



**Representative
Lauren
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Serving You in District 45**

Aloha Friends and Neighbors!

Hawaii is our home, and we need to protect our resources from mauka to makai. Each year, about 0.5% of Hawaii's total land area burns, which is equal to or greater than the proportion burned in any other state. Over 98% of wildfires are caused by people either by accident or due to arson, and there are many things we can do to protect our homes and communities from wildfires.

Fireworks are a common cause of brush fires in dry, grassy areas. Please be aware that dry vegetation is extremely flammable. All it takes is one spark to cause widespread damage. Also, heat from vehicle exhaust systems can light dry grass. Park your cars on areas that are paved or gravel, not on dry grass.

When gathering around a campfire or barbecues, keep a shovel and water nearby, and never leave a campfire or barbecue unattended. Remember to put out coals cold before walking away. In addition, be careful and regularly maintain machinery or tools that might spark including weed whackers, chain-saws, grinders, welding equipment, and ATVs. Dry vegetation is extremely flammable, and all it takes is one spark to cause widespread damage.

Here are things you can do to help prevent wildfires by doing maintenance around your home:

- Keep grass short and rain gutters free of debris embers from wildfire can ignite a home up to a mile away.
- Prune and remove tree branches to be high off the ground to avoid a ground fire spreading into higher vegetation.
- Clear brush and leaf piles, which can act as a nest for fire embers.
- Plant trees and shrubs in clusters and leave a ten-foot space between your house and vegetation.

For more safety tips and to learn more on what you can do to protect your home and community, please visit hawaiiwildfire.org. Please call 911 to report any wildfires or suspicious activity.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns about any happenings in our community. Call me at (808) 586-9490, email RepMatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov, or visit RepMatsumoto.com.