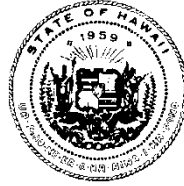


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director**  
**Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**  
&  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024**  
**8:35 AM – Room 430, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**HB 2549**  
**RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY**

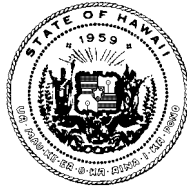
Honorable Chair Ichiyama, Honorable Chair Evslin, and members of the House Committee on Water & Land, and House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill (HB) 2549, relating to Maui's permanent housing recovery.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **appreciates the intent** of HB 2549, which establishes within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery and facilitate consultation and collaboration between state and county agencies on housing recovery initiatives for the island of Maui. Designates the executive director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to serve as chair of the council. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriation ceiling exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Sunsets 6/30/2034.

Please know that the HPHA stands ready to assist the Legislature in this endeavor and looks forward to collaborating with all stakeholders with the future planning, development, and redevelopment efforts of public lands on the island of Maui.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committees with the HPHA's testimony. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

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



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 5, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
House Committee on Water & Land

The Honorable Representative Luke A. Evslin, Chair  
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 2549](#) – RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY.

Hearing: February 7, 2024, 8:35 a.m.  
Conference Room 430, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, provides comments, and defers to the County of Maui, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and other named agencies. DHS respectfully suggests an amendment.

**PURPOSE:** This bill establishes within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery and facilitate consultation and collaboration between state and county agencies on housing recovery initiatives for the island of Maui. Designates the executive director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to serve as chair of the council. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriation ceiling exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Sunsets 6/30/2034.

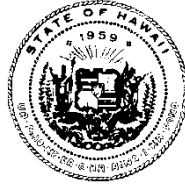
DHS is actively participating with the County of Maui and other federal, county, and state agencies as part of Maui's recovery process. There are several committees and workgroups addressing interim and long-term housing needs. It is essential to appreciate that the County of Maui and the residents of Maui should have primary seats at the table to make decisions regarding the long-term housing recovery efforts.

DHS respectfully suggests that due to the membership and size of the council, a quorum be defined as a majority of those present.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR



**DEAN MINAKAMI**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of  
**DEAN MINAKAMI**

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
AND**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

February 07, 2024 at 8:35 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 430

In consideration of  
**H.B. 2549**

**RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY.**

HHFDC **supports** HB 2549, which establishes the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery as an advisory body to help to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery, and to facilitate consultation and collaboration between the State and the County on housing recovery initiatives for Maui. The 38-member council will be chaired by the HHFDC Executive Director and administratively attached to DBEDT, to which this bill makes a \$500,000 appropriation for the purpose of providing assistance in applying for federal loans and grants.

HHFDC recognizes that effective coordination among Federal, State, and County governmental agencies and the Maui community is essential for the recovery of permanent housing on Maui. This measure creates a council which will facilitate communication among the entities that are assisting in that effort, thereby streamlining the permanent housing recovery process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 5, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Water & Land  
The Honorable Representative Luke A. Evslin, Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Housing

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB2549, RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY**

I **support** this measure to establish the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Establishing the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery will support the comprehensive wildfire recovery for Maui Island, including by formulating a much-needed strategic plan to address Maui's housing recovery projects.
2. The Interagency Council will include important representation from Maui by including as members various Maui County departments, the community, and a member of the Maui County Council.
3. Having this construct between the State and County of Maui for the many years it will take to plan, coordinate, and fund Maui's housing recovery will be beneficial in working toward unified and coordinated efforts.

Thank you for your consideration.



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND and HOUSING  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 430  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 AT 8:35 A.M.**

To The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Water & Land  
To The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair  
The Honorable Micah P.K. Aiu, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Housing

## **SUPPORT HB2549 RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS HB2549** which establishes within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery and facilitate consultation and collaboration between state and county agencies on housing recovery initiatives for the island of Maui, designates the executive director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to serve as chair of the council, appropriates moneys, and declares that the appropriation ceiling exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

Maui County had a housing crisis prior to the wildfires and given the now extreme need for housing on Maui exacerbated by the wildfires, we need urgent solutions. We recognize there are significant state and county lands that can be used for housing, and we support the idea of creating this council who will formulate a strategic housing plan, recommend policy, regulatory and statutory changes, and more. With strong representation by authorities currently involved in housing, we feel this council could expedite the planning, permitting, and building of desperately needed affordable housing and rental units. We appreciate that the council will also help secure funding for the projects and have to report to the Governor, Legislature, and Mayor of Maui County as it will help ensure this remains a high priority item and is constantly moving forward.

We would like to see the bill amended to specify that the council will work with Maui-based businesses to the greatest extent possible to build in capacity within Maui County's construction and related trades industries and to utilize public private partnerships to get this done expeditiously.



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

Further, while housing is imperative to our economic recovery, we can already see that DBEDT has a significant number of other responsibilities on our economic recovery and diversification for the next few decades. We support SB2028 to establish a separate Department of Housing and would like to see this council centralized under that department, should this bill pass.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT HB2549** and respectfully ask that it be passed.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

**HB-2549**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:31:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/7/2024 8:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for this legislation. I think it is critically important to prioritize and focus on how we will rebuild our state and county projects as well as our affordable housing, senior centers/housing etc. There is a great opportunity in the rebuild of Lahaina to build this type of public infrastructure in a more resilient way with EHPA standards and emergency evacuation routes etc in mind - please include resilience, Hawaiian culture and safety as a standard with which these developments will be reimagined as well as multi-modal transportation and pedestrian friendly amenities. I would ask for an amendment to have the Hawaiian cultural adviser to be a voting member as well

Mahalo for your commitment to rebuilding with resilience and residents in mind,

Tamara Paltin