

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1676

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2025

**MAR 28**

RE: H.R. No. 62  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Public Safety, to which was referred H.R.  
No. 62 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE  
MARSHAL TO CONVENE A VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP TO  
STUDY, EVALUATE, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGULATIONS  
THAT DEFINE PROPERTY OWNER OBLIGATIONS FOR VEGETATION  
MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY TO MITIGATE  
WILDFIRE RISK,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Office of the  
State Fire Marshal to convene a Vegetation Management Working  
Group to study, evaluate, and make recommendations for regulations  
that define property owner obligations for vegetation management  
on public and private property to mitigate wildfire risk.

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Public  
Utilities Commission, the International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers Local 1260, Hawaiian Electric, Kamehameha Schools, and the  
Hawaii Forest Industry Association provided testimony in support  
of this resolution. Your committee received comments from the  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on this measure. One  
individual provided testimony in support.

HR62 HD1 HSCR PBS



Your Committee believes that wildfire risks can be mitigated with regulations recommended from the State Fire Marshal's Vegetation Management Working Group that define public and private property owner obligations, but finds that recommendations are also needed to define a line clearance tree trimmer and establish minimum safety standards, training, and qualifications for individuals performing line clearance tree trimming at or near electric utility facilities to prevent hazards. Your committee further finds that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is not the appropriate department to be administratively attached to the Office of State Fire Marshal's Vegetation Management Working Group because DLIR lacks the expertise and also because the Legislature is currently deliberating the Office of the State Fire Marshal's permanent, executive placement.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending its title in accordance with its amended purpose; and
- (2) Requesting the Office of State Marshal and the State Fire Council to undertake the recommendations that define a line clearance tree trimmer and establish minimum safety standards, training, and qualifications for individuals performing line clearance tree trimming at or near electric utility facilities.
- (3) Removing "DLIR", "Department of Labor and Industrial Relations", or "Director of Labor and Industrial Relations", and where applicable, adding the language, "whichever department the Office of the State Fire Marshal is administratively attached to".

Your committee further notes the next committee should consider Kamehameha School's oral testimony that pointed out vegetation management is the landowner's and easement holder's responsibility.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 62, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 62, H.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Public Safety,

  
DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-third Legislature

*HSCR 1676*

Record of Votes of the Committee on Public Safety

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HR 62</div>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">PBS, FIN</div>	<b>Date:</b> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">3/21/2025</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is)</span> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD)</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Hold</span> </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)         </div>				
PBS Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)	✓			
2. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco (VC)	✓			
3. HASHEM, Mark J.				✓
4. ICHiyAMA, Linda	✓			
5. LAMOSAO, Rachele F.				✓
6. MORIKAWA, Dee				✓
7. POEPOE, Mahina	✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.				✓
9. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	6	0	0	4
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted</span> <span><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</span> </div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;">             If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">committee acronym(s)</div> </div>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____ <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive; margin-left: 100px;">Della A. Belatti</div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee        Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office        Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				