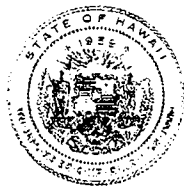


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1416

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 8, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 8, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 223, S.D. 2, H.D. 1,  
C.D. 1

RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION.  
**ACT 303**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on JUL 8 2025

THE SENATE  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025  
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 303  
S.B. NO. 223  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1  
C.D. 1

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION.

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

### PART I

SECTION 1. Section 185-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[+]§185-1.5[+] **Responsible agency.** (a) The department shall take measures for the prevention, control, and extinguishment of wildland fires within forest reserves, public hunting areas, wildlife and plant sanctuaries, and natural area reserves and shall cooperate with established fire control agencies of the counties and the federal government in developing plans and programs and mutual aid agreements for assistance for the prevention, control, and extinguishment of fires on forest, grass, brush, and watershed lands not within the department's fire protection responsibilities described above.

(b) The department shall establish an independent program relating to the prevention, control, and extinguishment of wildland fires within forest reserves. The department may



1 perform fuel reduction on lands not set aside to the  
2 department."

3 SECTION 2. Section 185-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 "(b) The administrator shall have the power and duty to:

6 (1) Review and approve plans prepared by the managers;

7 (2) Establish procedures and guidelines for the  
8 prevention, control, and extinguishment of fires  
9 coming within the meaning of this chapter;

10 (3) Establish procedures, guidelines, and conditions for  
11 the issuance of burning permits and for determining  
12 periods when forest reserves, public hunting areas,  
13 wildlife and plant sanctuaries, and natural area  
14 reserves shall be closed;

15 (4) Close or partially close forest reserves, public  
16 hunting areas, wildlife and plant sanctuaries, and  
17 natural area reserves, by restricting certain  
18 activities when necessary;

19 (5) Summon, when necessary, additional firefighting  
20 assistance, equipment, supplies, and materials needed  
21 to extinguish fires; [and]



- 1 (6) Do any act which the manager is empowered to perform  
2 under this chapter[-]; and  
3 (7) Establish and maintain facilities for the performance  
4 of fire protection, fire prevention, pest control, and  
5 forest and range protection and enhancement  
6 activities."

## PART II

8 SECTION 3. The state fire council may amend the state fire  
9 code to require that every owner or other person having charge  
10 of or control over any building, structure, or other premises or  
11 any holder of an easement located in a hazardous fire area  
12 shall:

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



1 from areas within one hundred feet of the building,  
2 structure, or premises when hazardous conditions cause  
3 a firebreak of thirty feet to be insufficient to  
4 provide reasonable safety; provided that grass and  
5 other vegetation located more than thirty feet from  
6 buildings or structures and less than eighteen inches  
7 in height above the ground need not be removed where  
8 necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion;

9 (3) Remove portions of trees that extend within ten feet  
10 of any chimney outlet of the building or structure;

11 (4) Remove deadwood from trees adjacent to or overhanging  
12 the building or structure; and

13 (5) Maintain the roof of the building or structure free of  
14 leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.

15 PART III

16 SECTION 4. (a) The department of land and natural  
17 resources shall establish and implement a community fuels  
18 reduction project to reduce hazardous wildfire fuels on state  
19 lands, particularly on lands adjacent to communities. Where  
20 feasible, the community fuels reduction project shall:



1 (1) Reduce hazardous wildfire fuels on the landscape that  
2 threaten watersheds, communities, and critical public  
3 infrastructure such as powerlines and communication  
4 facilities;

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

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

13 (4) Provide water infrastructure for grazing and fire  
14 suppression.

15 (b) The department of land and natural resources shall  
16 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days  
17 prior to the convening of each regular session detailing the  
18 progress made toward meeting the requirements of subsection (a).

19 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the



1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
2 2026-2027 for the division of forestry and wildlife of the  
3 department of land and natural resources' community fuels  
4 reduction project to support wildfire prevention and hazardous  
5 fuel reduction measures pursuant to section 4 of this Act.

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

8 SECTION 6. Beginning with fiscal year 2027-2028 and each  
9 fiscal year thereafter, the department of land and natural  
10 resources shall establish the community fuels reduction project  
11 as a separate line item within the department's budget.

12 PART IV

13 SECTION 7. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
14 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
15 begun before its effective date.

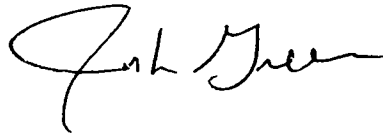
16 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



S.B. NO. 223  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 8th day of July, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Green" clearly distinguishable.

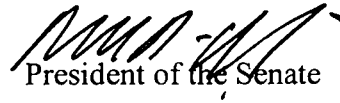
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII




**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate  
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 223, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives