
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, on August 8, 2023,
2 the historic town of Lahaina suffered a devastating fire. A
3 confluence of environmental and geographic factors, combined
4 with preparedness and response conditions, enabled the fire to
5 rapidly intensify into an urban conflagration resulting in heavy
6 loss of life, widespread destruction of homes and businesses,
7 and catastrophic impacts on the community.

8 The legislature further finds that, in the aftermath of the
9 Lahaina fire, several independent initiatives were launched to
10 investigate and identify the cause of the fire, identify
11 preventative action to reduce the risk of fires throughout the
12 State, and further reforms to bolster fire preparedness. One
13 such initiative, the interim working groups established by the
14 house of representatives, identified the need for staff
15 specifically dedicated to wildland fire prevention and proposed
16 the establishment of the office of the state fire marshal to
17 serve as the staff dedicated to such wildland fire prevention.



1 The legislature also finds that, in response to that
2 proposal, Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, was enacted to
3 establish the office of the state fire marshal, determine the
4 duties and jurisdiction of the state fire marshal, and fund the
5 office, including the salary for one full-time equivalent
6 permanent state fire marshal, for fiscal year 2024-2025.

7 The legislature finds that, subsequent to the regular
8 session of 2024, another initiative, the Lahaina Fire Incident
9 Analysis Report by the Fire Safety Research Institute,
10 independently identified the need for a state-funded
11 organization with the sole responsibility for wildfire
12 readiness, such as a state fire marshal. The Lahaina Fire
13 Incident Analysis Report also contemplates greater
14 responsibilities for the state fire marshal. The legislature
15 believes that the compensation for the state fire marshal should
16 be commensurate with the greater responsibilities contemplated
17 in the Lahaina Fire Incident Analysis Report.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
19 funds to supplement the salary for the state fire marshal.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
2 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
3 year 2026-2027 to supplement the salary of the one full-time
4 equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent state fire marshal.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
6 of labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

8

INTRODUCED BY:

Linda Chizane

JAN 15 2025



H.B. NO. 201

Report Title:

DLIR; State Fire Marshal; Salary; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to supplement the salary of the State Fire Marshal.

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