corrections and rehabilitation as may be  
18 assigned by the director of corrections and  
19 rehabilitation, with the approval of the governor; two  
20 administrative assistants to the state librarian; and



1 an administrative assistant to the superintendent of  
2 education;

3 (17) Positions specifically exempted from this part by any  
4 other law; provided that:

5 (A) Any exemption created after July 1, 2014, shall  
6 expire three years after its enactment unless  
7 affirmatively extended by an act of the  
8 legislature; and

9 (B) All of the positions defined by paragraph (9)  
10 shall be included in the position classification  
11 plan;

12 (18) Positions in the state foster grandparent program and  
13 positions for temporary employment of senior citizens  
14 in occupations in which there is a severe personnel  
15 shortage or in special projects;

16 (19) Household employees at the official residence of the  
17 president of the [~~University~~] university of Hawaii;

18 (20) Employees in the department of education engaged in  
19 the supervision of students during meal periods in the  
20 distribution, collection, and counting of meal



- 1 tickets, and in the cleaning of classrooms after  
2 school hours on a less than half-time basis;
- 3 (21) Employees hired under the tenant hire program of the  
4 Hawaii public housing authority; provided that no more  
5 than twenty-six per cent of the authority's workforce  
6 in any housing project maintained or operated by the  
7 authority shall be hired under the tenant hire  
8 program;
- 9 (22) Positions of the federally funded expanded food and  
10 nutrition program of the [~~University~~] university of  
11 Hawaii that require the hiring of nutrition program  
12 assistants who live in the areas they serve;
- 13 (23) Positions filled by persons with severe disabilities  
14 who are certified by the state vocational  
15 rehabilitation office that they are able to perform  
16 safely the duties of the positions;
- 17 (24) The sheriff;
- 18 (25) A gender and other fairness coordinator hired by the  
19 judiciary;
- 20 (26) Positions in the Hawaii National Guard youth and adult  
21 education programs;



- 1 (27) In the Hawaii state energy office in the department of  
2 business, economic development, and tourism, all  
3 energy program managers, energy program specialists,  
4 energy program assistants, and energy analysts;
- 5 (28) Administrative appeals hearing officers in the  
6 department of human services;
- 7 (29) In the Med-QUEST division of the department of human  
8 services, the division administrator, finance officer,  
9 health care services branch administrator, medical  
10 director, and clinical standards administrator;
- 11 (30) In the director's office of the department of human  
12 services, the enterprise officer, information security  
13 and privacy compliance officer, security and privacy  
14 compliance engineer, security and privacy compliance  
15 analyst, information technology implementation  
16 manager, assistant information technology  
17 implementation manager, resource manager, community or  
18 project development director, policy director, special  
19 assistant to the director, and limited English  
20 proficiency project manager or coordinator;



- 1 (31) The Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services  
2 coordinator in the executive office on aging;
- 3 (32) In the Hawaii emergency management agency, the  
4 executive officer, public information officer, civil  
5 defense administrative officer, branch chiefs, and  
6 emergency operations center state warning point  
7 personnel; provided that for state warning point  
8 personnel, the director shall determine that  
9 recruitment through normal civil service recruitment  
10 procedures would result in delay or noncompliance;
- 11 (33) The executive director and seven full-time  
12 administrative positions of the school facilities  
13 authority;
- 14 (34) Positions in the Mauna Kea stewardship and oversight  
15 authority;
- 16 (35) In the office of homeland security of the department  
17 of law enforcement, the statewide interoperable  
18 communications coordinator;
- 19 (36) In the social services division of the department of  
20 human services, the business technology analyst;
- 21 (37) The executive director and staff of the 911 board;



[+] (38) [+] Senior software developers in the department of  
taxation;

[+] (39) [+] In the department of law enforcement, five Commission  
on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.,  
coordinator positions;

[+] (40) [+] The state fire marshal ~~[+]~~ and deputy state fire  
marshal in the office of the state fire marshal; and

[+] (41) [+] The administrator for the law enforcement standards  
board.

The director shall determine the applicability of this  
section to specific positions.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to affect the civil  
service status of any incumbent as it existed on July 1, 1955."

SECTION 6. Section 132-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
amended to read as follows:

**"§132-1 County fire chiefs; powers and duties. (a)**  
Records. The fire chief of each county shall keep in the county  
fire chief's office a record of all fires occurring in the  
county and of all facts concerning the same, and shall make  
~~[such]~~ compilations and statistical investigations ~~[as the fire  
chief may deem proper,]~~ on an annual basis, all of which shall





1 be kept as permanent records in the fire chief's office. All  
2 records shall be public, except that any evidence in any  
3 investigation may, in the discretion of the county fire chief,  
4 be withheld from the public.

5 (b) Investigations, generally. The fire chief of each  
6 county shall:

7 (1) Investigate the cause, origin, and circumstances of  
8 fires;

9 (2) Supervise and make or cause to be made ~~[periodically]~~,  
10 on a biennial basis, a thorough inspection record of  
11 all property ~~[which]~~ that might constitute a fire  
12 hazard within the county~~[+]~~ pursuant to subsection

13 (c);

14 (3) Summon and compel the attendance of witnesses and  
15 production of evidence and hold hearings and make  
16 orders in any matter under the fire chief's  
17 jurisdiction; and

18 (4) Cooperate with ~~[any and]~~ all other governmental  
19 officers or agencies having jurisdiction in the  
20 matters.



1        (c) On January 1 of each year, the fire chief of each  
2        county shall transmit the records and statistical investigations  
3        compiled pursuant to subsection (a) to the office of the state  
4        fire marshal. On January 1 of each alternating year, the fire  
5        chief of each county shall transmit the inspection record of  
6        property that may constitute a fire hazard within their county  
7        compiled pursuant to subsection (b) (2) to the office of the  
8        state fire marshal."

9        SECTION 7. Section 132-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10       amended to read as follows:

11       **"§132-4 Investigation of fires; criminal prosecutions.**

12       The fire chief of the county in which any fire occurs shall  
13       immediately investigate the cause, origin, and circumstances of  
14       fire by which property has been destroyed or damaged and so far  
15       as possible determine whether the fire was the result of  
16       carelessness or design. A county fire chief may request the  
17       office of the state fire marshal to assist with the  
18       investigation of a fire as provided in section 132-C.

19       If after any investigation the county fire chief is of the  
20       opinion that the evidence in relation to the fire indicates that  
21       a crime has been committed, the fire chief shall present the



1 evidence to the prosecuting ~~[officer]~~ attorney of the county in  
2 which the supposed offense was committed, with the request that  
3 the prosecuting ~~[officer]~~ attorney institute ~~[such]~~ criminal  
4 proceedings as the evidence may warrant.

5 If the office of the state fire marshal is of the opinion  
6 that the evidence in relation to a fire indicates that a crime  
7 has been committed, the office of the state fire marshal shall  
8 coordinate with the relevant county fire chief to present the  
9 evidence to the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the  
10 supposed offense was committed."

11 SECTION 8. Section 132-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 **"[+]§132-4.5[+] Investigation of fires; immunity for**  
14 **information received from insurers.** (a) The fire chief of each  
15 county or the state fire marshal may require any insurer in  
16 writing to release information relating to any investigation the  
17 insurer has made concerning a loss or potential loss due to fire  
18 of suspicious or incendiary origin which information shall  
19 include but not be limited to:

20 (1) An insurance policy relating to ~~[such]~~ the loss;

21 (2) Policy premium records;



1 (3) History of previous claims; and

2 (4) Other relevant material relating to ~~[such]~~ the loss or  
3 potential loss.

4 (b) If any insurer has reason to suspect that a fire loss  
5 to its insured's real or personal property was caused by  
6 incendiary means, the insurer shall furnish the county fire  
7 chief or state fire marshal with all relevant material acquired  
8 during its investigation of the fire loss, cooperate with and  
9 take ~~[such]~~ action as may be required of it by the county fire  
10 chief~~[r]~~ or state fire marshal, and permit any person ordered by  
11 the court to inspect any of its records pertaining to the policy  
12 and the loss. ~~[Such]~~ The insurer may request the county fire  
13 chief or state fire marshal to release information relating to  
14 any investigation the fire chief or state fire marshal has made  
15 concerning any ~~[such]~~ fire loss of suspicious or incendiary  
16 origin.

17 (c) In the absence of fraud, malice, or criminal act, no  
18 insurer or person who furnishes information on its behalf, shall  
19 be liable for damages in a civil action or be subject to  
20 criminal prosecution for any oral or written statement made that



1 is necessary to supply information required pursuant to this  
2 section.

3 (d) The county fire chief or state fire marshal receiving  
4 any information furnished pursuant to this section shall hold  
5 the information in confidence until ~~[such time as]~~ its release  
6 is required in furtherance of a criminal or civil proceeding.

7 (e) The county fire chief, in person or by officers or  
8 members of the fire chief's fire department, or the state fire  
9 marshal, in person or by deputies or employees of the office of  
10 the state fire marshal, may be required to testify as to any  
11 information in the fire chief's or state fire marshal's  
12 possession regarding the fire loss of real or personal property  
13 in any civil action in which any person seeks recovery under a  
14 policy against any insurance company for the fire loss."

15 SECTION 9. Section 132-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "**§132-5 Right of entry for inspection; unlawful to**  
18 **obstruct.** The county fire chief ~~[or]~~, the chief's designees,  
19 the state fire marshal, or the state fire marshal's designees,  
20 at all reasonable hours may enter any buildings, structures, or  
21 premises within the fire chief's or state fire marshal's



1 jurisdiction, respectively, except the interior of private  
2 dwellings, to make any inspection, investigation, or examination  
3 that is authorized to be made under this chapter. The county  
4 fire chief [øæ], the chief's designees, the state fire marshal,  
5 or the state fire marshal's designees may enter any private  
6 dwelling whenever the fire chief [øæ], the chief's designees,  
7 the state fire marshal, or the state fire marshal's designees  
8 have reason to believe that dangerous conditions creating a fire  
9 hazard exist in the dwelling. The county fire chief [øæ], the  
10 chief's designees, the state fire marshal, or the state fire  
11 marshal's designees may enter any private dwelling when a fire  
12 has occurred in the dwelling. It shall be unlawful to obstruct,  
13 hinder, or delay any person having the right to make the  
14 inspection, investigation, or examination in the performance of  
15 duty.

16 The county fire chief [øæ], the chief's designees [are  
17 authorized to make an inspection of], the state fire marshal, or  
18 the state fire marshal's designees may inspect all buildings and  
19 facilities, except state-owned airport facilities, the frequency  
20 of which shall be made in accordance with section 132-6, and  
21 shall make a report to the authorities responsible for the



1 maintenance of any building or facility when it is found that a  
2 building or facility does not meet minimum standards of fire and  
3 safety protection."

4 SECTION 10. Section 132-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 **"§132-6 Duties of county fire chiefs; periodic**  
7 **inspections; orders to remove fire hazards; appeals.** (a) Each  
8 county fire chief, in person or by officers or members of the  
9 fire chief's fire department designated by the fire chief for  
10 that purpose, shall inspect all buildings, premises, and public  
11 thoroughfares, except the interiors of private dwellings and  
12 ~~[state-owned airport]~~ state facilities, for the purpose of  
13 ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions liable  
14 to cause fire or any violation of any law, ordinance, rule, or  
15 order relating to fire hazard or to the prevention of fires.

16 (b) The inspection shall be made[÷

17 ~~(1) At least once each year at all public schools; and~~

18 ~~(2) At]~~ at least once every five years, or as often as

19 deemed practicable or necessary by the county fire

20 chief, at all other buildings and premises to provide



1 fire prevention and pre-fire planning within the  
2 jurisdiction of the county fire chief.

3 The [State] office of the state fire marshal shall conduct fire  
4 and safety inspections at all [~~state-owned airport~~] state  
5 facilities at least once a year.

6 (c) A written report of each inspection shall be kept on  
7 file in the office of the county fire chief.

8 (d) A copy of any report showing a change in the hazard or  
9 any violation of law, ordinance, rule, or order relating to the  
10 fire hazard upon any risk, shall be given by the county fire  
11 chief to any rating bureau making written request of the fire  
12 chief therefor.

13 (e) Each county fire chief [~~is~~] shall be vested with the  
14 power and jurisdiction over, and shall have supervision of,  
15 every building and premises in the county as may be necessary to  
16 enforce any law, ordinances, rule, and order relating to  
17 protection from fire loss; provided that this provision shall  
18 not in any manner limit the jurisdiction or authority [~~which~~]  
19 that any other county official may have over [~~such~~] the building  
20 or premises under any other law or ordinance. Whenever as a  
21 result of inspection or upon complaint or otherwise the county





1 fire chief determines that a law, ordinance, rule, or order  
2 relating to protection from fire loss has been violated or that  
3 a condition exists ~~[which]~~ that creates an unreasonable risk of  
4 fire loss, the fire chief shall prepare and serve upon the  
5 owner, occupant, or other person responsible for the building or  
6 premises a written order setting forth the nature of the alleged  
7 violation or condition, the law, ordinance, rule, or order  
8 violated, and the protections, safeguards, or other means or  
9 methods required to render the building or premises safe as  
10 required by law, ordinance, or rule. The order shall be  
11 complied with by the owner or occupant or person responsible for  
12 the building or premises within the time therein specified  
13 unless a timely appeal is taken pursuant to subsection (f) ~~[of~~  
14 ~~this section]~~.

15 (f) Owner's appeal to county fire appeals board. The  
16 owner or occupant may, within five days, appeal from any order  
17 made by the county fire chief to the county fire appeals board,  
18 which shall, within thirty days, and after a hearing pursuant to  
19 chapter 91, review the order and file its decision thereon,  
20 modifying, affirming, or revoking the order. Each county shall



1 by ordinance establish a county fire appeals board and shall  
2 provide for its composition.

3 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) [~~of~~  
4 ~~this section~~] where the county fire chief determines that a  
5 clear and immediate risk of fire loss exists, the fire chief  
6 may, after notice to the owner or occupant or other person  
7 responsible for the building or premises, and after a hearing  
8 pursuant to chapter 91, order [~~such~~] the person to take all  
9 actions reasonably necessary to render the building or premises  
10 safe from fire loss; provided that no notice or hearing shall be  
11 required where the county fire chief determines that the risk of  
12 fire loss is sufficiently immediate that delay would be  
13 dangerous to the public safety and welfare. If any owner,  
14 occupant, or other person responsible for the building or  
15 premises fails to comply with the order of the county fire  
16 chief, the county fire chief may take [~~such~~] action and make  
17 [~~such~~] any expenditure as may be necessary and if the owner,  
18 occupant, or other person responsible neglects or refuses to pay  
19 to the county fire chief the expense incurred by the fire chief,  
20 the county shall have a prior lien on the real property as  
21 provided for in section 132-7."



SECTION 11. Section 132-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**"§132-10 Witnesses; fees.** The county fire appeals board ~~[or]~~, the county fire chief, or the state fire marshal shall in all proceedings have the same powers respecting administering oaths, compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production of documentary evidence, and examining witnesses as are possessed by circuit courts. In case of disobedience by any person of any order of the county fire appeals board ~~[or]~~, the county fire chief, or the state fire marshal or of any subpoena issued by ~~[either]~~ any of them or of the refusal of any witness to testify to any matter regarding which the witness may be questioned lawfully, any circuit judge, on application by the county corporation counsel, shall compel obedience as in case of disobedience of all requirements of a subpoena issued from a circuit court or a refusal to testify therein. The fees and traveling expenses of witnesses shall be the same as are allowed witnesses in the circuit courts and shall be paid by the appropriate county out of any appropriation or funds available for the expenses of the county fire chief~~[-]~~ or, in the case of a summons by the state fire marshal, shall be paid out of any



1 appropriation or funds available for the expenses of the state  
2 fire marshal."

3 SECTION 12. Section 132-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "**§132-11 Recorded order of county fire chiefs and state**  
6 **fire marshal as evidence.** A duplicate original of every order  
7 made by each county fire chief shall be filed in the fire  
8 chief's office, and ~~[such]~~ a duplicate original of every order  
9 made by the state fire marshal shall be filed in the office of  
10 the state fire marshal. A duplicate original shall be  
11 admissible as evidence in any prosecution for the violation of  
12 any of its provisions. Unless an appeal has been instituted and  
13 is pending, the provisions of any order shall be presumed to be  
14 reasonable and lawful and to fix a reasonable and proper  
15 standard and requirement of safety from fire loss."

16 SECTION 13. Section 132-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "**§132-12 Court aid.** Each county fire chief or the state  
19 fire marshal may invoke the aid of any court of competent  
20 jurisdiction to enforce any order or action made or taken by the  
21 fire chief or state fire marshal in pursuance of law."



SECTION 14. Section 132-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**"§132-13 Penalty.** Any owner, occupant, or other person having control over or charge of any building, structure, or other premises who violates any provision of this chapter or any law, ordinance, or rule relating to protection from fire loss or who fails or refuses to comply with any order of the county fire chief or any order of the state fire marshal shall be fined no more than \$2,500 or imprisoned no more than thirty days, or both. Each day that a violation exists or continues to exist shall constitute a distinct and separate offense for which the violator may be punished. Penalties for continuing violations shall be assessed from the earliest known date of the violation. In addition to the penalty imposed under this section, counties may assess and collect civil penalties based on the penalty structure set forth by the state fire marshal pursuant to section 132-0."

SECTION 15. Section 132-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsections (a) through (c) to read as follows:



1       "(a) There [~~is~~] shall be established a state fire council,  
2       which shall be placed within the department of [~~labor and~~  
3       ~~industrial relations~~] law enforcement for administrative  
4       purposes. The state fire council shall consist of the state  
5       fire marshal, the fire chiefs of the counties, the fire chief of  
6       the Hawaii state aircraft rescue fire fighting unit, and a  
7       representative of the division of forestry and wildlife of the  
8       department of land and natural resources. The state fire  
9       council may appoint an advisory committee to assist it in  
10      carrying out its functions under this chapter. The advisory  
11      committee may include the heads of the various county building  
12      departments, a licensed architect recommended by the Hawaii  
13      Society of the American Institute of Architects, a licensed  
14      electrical engineer and a licensed mechanical engineer  
15      recommended by the Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii, a  
16      representative of the Hawaii Rating Bureau, a representative of  
17      the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, representatives of the  
18      county fire departments, a representative of the Hawaii state  
19      aircraft rescue fire fighting unit, a representative of the  
20      division of forestry and wildlife of the department of land and  
21      natural resources, and other members of the public as the state



1 fire council may determine can best assist it. The state fire  
2 council shall elect a chairperson from among its members.

3 (b) In addition to adopting a state fire code pursuant to  
4 section 132-3, the state fire council shall:

5 (1) Administer the requirements for reduced ignition  
6 propensity cigarettes, in accordance with chapter  
7 132C;

8 (2) Serve as a focal point through which all applications  
9 to the federal government for federal grant assistance  
10 for fire-related projects shall be made. Upon the  
11 receipt of any ~~[such]~~ federal grants, the state fire  
12 council shall administer those federal grants;

13 ~~[-(3)- Establish the terms of employment for the position of~~  
14 ~~the state fire marshal; and~~

15 ~~-(4)- Appoint the state fire marshal.]~~

16 (3) Advise the governor and state fire marshal on fire  
17 policy issues and serve in an advisory capacity to the  
18 state fire marshal on strategies for the  
19 implementation of fire and life safety issues; and

20 (4) Coordinate with the state building code council on  
21 matters pertaining to fire safety.



1 (c) The state fire council may also:

2 (1) Appoint advisory committees comprising representatives  
3 from each county fire department, a representative of  
4 the Hawaii state aircraft rescue fire fighting unit,  
5 and a representative of the division of forestry and  
6 wildlife of the department of land and natural  
7 resources to assist in drafting the state fire code  
8 and coordinating statewide training, data collection,  
9 and contingency planning needs for firefighters;

10 (2) Advise and assist the county and state fire  
11 departments where appropriate; may prescribe standard  
12 procedures and forms relating to inspections,  
13 investigations, and reporting of fires; may approve  
14 plans for cooperation among the county and state fire  
15 departments; and may advise the governor and the  
16 legislature with respect to fire prevention and  
17 protection, life safety, and any other functions or  
18 activities for which the various county and state fire  
19 departments are generally responsible; ~~and~~

20 (3) Establish, in conformance with the adopted state fire  
21 code and nationally recognized standards, statewide





1 qualifications and procedures, to be administered by  
2 the county fire departments, for testing, certifying,  
3 and credentialing individuals who perform maintenance  
4 and testing of portable fire extinguishers,  
5 water-based fire protection systems, other fire  
6 protection systems, private fire hydrants, and fire  
7 alarm systems; provided that the county fire  
8 departments may establish and charge reasonable  
9 certification fees[-];

10 (4) Review any conflicts that may arise in the adoption,  
11 amendment, or implementation of the state fire codes  
12 at the state and county levels or in the adoption,  
13 amendment, or implementation of rules proposed or  
14 adopted by the office or the counties pursuant to this  
15 chapter; and

16 (5) The state fire council may adopt rules pursuant to  
17 chapter 91 for purposes of this section."

18 SECTION 16. Section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by amending the definition of "authorized emergency  
20 vehicle" to read as follows:



1       ""Authorized emergency vehicle" includes fire department  
2 vehicles, police vehicles, ambulances, ocean safety vehicles,  
3 law enforcement vehicles, [and] conservation and resources  
4 enforcement vehicles, and office of the state fire marshal  
5 vehicles authorized and approved pursuant to section 291-31.5  
6 that are publicly owned and other publicly or privately owned  
7 vehicles designated as such by a county council."

8       SECTION 17. Section 132-16.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 repealed.

10       ~~["\$132-16.5] Office of the state fire marshal;~~  
11 ~~established.~~ (a) ~~There is established the office of the state~~  
12 ~~fire marshal within the department of labor and industrial~~  
13 ~~relations. The office shall be headed by a state fire marshal,~~  
14 ~~who shall be appointed by the state fire council to serve for a~~  
15 ~~term of five years. The appointment of the state fire marshal~~  
16 ~~shall be made without regard to chapters 76 and 89, and shall~~  
17 ~~not be subject to the advice and consent of the senate. In the~~  
18 ~~event of a vacancy, the state fire council shall meet~~  
19 ~~expeditiously to select and appoint a new state fire marshal to~~  
20 ~~serve the remainder of the unexpired term. The state fire~~  
21 ~~marshal may hire staff as necessary.~~



~~(b) The state fire marshal shall have the qualifications, experience, and expertise in fire safety, prevention, and control necessary to successfully perform the duties of the position.~~

~~(c) The duties of the state fire marshal shall include but not be limited to:~~

~~(1) Coordinating fire protection efforts between local agencies for the State;~~

~~(2) Working with the state fire council on matters relating to fire services in the State;~~

~~(3) Working with state and county law enforcement agencies for enforcement of the state fire code;~~

~~(4) Reviewing and assessing the fire risk of the State;~~

~~(5) Reviewing and proposing amendments to the state fire code and submitting the proposed amendments to the state fire council for the state fire council's consideration in its adoption of or amendments to the state fire code;~~

~~(6) Reviewing the emergency resources that are available in the State to be deployed to address fires;~~



1       ~~(7) Assessing whether the State would benefit from a~~  
2       ~~statewide public fire safety messaging program;~~  
3       ~~(8) Assisting in the investigation of fires when requested~~  
4       ~~by a county;~~  
5       ~~(9) Conducting inspections of state buildings and~~  
6       ~~facilities to ensure fire safety compliance;~~  
7       ~~(10) Providing and coordinating public education and~~  
8       ~~awareness on fire safety;~~  
9       ~~(11) Overseeing the training and certification of fire~~  
10       ~~inspectors and investigators in the State;~~  
11       ~~(12) Maintaining records of all fires in the State,~~  
12       ~~including the causes and circumstances;~~  
13       ~~(13) Assisting in the disbursement of federal grants for~~  
14       ~~structural fire protection purposes to the counties;~~  
15       ~~and~~  
16       ~~(14) Performing other duties as necessary or delegated by~~  
17       ~~the state fire council.~~  
18       ~~(d) In carrying out the duties of this section, the state~~  
19       ~~fire marshal may utilize the services of the state fire council,~~  
20       ~~including its advisory committees and administrative staff, as~~  
21       ~~appropriate." ]~~



SECTION 18. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,212,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 in the following manner:

(1) For fiscal year 2025-2026:

(A) \$206,352 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for the state fire marshal;

(B) \$189,804 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for one deputy state fire marshal;

(C) \$40,248 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position for one office assistant IV;

(D) \$160,000 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions for fire inspectors;

(E) \$240,000 for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions for fire investigators; and

(F) \$1,375,596 for the operations, costs, equipment, and expenses of the office of the state fire marshal; and

(2) For fiscal year 2026-2027:



1 (A) \$214,608 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
2 position for the state fire marshal;

3 (B) \$197,400 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
4 position for one deputy state fire marshal;

5 (C) \$40,248 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
6 position for one office assistant IV;

7 (D) \$160,000 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)  
8 positions for fire inspectors;

9 (E) \$240,000 for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE)  
10 positions for fire investigators; and

11 (F) \$1,359,744 for the operations, costs, equipment,  
12 and expenses of the office of the state fire  
13 marshal.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
15 of law enforcement for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 19. Notwithstanding the establishment of the state  
17 fire marshal selection commission on January 1, 2026, pursuant  
18 to the new section being added to chapter 132, Hawaii Revised  
19 Statutes, in section 4 of this Act, the term of employment of  
20 any person occupying the state fire marshal position on January  
21 1, 2026, shall not be affected.



1       SECTION 20. In codifying the new sections added by  
2 section 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
3 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
4 the new sections in this Act.

5       SECTION 21. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7       SECTION 22. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



**Report Title:**

State Fire Marshal; State Fire Council; State Fire Codes; State Fire Marshal Selection Commission; Reports; Appropriation

**Description:**

Effectuates the recommendations of the "Phase 3" Forward-Looking Report by Fire Safety Research Institute on the 2023 Maui wildfires and further clarifies the appointment and role of the State Fire Marshal. Establishes the Office of the State Fire Marshal in the Department of Law Enforcement. Establishes the State Fire Marshal Selection Commission. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. (CD1)

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

