



As of Jan. 15, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington have bills in play that address issues related to building codes, home hardening, and defensible space. *

Common themes

- Updating local land use plans and building codes to address wildfire, defensible space, evacuation plans and community resilience
- Proposals empower local governments to implement, enforce, or adapt to new standards and programs, often providing technical and financial assistance.
- Some bills seek to ensure that resilience efforts prioritize vulnerable, low-income, and overburdened communities.
- Several bills streamline permitting, litigation, or regulatory requirements to accelerate resilience and safety projects.
- Other bills expand education programs, offer homeowner incentives (tax credits, grants), and promote public awareness for disaster preparedness.

Washington:

- Mandates statewide adoption of wildfire codes (IWUIC) and clear, objective standards for residential development.
- Retroactively voids HOA rules that restrict fire-hardened materials.
- Integrates wildfire, climate, and equity into comprehensive planning and rural development.
- Clarifies local enforcement of fire codes and allows infrastructure extensions for health/safety with anti-sprawl safeguards.

California:

- Integrates wildfire risk into housing, land use, and infrastructure policy.

- Offers direct homeowner incentives (tax credits for fire-resistant improvements).
- Extends and expands defensible space and home hardening education, including volunteer training and annual reporting.
- Streamlines CEQA and litigation for critical fire prevention and evacuation projects.
- Requires local plans to include wildfire retrofit strategies and best practices.

Oregon:

- Shifts from state mandates to local flexibility, repealing/reforming previous wildfire hazard regulations.
- Emphasizes grant programs and technical assistance for local governments and small landowners.
- Prioritizes funding for vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure.
- Focuses on landscape resiliency and collaboration with federal agencies.

Hawaii:

- Responds to recent wildfire disasters with organizational and structural reforms.
- Proposes creation of a permanent Office of Resilience and Recovery for state-level disaster coordination.
- Emphasizes disaster preparedness, evacuation planning, and public awareness campaigns.
- Focuses on lessons learned from the Maui wildfires and the need for centralized resilience efforts.

Selected Examples by Topic

- **Wildfire/Disaster Resilience**
WA HB 1254 (Washington)
Mandates statewide adoption of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) by 2029, requiring mapping of wildfire hazard areas and supporting local implementation.
[WA HB 1254 Bill Summary](#)
- **Integration of Resilience into Land Use and Planning**
CA SB 815 (California)
Requires local governments to update safety elements in their general plans to include wildfire retrofit strategies and best practices for very high fire hazard areas.
[CA SB 815 Bill Text](#)
- **Local Government Empowerment and Support**
OR HB 3944 (Oregon)
Repeals certain state-level wildfire hazard mandates, instead providing grants and technical assistance to local governments and small landowners for defensible space and wildfire risk reduction.
[OR HB 3944 Overview](#)

- **Equity and Support for Vulnerable Communities**
WA SB 5699 (Washington)
Requires comprehensive plans to address environmental justice and prioritize support for vulnerable and overburdened communities in wildfire and climate resilience efforts.
[WA SB 5699 Bill Summary](#)
- **Regulatory Streamlining and Program Reform**
CA AB 66 (California)
Temporarily exempts certain wildfire evacuation route projects from CEQA to accelerate emergency access improvements in high-risk areas, with environmental and public process safeguards.
[CA AB 66 Bill Text](#)
- **Education, Incentives, and Public Awareness**
CA SB 662 (California)
Extends and expands programs for defensible space and home hardening education, including volunteer training and annual reporting to increase community wildfire preparedness.
[CA SB 662 Bill Text](#)
- **Organizational Reform for Disaster Resilience: HI HCR 64 (2025)** (Hawaii)
Calls for a working group to evaluate the creation of a permanent Office of Resilience and Recovery to coordinate state-level disaster preparedness and response.
[HI HCR 64 Measure Archive](#)

* Summaries generated with Quorum assistance.