

JAN 15 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. Chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
3 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
4 and to read as follows:

5 "§132- Duty of owner to clear brush or vegetation
6 growth. (a) Every owner or other person having charge of or
7 control over any building, structure, or other premises located
8 in a hazardous fire area shall:

9 (1) Maintain an effective firebreak by removing and
10 clearing flammable vegetation and combustible growth
11 from areas within thirty feet of the building,
12 structure, or premises; provided that single specimens
13 of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants used
14 as ground cover that do not rapidly transmit fire need
15 not be removed or cleared;

16 (2) Maintain an effective firebreak by removing and
17 clearing flammable vegetation and combustible growth



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
2 resources shall establish and implement a community fuels
3 reduction project to reduce hazardous wildfire fuels on State
4 lands, particularly on lands adjacent to communities. Where
5 feasible, the community fuels reduction project shall:

6 (1) Reduce hazardous wildfire fuels on the landscape that
7 threaten watersheds, communities, and critical public
8 infrastructure such as powerlines and communication
9 facilities;

10 (2) Create and maintain effective firebreaks along
11 undeveloped state properties that border a developed
12 parcel, including but not limited to schools and
13 residential and commercial properties, by removing and
14 clearing flammable vegetation and combustible growth
15 from areas within thirty feet of the developed parcel;

16 (3) Reduce flammable grasses on the landscape through
17 projects like managed grazing; and

18 (4) Provide water infrastructure for grazing and fire
19 suppression.

20 (b) The department of land and natural resources shall
21 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days



1 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2026 and each
2 year thereafter on progress made toward meeting the requirements
3 of subsection (a).

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
8 year 2026-2027 for the department of land and natural resources'
9 division of forestry and wildlife's community fuels reduction
10 project to support wildfire prevention and hazardous fuel
11 reduction measures pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

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

14 SECTION 4. Beginning with fiscal year 2027-2028 and each
15 fiscal year thereafter, the department of land and natural
16 resources shall establish the community fuels reduction project
17 as a separate line item within the department's budget.

18 PART III

19 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
20 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
21 begun before its effective date.



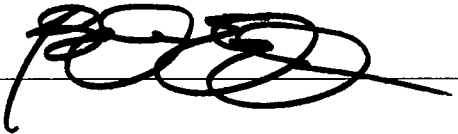
1 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;

3 provided that part II shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 223

Report Title:

DLNR; Property Owners; Hazardous Fire Areas; Fire Prevention;
Community Fuels Reduction Project; Report; Budget;
Appropriations

Description:

Requires certain owners and occupants of properties located in hazardous fire areas to maintain effective firebreaks within thirty feet of the property and to practice other fire prevention activities. Establishes the Community Fuels Reduction Project to be administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

