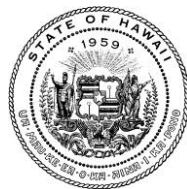


JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 2693, Relating to Historic and Cultural Preservation.

BEFORE THE:

House Committee on Water and Land

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

TIME: 10:15 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 430

Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation ("Department") offers the following comments regarding H.B. 2693 for your consideration.

H.B. 2693 would create a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to establish a Cultural Corridor Authority and Cultural Corridor Districts to promote recovery, remediation, and redevelopment in areas of the State affected by disaster. The Authority would be exempt from state taxes and authorized to issue bonds to finance public facilities within designated districts.

H.B. 2693 would also amend chapter 235, HRS, which governs income tax, to create a new nonrefundable income tax credit for taxpayers who voluntarily relinquish real property located in an area affected by a disaster to the county within which the real property is located. The new nonrefundable credit amount would be equal to the value of the relinquished real property, as assessed by county officials. The new credit provision defines "disaster" to mean "any emergency that results in loss of life, property, or environment and requires, or may require, assistance from other counties, states, the federal government, or from private agencies." "Emergency" is defined as "any occurrence that results in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property or substantial damage to or loss of the environment." This new credit would apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

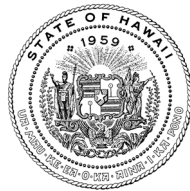
The Department notes that the definitions of "disaster" and "emergency" in Part II of the bill are quite broad and are not predicated on a Presidential or Gubernatorial disaster declaration. Without guidance, the Department cannot determine whether a "disaster" or "emergency" has truly occurred or has concluded. The Department therefore recommends that the terms "disaster" and "emergency" be amended by requiring a proclamation by the Governor or President.

The Department also suggests that a definition be added for the term "relinquished." The bill, as currently drafted, is unclear as to what would constitute a relinquishment and whether a taxpayer who is compensated for the relinquishment would qualify for the tax credit.

Further, the Department notes that the bill does not specify the taxable year for which the credit may be claimed. The Department recommends amending subsection (e) in part II of the bill to specify that the credit must be claimed before the end of the twelfth month following the close of the taxable year during which the real property was relinquished by the taxpayer to the county. The Department also recommends amending subsection (b) of this new credit to replace the phrase "the tax credit allowable is for the assessed value of real property relinquished by the entity for the taxable year" with "the tax credit allowable is for the assessed value of real property relinquished by the entity to the county during the taxable year."

Furthermore, the Department notes that the bill would not preclude multiple owners of a single parcel of property from each claiming a credit for the full amount of the assessed value of the property, notwithstanding each owner's fractional interest. The Department suggests amending the bill to limit the amount of credit that may be claimed by each owner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2693

February 6, 2024
10:15 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 2693: 1) establishes the Cultural Corridor (CC) Authority (CCA) within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to develop plans to redevelop areas affected by disaster while maintaining historic and cultural preservation; 2) requires CCA to create a redevelopment plan for designated CC Districts (CCD); 3) establishes the Lahaina CCD (LCCD); 4) establishes the CC Special Fund (CCSF) for the purposes of CCA; 5) establishes a new income tax credit to incentivize the voluntary relinquishment of real property located in areas affected by disaster; 6) requires the Department of the Attorney General to initiate eminent domain proceedings for privately-owned properties in disaster affected areas for which the owner has expressed interest in disposing the property; 7) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 25 for the creation of a redevelopment plan for LCCD; and 8) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 25 for eminent domain proceedings under CCA.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should:

- 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process;
- 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue;
- 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and
- 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 2693, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed CCSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2693, RELATING TO HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 **TIME:** 10:15 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 430 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Alison S. Kato or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this bill.

Part I of this bill establishes the Cultural Corridor Authority (Authority) within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for administrative purposes. The Authority will have certain planning, development, financing, and condemnation powers over designated cultural corridor districts, which are areas in the State that have been affected by disasters. This bill also establishes the Lahaina cultural corridor district and a two-year transition period beginning on July 1, 2025, for the Authority to develop a plan to redevelop the Lahaina cultural corridor district. For each cultural corridor district, the Authority is required to develop a redevelopment plan, establish a community board, develop a district-wide improvement program, and establish cultural corridor district redevelopment rules on health, safety, building, planning, zoning, and land use, which, upon final adoption of a redevelopment plan, shall supersede all inconsistent ordinances and rules relating to the use, zoning, planning, and development of land and construction thereon.

Part II of this bill provides an income tax credit for the voluntary relinquishment of real property affected by disasters.

Part III of this bill requires the Attorney General to commence eminent domain proceedings to acquire privately owned real property located in areas affected by

disaster for purposes of redevelopment and historic and cultural preservation, so long as the private owner has expressed an interest in disposing of the property.

Section -7 of the new chapter proposed to be added to the Hawaii Revised Statutes by section 1 of this bill, beginning on page 17, line 6, requires the Authority to “establish a community board for each cultural corridor district.” However, pursuant to section 6 of article V of the Hawaii Constitution, executive and administrative instrumentalities shall be “allocated by law among and within” the principal departments. To remedy this, we recommend replacing lines 6-8 on page 17 with the following: “**§ -7 Community boards; establishment.** (a) There is established a community board for each cultural corridor district and placed within the department of business, economic development, and tourism for administrative purposes”

Section -8 of the new chapter on page 18, lines 3-21, proposes that the Authority develop a district-wide improvement program to identify public facilities to be funded by assessing real property in the districts specially benefiting from the public facilities. Because the express provisions of this bill appear to assess the real property benefitting from the public facilities, it may be subject to challenge as violating article VIII, section 3, of the Hawaii Constitution.

Article VIII, section 3, of the Hawaii Constitution provides, in relevant part, that “all functions, powers and duties relating to the taxation of real property shall be exercised exclusively by the counties, with the exception of the county of Kalawao.” The 1978 constitutional convention made clear that the “purpose of the amendment was to place the burden of the real property taxation system at the county level.” *Gardens at West Maui Vacation Club v. Cnty. of Maui*, 90 Hawai‘i 334, 341 (1999). The Hawaii Supreme Court acknowledged that “[a]rticle VIII, section 3 was expressly and manifestly designed to transfer to the counties broad powers of real property taxation[.]” *Kaheawa Wind Power v. Cnty. of Maui*, 146 Hawai‘i 76, 88 (2020). A “tax” is defined as “burdens or charges imposed by legislative authority on persons or property to raise money for public purposes.” *Hawaii Insurers Council v. Lingle*, 120 Hawai‘i 51, 59, 201 P.3d 564, 572 (2008). In amending the Hawaii Constitution to transfer the power of property taxation to the counties, the transfer “covered the whole subject [of real property

taxation] and embraced the entire law in that regard.” *Kaheawa Wind Power*, 146 Hawaii at 89, 456 P.3d at 162, citing *Gardens at West Maui*, 90 Hawaii at 341, 978 P.2d at 779.

Additionally, the special assessments may be subject to challenge under the Equal Protection Clause that forbids arbitrary classification. “[T]he classification ‘must rest upon some ground of difference having a fair and substantial relation to the object of the legislation.’” *Hasegawa v. Maui Pineapple Co.*, 52 Haw. 327, 329-330 (1970) (quoting *Allied Stores of Ohio v. Bowers*, 358 U.S. 522, 527 (1959)). Here, the public facilities that specially benefit real property include things like parks, sidewalks, and highways, which are generally and widely available to all. Imposing the burden of assessment only on properties in the cultural corridor district may result in charging the cost of a state function for the public benefit to a particular class. *Hasegawa*, 52 Haw. at 333 (“The cost of a proper state function conducted for the public benefit cannot be arbitrarily charged to one class in the society.”)

To address these concerns, we suggest as one alternative that the wording of section 8(b), on page 18, lines 7-21, be amended to read as follows:

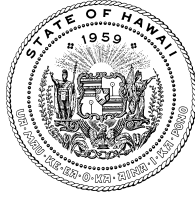
(b) Whenever the authority shall determine to undertake, or cause to be undertaken, any public facility as part of the district-wide improvement program, the authority may issue and sell bonds in amounts authorized by the legislature to provide funds to finance the public facilities.

We also recommend that the remainder of subsection (b) page 19, lines 1-5; the new subsection (d) on page 19, line 19, through page 20, line 9; and any other provisions to the extent they may have been intended to apply to this assessment, also be deleted.

Section 3 of this bill, on page 33, lines 8-15, requires the Attorney General to commence eminent domain proceedings. Because the circumstances may vary for the various parcels of property, there may be need for clarification before eminent domain proceedings may be commenced under chapter 101, HRS, and there may be situations where commencing eminent domain proceedings would not be in the public interest. The requirement to commence eminent domain proceedings would also appear to apply

to situations in which a private owner desires to sell its property to a person or entity other than the State. To address this concern, we recommend replacing the term “shall” with “may” in line 8 on page 33.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Land & Water

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

10:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

With Comments

H.B. No. 2693, Relating to Historic and Cultural Preservation

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the House Committee on **House Committee on Land & Water**:

The Office of the Governor offers the following comments on S.B. No. 2693, Relating to Historic and Cultural Preservation.

The Maui wildfire resulted in loss of life, homes, property, infrastructure, businesses, and natural and cultural resources. This tragic incident compels the State of Hawai'i to plan effectively for recovery and expand our resiliency capacity and capability. Innovative solutions are essential to supporting these efforts.

This bill establishes the cultural corridor authority, a public entity that shall determine a shared vision of a path forward for areas of the State affected by disaster and includes a shared vision focusing on community, historic, and cultural preservation, with cooperation among members of the affected community, private enterprise, and the various components of federal, state, and county governments in bringing mutually agreed upon redevelopment plans to fruition.

The State of Hawai'i State Disaster Recovery Coordinator has the role of coordinating and planning for recovery and resiliency efforts for the Maui Wildfire impacts in support of the County of Maui this is in contrast to emergency response which is led by HI-EMA under Emergency Support Functions.

Last fall the Governor identified seven Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) and their corresponding State Leads. The RSFs include: Natural Resources & Cultural Resources RSF coordinated by Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources; Community Planning and Capacity Building RSF coordinated by Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Housing RSF coordinated by Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation Infrastructure RSF coordinated by Hawai'i Department of Transportation; Economic RSF

Testimony of Office of the Governor
H.B. No. 2693
February 3, 2024
Page 2

coordinated Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; Public Health & Healthcare Services RSF coordinated by Hawai'i State Department of Health; and Social Services RSF coordinated by Hawai'i Department of Human Services. These RSFs and their state leads have been working closely with County of Maui, federal partners, and private organizations.

This approach—a State Coordinator coupled with RSFs—is consistent with the National Disaster Recovery Framework, a FEMA structure and process developed from the collective experience of disaster recovery managers nationwide. While the Office of the Governor is open to this concept identified in this potential legislation, we would ask the Chair to include the roles of the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator and RSFs in any new structure established to support the Maui Fires Recovery and Resiliency Efforts.

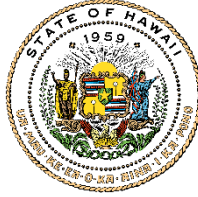
The potential legislation could be considered as long as there is no negative fiscal impact on the executive budget package.

If you have any questions on the role of State Disaster Recovery Coordinator or the State RSFs, we ask that you contact Luke Meyers, State Disaster Recovery Coordinator for further information and a dialog on this proposal during the legislative session.

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

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HI 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER AND LAND
Tuesday, February 06, 2024
10:15 AM
State Capitol Room 430 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2693
RELATING TO HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

House Bill 2693 establishes the Cultural Corridor Authority (CCA) to determine a shared vision of a path forward for areas of the State affected by disaster. The CCA will be attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for administrative purposes. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the intent of this measure and offers comments.**

House Bill 2693 establishes the CCA, which is empowered to facilitate redevelopment of affected areas after a declared natural disaster. The CCA has very broad powers, which supersede the powers of State and county agencies, to plan and implement recovery activities within a cultural corridor. Cultural corridors must be designated by statute. The Department fully supports the principle that cultural and historic preservation be given full consideration in designing and implementing disaster recovery programs. However, the Department recommends rather than establishing the CCA as a regulatory authority it be the formal body that gathers information from the relevant community related to historic and cultural preservation for disaster areas. More importantly the regulatory agencies must consult with before rendering decisions related to the preservation and protection of cultural and historic properties.

The requirement that a cultural corridor be designated by statute, however, could be problematic especially from a cultural standpoint which is not always bound by physical boundaries. The CCA could not exercise its authorities to facilitate recovery efforts for many months after the disaster. Federal,

State, and county agencies begin planning efforts for the recovery while still responding to the disaster itself, many months before the Legislature could designate a cultural corridor and the CCA could begin its work. Lahaina provides a concrete example of this. Even though the disaster response is still ongoing and at a time when the Legislature is just beginning to hold hearings on measures, the Department, other State agencies, the Office of the Governor, the Mayor and Maui County Council, and county agencies, together with federal agencies, relying on existing legal authority and the Governor's emergency powers, have been actively involved in planning and coordination for the recovery since December. Planning and coordination can always improve; and resources to implement both disaster response and recovery activities can always improve, but the necessary State, county, and federal institutional framework already exists.

The Department believes that the proposed powers of the CCA are overly broad. Existing statutory and regulatory provisions cover most, if not all, of the authority to be exercised by the CCA. Furthermore, the CCA's authority supersedes that of the respective county mayors and county councils in which the corridor is designated.

Section 31 of House Bill 2693 sets forth the purposes of the Lahaina Cultural Corridor. The Department supports those purposes but notes that Lahaina has significant cultural and historic resources from the post-contact period. Lahaina was the capitol of the Kingdom of Hawaii until 1845. Some of the buildings in the Lahaina National Historic Landmark District, although badly damaged by the wildfire, can probably be restored. The Department believes that this section should reflect the broader history and cultures of Lahaina.

Section 31 of House Bill 2693 establishes the Lahaina Cultural Corridor. The boundary is simply left to the discretion of the CCA. The Department believes delegation of the boundary designation should not be delegated to the CCA, especially since at this point in time the area affected by the wildfire is well known.

Finally, the Department notes that the requirements of Hawai'i Administrative Rules 13-275, -284, & -300, section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and 36 CFR Pat 800, which implements it, and *Ka Pa'akai* analysis all require and provide frameworks for facilitating consultation on identification, evaluation, and discussions regarding appropriate consideration of cultural concerns.

The Department believes the intent of the bill to have an independent body provide oversight and implement recovery efforts is noble but very difficult to establish and manage, while ensuring that it does not result in slower response and less community and local control is very difficult, at best.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

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

February 5, 2024

Chair Ichiyama
Vice Chair Poepoe
Honorable Members of the WAL Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
Committee on Water & Land
Via – on line testimony

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe & Honorable Committee Members:

SUBJECT: Opposition to HB2693

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

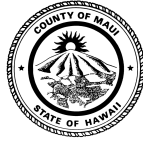
Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane M. Sinenci".

Shane M. Sinenci, Councilmember
East Maui District

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

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

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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Councilmembers
Tom Cook
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Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

February 6, 2024

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
10:15 AM

SUBJECT: IN OPPOSITION OF HB2693, RELATING TO HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Aloha e Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and honorable committee members,

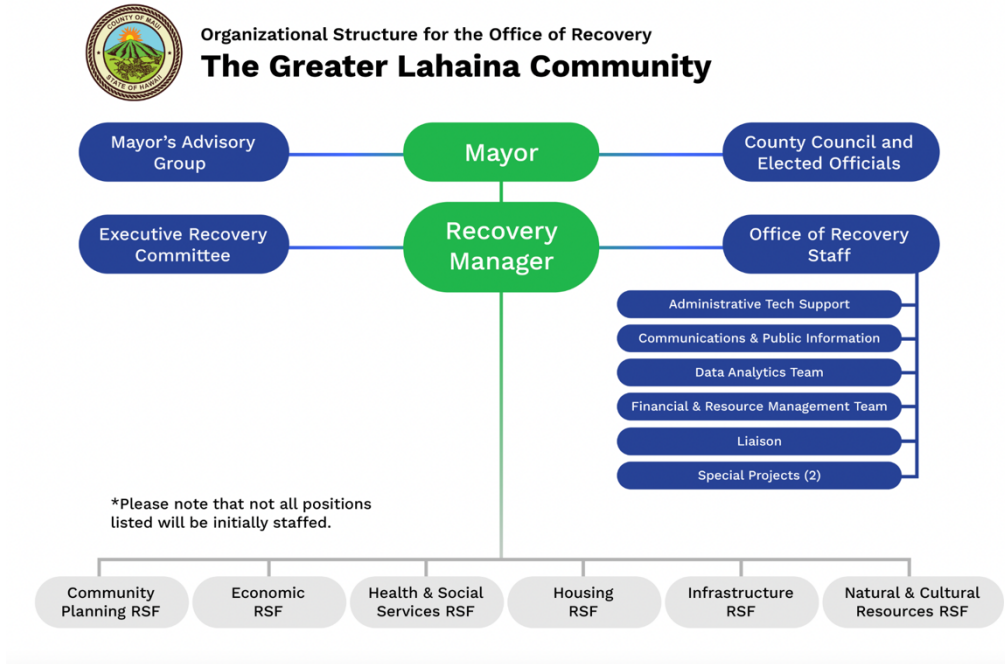
Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in opposition of HB2693, which would establish the framework for future cultural corridor authorities to redevelop areas affected by disaster, and establish a Lahaina Cultural Corridor District. I oppose the passage of this measure for the following reasons:

- 1) it seems to create unnecessary layers of bureaucracy,
- 2) doesn't include benchmarks to measure success or a timeline for dissolution,
- 3) is duplicative of the Maui County's Office of Recovery, and
- 4) its creation in statute will make it difficult to make changes as needed.

While the stated purpose is well intended, this process negates home rule. This bill is reminiscent of the Urban Renewal Law, in HRS 53-5, with similar powers, duties, and functions, except that instead of the County filling the seats of the decision-making board, the governor would have that power. It is not clear at what point the purpose of this envisioned authority would be completed and would then be dissolved, or if it would continue on indefinitely, like the Maui Redevelopment Agency.

Immediately after the fire, Mayor Bissen initiated the creation of an office to work with the community on recovery and redevelopment. From the MauiRecovers.org website: "The Maui County's Office of Recovery stands as a centralized hub orchestrating and overseeing recovery operations. It's positioned not just to facilitate physical reconstruction, but also to revitalize the community, ensuring that the socio-economic fabric is restored, and strengthened."

It states that it follows a Recovery Framework that operates under seven guiding principles: “Community Led, Government Supported; Individual and Family; Leadership and Local Primacy; Engaged Partnerships and Inclusiveness; Unity of Effort; Resilience and Sustainability; and Psychological and Emotional Recovery.”



Similar to that of our tourism authority, there is concern that the board appointment process could be politically driven, resulting in decisions removed from the grassroots community level and against their interest. Having a redevelopment agency created in State statute also makes it difficult to amend and harder from grassroots Lahaina folks from truly having the weight their voice deserves.

There is nothing in this bill that achieves anything that cannot be achieved without this bill. The specific purpose of establishing a Lahaina Cultural Corridor District is already being worked on within the community and County government, from the restoration of the Lahaina community; to the fostering of cultural practice and education; to the restoration of Moku'ula, including the restoration of a healthy water ecosystem; to a memorial; and a shoreline setback.

Furthermore, the community spent over two years in an extensive process updating West Maui Community Plan that was adopted in 2022. The community is looking forward to using that as an initial guide.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha,

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Councilmember

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:51:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clair Mason	The KoLab	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Clair Mason and I am testifying on behalf of myself and The KōLab, a community space in Kona. I oppose HB2693 regarding the restoration of Lahaina. This bill does not honor the wishes of the people local to Lahaina. Oahu, specifically Honolulu, consistently has too much power over outer islands legislation. Each of our islands have individual needs that only the local people to those places can understand fully. The horrific happenings in Lahaina should be rectified utilizing the vision of the local people to that place, under guidance of those local people. I understand the positive intent of this bill however it is not the right path forward. Thank you for considering this testimony. Please oppose HB2693 and restore the power to the people of Lahaina in this process.

Mahalo,

Clair Mason

The KōLab

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:21:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalika Po'okela Hi'ilei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Ichiyama, Vice chairman Poepoe & Honorable members of the committee,

I "URGE" you please **OPPOSE HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahainas autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8th, 2023, the people of Maui have been on a path to recovery & this bill threatens to undermine our communities self-determination. The proposed Cultural corridor authority, along with its **NON**-residential majority, risks sidelining the people of Lahaina's residents & small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community. Lahain's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents & community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of **HB2693** on Laahaina's self-determination. We need support & a voice in the rebuilding process, not a top-down decision-making. Your opposition to **HB2693** is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kalika P. Hiilei

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 1:03:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige Ka'ohu Kawakami	Hawai'i Community Bail Fund	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

Hawai'i Community Bail Fund stands in solidarity with the Lahaina community and so we urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy; and we echo the community's message:

"Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric."

Hawai'i Community Bail Fund affirms the importance of community-led decision making; and as Native Hawaiians maintain the deepest connection to Hawai'i, we urge you to consult the Native Hawaiian community leaders & members who have been supporting their communities since August 8, 2023.

Respectfully,

Paige Ka'ohu Kawakami

Hawai'i Community Bail Fund

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 9:29:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Green Party of Hawai'i opposes HB 2693.

The proposed Cultural Corridor Authority not only has a non-resident majority, it has little understanding of the deep cultural significance of Lahaina and its history.

We need long-term residents and business owners to be at the forefront of making the decisions and exercising their self-determination for what is best for Lahaina, not non-residents whose only skin in the game is financial investments.

Lahaina fought hard to keep as much of its roots as possible and far too much power left the hands of the people. We cannot allow this mistake to happen again.

Green Party of Hawai'i stands with a loud, No , on HB 2693 !

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:13:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Thomas	Hui Kulike Kakou	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Steven Thomas

Member- Hui Kūlike Kākou

Community Service Volunteer Group

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:38:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alberta Lono	Lahaina Strong	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2693

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:16:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kii Kahooohanohano	Malamanapuaohaumea, PBC,	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

The Maui fires have already taken enough from the actual people of Lahaina, the people, the history are what make Lahaina. We need to protect Lahaina from outsiders who have immediately came in to swoop up land and water and have been tryna push the people out for years. The fires accomplished this very well, and people have been moving in a mass exodus! The market is raging and Only the people of this place know this place and how to heal this land and people.

We need autonomy from the government who has shown little REAL interest in truly helping the people, and have been focused on what they can get out of this situation. There's even talk that they are doing this on purpose to be able to create some new haole world in Lahaina.

Volunteering day and night for months to help out my community, I see what is really happening. It is community that has taken care of one another. You wouldn't believe the stories, the news makes it sound like all is well, while we save dozens of suicide attempts as folks are kicked outta hotels repeatedly. Families torn apart, push out of their communities and homelands... our history's, artifacts, lives taken, and ZERO real empathy or true help. A woman who works for organization that tends to folks in disaster has helped with a variety of crisis globally and testified she has never been anywhere that THE PEOPLE didn't come first, that she's never seen the people harmed be treated so low, like second class citizens in their own home. She asked why isn't the government prioritizing people over profit and what seemed like corruption. This just goes to show, for some one whom this is their JOB, and who sees what should happen, and that it's not happening here in Maui! How could we possibly trust the government further to protect the people of Lahaina. Only the local Lahaina community can guide the process in a pono way, NOT OUTSIDERS! Or people with personal motives , and who want to make Hawai'i like the mainland. We don't want that... we want the people to lead. Not corruption

malama,

Ki'inaniokalani Kaho'ohanohano

Hawaii Financial Services

Est. 2003

House of Representatives

February 5, 2024

The Thirty-Second Legislature

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair, Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair, and the members of the House Committee on Housing

RE: Testimony in Opposition of HB2693

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lāhainā's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. As a lifelong resident of the Lāhainā community and Lāhainā small business owner who lost her 24-year mortgage brokerage in the Fire on August 8, 2023 I feel that my voice should not be ignored regarding this critical legislation. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lāhainā.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lāhainā's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lāhainā's distinctive cultural fabric. This proposed legislation is a critical step in providing stability and security to our Lāhainā community who have already endured significant challenges. I urge the legislature to stop HB2693 to offer much-needed relief and support to the Lāhainā community and beyond.

Mahalo for your attention and commitment to the future and well-being of our unique community.

'O au iho nō me ka 'oia'i'o,

Tera Lyn Ha'ahoeohonua Paleka



Tera L.H. Paleka, CMPS
Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist™
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eMail: Tera@Paleka.com

Website: www.HawaiiFinancialServices.com

Company NMLS#:1566069 | Individual NMLS#: 357949



HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:53:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keeaumoku Kapu	Na’Aikane o Maui Inc.	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou, my name is Ke'eaumoku Kapu and I am the pelekikena for Na'Aikane o Maui Inc. which is responsible for all observations and monitoring within the Lahaina wildfire cleanup and rebuild. Our cultural center also burnt down in August 8 2023 and we lost generations of archives and thousands of artifacts throughout the pacific and the world. We have been involved in the cleanup from day one and have been in the many discussions with the county State and Federal government in finding Pono solutions for our community at large and this is my testimony to HB 2693.

our Lahaina community and the community of Maui Komohana has many questions about this bil. We acknowledge that rebuilding Lahaina will take a coordinated effort between the community, businesses, and various agencies. The community's voice however, must come first. As every elected leader has proclaimed since the fire, Lahaina must determine how Lahaina is rebuilt.

community representation needs to be increased. The composition of the Authority should 1) have more community representatives, including one individual who is a member of the community advisory committee contemplated by the bill; and 2) have a period of years for residency of anyone who is representing the community or a Lahaina business. The "at large" members nominated by the House and Senate should also be tied to Maui Komohana. The cultural corridor authority, what are the parameters of the Lahaina corridor? This should be decided in advance, not by the authority itself. The scope of the corridor will impact whether the community supports or opposes this bill.

we appreciate your addressing these matters and clarifying them should this bill move forward.

Mahalo nui and am open for any questions the House committee may have. Mahalo nui.

Ke'eaumoku Kapu (pelekikena)

Ma'Aikane O Maui Inc

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:19:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine SanJose	Kahua O Kakou, LLC.	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in "OPPOSITION" to HB2693's Lahaina, Mau'i **Cultural Corridor Authority; Redevelopment of Areas Affected by Disaster; Historic and Cultural Preservation; Department of Taxation; Attorney General; Income Tax Credit; Condemnation; Eminent Domain; Appropriation; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded related to historic and cultural preservation.** All of these U.S. Government Departments and sites are all under an the International Justice Laws following an Illegal Military Occupation which is a form of War Crimes, Genocide, Suppression, and Oppression. The Hawaiian Kingdom in its all form of Continuity is under the Laws of the Occupied in which U.S. GOVERNMENT has no Jurisdiction over any and all of Hawai'i Islands aka. The Hawaiian Kingdom and Kānaka Maoli Peoples who are Hawaiian Nationals under the Hawaiian Kingdom laws (Kānāwai) of 1869 and 1884. Mahalo nūnui loa (Thank you very much.)

Elaine SanJose

38-250 Mauna Kea Access Road Hilo, HI 96720

humuularanch1847@gmail.com



Celebrating 50 Years of Preserving Hawai'i's Places

680 Iwilei Road Suite 690, Honolulu HI 96817 • (808) 523-2900 • preservation@historichawaii.org • www.historichawaii.org

TO: Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land (WAL)

FROM: Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director
Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee: Tuesday, February 6, 2024
10:15 a.m.
Via Video Conference and Conference Room 430

RE: HB 2693, Relating to Historic and Cultural Preservation

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing with comments on HB 2693 Relating to Historic and Cultural Preservation.

The bill would establish the Cultural Corridor Authority to develop plans to redevelop areas affected by disaster while maintaining historic and cultural preservation; establish an income tax credit to incentivize the voluntary relinquishment of real property located in areas affected by disaster; directs the Attorney General to commence eminent domain proceedings for certain purposes; appropriate moneys and declare. that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation appreciates the intent of the bill and offers comments:

§ - 3 (b) Members of the Cultural Corridor Authority:

In addition to the chairperson of the department of land and natural resources, HHF recommends that the Authority should include the administrator of the State historic preservation division or the administrator's designee.

This would provide a subject matter expert for matters related to historic and cultural preservation, which will be needed to meet the purpose of the Authority.

§ - 31 Lahaina cultural corridor district; finding and purposes:

HHF recommends that the purposes include the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration or reconstruction of buildings, structures, objects and sites that contribute to the significance of the Lahaina National Historic Landmark District and/or the County of Maui Lahaina Historic District(s).

Historic Hawai'i Foundation is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability and economic viability of the state.

§ - 235 Income tax credit:

HHF recommends that an income tax credit be provided for property owners that preserve, rehabilitate, or restore buildings, structures, objects and sites that contribute to the significance of the Lahaina National Historic Landmark District and/or the County of Maui Lahaina Historic District(s) in accordance with Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 68) and with the prior review and concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Division.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:31:00 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Aspili	La'i Hauola	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Water and Land

Hearing: February 6, 2024, 10:15 AM

State Capitol Conference Room 430

Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB2693: Relating to Historic and Cultural Preservation

Chair Ichiyama and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Kāwika Aspili, I am a 7th generation descendant from Lahaina, Maui. I am in strong opposition to HB2693.

I was also recently appointed as President of La‘i Hauola, a Maui Komohana-based nonprofit. Our board is composed of majority residents and lineal descendants of Lahaina, including one member who is from Aotearoa and joined to facilitate a community driven rebuild plan for Lahaina. Our mission is to ensure that as our beloved town of Lahaina is rebuilt, it is done so with the guidance and input of the community at every step. La‘i Hauola has begun the process to develop a truly community-driven and comprehensive development plan.

This bill is contrary to the countless voices who have demanded that any rebuild of Lahaina be community-driven. Instead it places all power of development decisions in the hands of state agencies that report directly to the Governor, who has time and again spoke on issues of Lahaina without consulting the community and to the benefit of corporate interests.

Although Senator Saiki introduced HB2694, which I will be testifying in strong support of, I am shocked that he would also introduce a bill that undermines and diminishes the Lahaina community’s ability to decide for itself how to rebuild the town that we lost. As a life long resident of Lahaina, I am curious to know which residents of Lahaina were consulted on this bill, if any. Many of us testifying in opposition today had no idea that this idea was being floated around by people far-removed from what our community experienced.

Please stand behind the voices of Lahaina and vote against HB2693. Our community is resilient and has the solutions, if the government is just willing to listen.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**
Before the House Committee on
Water & Land

In Consideration of House Bill No. 2693
RELATING TO HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the honorable members of the committee,

We are writing on behalf of Lahaina Strong, an organization that was initially formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and re-energized last year after the devastating Lahaina fires on August 8. Our organization, is the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 20,000 supporters, engaged in emphasizing the importance of local voices and community-driven solutions.

Lahaina Strong stands in opposition to HB2693. This bill proposes the establishment of the cultural corridor authority, which, despite its seemingly benign objectives, poses a significant threat to the autonomy and self-determination of Lahaina and its residents.

Our community is still reeling from the devastating fires that struck on August 8, 2023, which left our town in ruins and thousands of our residents displaced. House Bill 2693, in its current form, undermines the principle of "let Lahaina lead" by placing excessive power in the hands of Oahu and the state of Hawaii to dictate the redevelopment of Lahaina. The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its composition and decision-making structure, risks sidelining the very people who call Lahaina home and understand its unique needs and challenges.

The bill's provision for the cultural corridor authority to consist of appointed members, the majority of whom are not residents or small business owners in Lahaina, raises serious concerns about representation and local input. While we appreciate the inclusion of one resident and one small business owner or nonprofit representative from each cultural corridor district, we believe that the decision-making body should primarily

comprise individuals deeply rooted in and directly impacted by the community they are tasked with overseeing.

Lahaina is a culturally rich and diverse town with a unique history and identity. Any redevelopment initiatives must be driven by the people who know and love Lahaina best—the residents, small business owners, and community leaders who have a vested interest in preserving the character and integrity of our town.

Lahaina Strong firmly believes that local communities should have a central role in shaping their own destiny, especially in the aftermath of a disaster like the wildfires. Our community needs support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making that may not align with the aspirations and needs of Lahaina residents.

In conclusion, Lahaina Strong urges the committee to reconsider the implications of House Bill 2693 on the self-determination and autonomy of Lahaina. We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to preserving the unique cultural fabric of Lahaina. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Pa'ele Kiakona, Jordan Ruidas & Courtney Lazo
Lahaina Strong

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 08,2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB 2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

May Kanani Garcia



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 430
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 AT 10:15 A.M.**

To The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water & Land

COMMENT ON HB2693 RELATING TO HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to offer **COMMENTS on HB2693** which establishes the Cultural Corridor Authority to develop plans to redevelop areas affected by disaster while maintaining historic and cultural preservation, establishes an income tax credit to incentivize the voluntary relinquishment of real property located in areas affected by disaster, directs the Attorney General to commence eminent domain proceedings for certain purposes, and declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025

The Chamber notes that, at this point, we are not clear on what the community wants when it comes time to rebuild as this is still being discussed. The state and county are working together to drive a plan and we are very early in the Maui Economic Recovery Commission and community discussions. We currently have some concerns whether this would help speed things up or slow things down.

We are reaching out to different constituent groups to share the bill and hear their thoughts. We urge the Legislature to vet this bill very thoroughly and thoughtfully. There are a number of bills which will create a number of different authorities, commissions, etc. We urge you to look at wildfire recovery holistically and find winning solutions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer **COMMENTS on HB2693**.

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-2693

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 11:52:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

The Maui Planning Department already exists. Expand and work within the existing framework to accomplish desired outcomes. DO NOT create a new executive independent entity similar to Senator Cruz's failed PLDC- this will delay rebuilding, recovery and will push local families out (including mine).

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 12:24:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Arnds	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2693.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 9:15:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am kanaka maoli and I have two kanaka maoli daughters. We own land in Lahaina town that will very likely be directly impacted by this initiative. You will be taking Lahaina land from Hawaiians. Let us go home. We strongly oppose this bill.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 9:32:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara C Griffiths	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Lahaina resident and I am a voter. I vehemently oppose this bill. Lahaina deserves and is owed historical and cultural autonomy. The town, its people, the true capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii, has been used, abused and depleted for far too long. Defeat this bill.

Respectfully,

Tamara Griffiths

Lahaina, HI

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 9:33:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Vessell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It goes without saying that anyone with even a shred of decency and morality, who cares about the wellbeing of the people in their communities, and the restoration of kānaka maoli self-determination, OPPOSES this bill, as I do. This bill is a slap in the face not only to everyone who lost everything in the Maui fires (especially Lāhainā), but to ALL of us who are at risk of having our lives completely devastated by a natural disaster (especially a preventable one that was exacerbated by careless leadership). Putting the future of any and all communities devastated by a disaster into the hands of a few stuffed shirts who are drooling over the chance to "condemn, purchase or receive" lands they have been dying to get their hands on for decades is justifiable in your minds? Are you serious??? Just this excerpt alone shows what your true intentions are: "(a) Prepare for and establish the framework, criteria, and procedures for any condemnation, purchase, or receipt of lands, including land exchanges. (b) During the transition period, the authority may take any actions necessary to prepare for the redevelopment of the Lahaina cultural corridor district." People have been saying a land grab was coming, and you just proved them all right! And even worse, you just brazenly come out and say that Lāhainā is the first place you are going to "take any actions necessary" to "redevelop," with NO input WHATSOEVER from the people who lived, worked, and had family who DIED there, let alone kānaka maoli who have suffered their lands and water being stolen for GENERATIONS. How much more disrespectful and heartless could you possibly be? And apparently, the only "stakeholders" you allow at the table are those who are supportive of the kind of "cultural preservation" that is marketable to tourists and investors. No room for konohiki and people with ancestral family ties to the āina unless they get on board with YOUR idea of "the future." It is so interesting that you choose the word "corridor" in the name of this little enclave of well-connected backdoor wheeling and dealing you have planned. Corridors aren't large enough to accomodate everyone who has an interest in our communities...a fitting place to limit who has a say in the master plan, right? Seriously...what is wrong with you? Everyone who supports this bill (and I see the governor being awarded special powers in this bill so I'm sure Josh Green is loving this, too) should be disgusted with yourselves. SHAME ON YOU!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 9:41:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlos Lamas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Carlos Lamas, a resident of Lahaina, and I oppose HB2693. This bill, which seeks to establish a Cultural Corridor Authority for the purpose of preserving and remediating historically and culturally significant areas, unfortunately, threatens the very fabric of our local autonomy and self-determination. Specifically, my concerns revolve around the proposed composition and appointment process of this Authority, as well as its potential impact on the voices of Lahaina's residents in the redevelopment process.

The composition of the Authority, as currently outlined in the bill, is heavily weighted towards government officials and appointees, significantly limiting the representation and influence of the local community directly affected by the Authority's decisions. The proposed structure does not ensure that the voice and concerns of the Lahaina community will be heard. The inclusion of only two representatives from each cultural corridor district—comprising a resident and a business or nonprofit leader—seems grossly insufficient to capture the breadth of perspectives necessary for genuinely inclusive decision-making.

Moreover, the centralized appointment process, which grants the Governor significant power in selecting members, with additional roles filled based on recommendations from the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, heightens my concerns. This approach could allow political considerations to overshadow the real needs and qualifications that should guide the Authority's formation and actions. Such a configuration could lead to a lack of balance and diversity in the perspectives represented on the Authority, rendering it less effective and less reflective of the communities it aims to serve.

Furthermore, the bill's provisions for including business owners and nonprofit directors as district representatives, while intended to introduce varied perspectives, could instead pave the way for conflicts of interest. This is particularly troubling if these individuals' business or organizational interests stand to benefit from the Authority's decisions. The potential for such conflicts underscores the necessity of establishing stringent guidelines to prevent them, ensuring that all decisions are made in the best interest of cultural and historical preservation.

The Authority's structure, as proposed, is not representative enough of our community in Lahaina. It allows for disproportionate influence from non-residents and state officials, which could significantly diminish the local residents' voices in the redevelopment process. Lahaina's

unique cultural identity and history must be preserved, and redevelopment efforts should be driven by those who live and work within the community, ensuring that our voices are heard and our interests are protected.

Diversifying the appointment process to involve community organizations, cultural groups, and other stakeholders based in Lahaina could mitigate potential biases and enhance the Authority's legitimacy and effectiveness. Establishing clear conflict of interest guidelines is also essential to maintaining the integrity of the Authority's decisions.

In conclusion, while the intention behind the creation of the Cultural Corridor Authority may be commendable, its current structure and governance mechanisms fall short of ensuring that it will serve as a true steward of the rich heritage. By revisiting the composition and appointment process, we can strengthen the foundation of the Authority, ensuring it is more, transparent, and representative of the communities it aims to protect and serve.

Mahalo for reading my testimony in opposition to HB2693

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 9:45:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Perez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let Lahaina lead their own revival. The state should be supporters, not enforcers of this path.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 9:59:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlie McGuire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as a Maui citizen in solidarity with the Lahaina Strong Organization. Let Lahaina lead!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 10:24:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 2693.

Thank you,

Teri Savaiinaea

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 6:23:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LeaDan Yee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair People, and honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a former kumu, mother, resident of Hawai'i, and, most importantly, Kanaka Maoli, whose ancestors were both native to and immigrants who arrived on the shores of West Maui. On behalf of the many Kanaka Maoli families who remain in Lahaina, with limited resources and yet standing strong despite events that devastated the community, to represent themselves and the "voiceless", their keiki and the aina, I stand in opposition to HB2693.

This bill proposes the establishment of a cultural corridor authority, which may appear well intentioned if it did not further strip the people of Lahaina of their autonomy and continue to remove agency from the native peoples of this land. The bill's provision for the cultural corridor authority to consist of appointment members only serves to echo moments in the history of where the voices of businesses were preferred over the peoples of the land.

Going forward, the voices of the residents, small business owners, and community leaders of Lahaina, many of which remain in West Maui, assembling to protect this sacred space that is their home, should be prioritized over those on O'ahu or outside of West Maui. Our legislature is based on voices from all across the pae 'aina, community members elected by their community with the expectation that their representatives will speak on the behalf of their constituents. Any decision making body that is established on behalf of Lahaina or West Maui should have this same representation.

I appreciate your attention on this matter.

Mahalo,

LeaDan Yee

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:20:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the honorable members of the committee,

I can't support this bill.

Prople from Lahaina are the only ones who should have a say when in comes to the rebuild of Lahaina. This bill doesn't do that because it put power in hands of Oahu and the state of Hawaii

thank you for your consideration

-Keila Paahana

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:28:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha-

I am opposed to HB2693 for it's lack of Lahaina community members appointed to the proposed cultural corridor authority. One Lahaina resident and one small business owner is not enough. Redevelopment plans and awarding of contracts need to be scrutinized by the community. They should hold the majority of seats as well as votes.

The participation of the department of business, economic development and tourism is a conflict of interest. No tourism influences or opinions should hold sway. The HTA has decimated our state with over tourism. There are valid fears of their influence and any others with connection to the tourism.

Many Mahalos

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 9:28:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Espania	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Keep the decisions locally on Maui and in the hands of the residents that was directly & indirectly affected by the destructive fires.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 9:33:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justice Villaren	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

The Cultural Corridor Authority is not local, is not actually community based or driven, and is a ploy to allow foreign assets to decide the future of Lahaina & Hawai'i.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE.

Sincerely,

Justice Villaren

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:23:17 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry E Restivo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose **HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine the community's self-determination.

*The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its **non-resident majority**, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body **must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community**.*

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:28:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Stephens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina should determine its own future not people on a different island

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:32:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose any interference with what belongs to GOD Almighty!! I rebuke all that is evil in Jesus' name amen!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:35:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:38:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Lewis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Dawn Lewis

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:44:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholette Jauregui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

*Mahalo,
Nicholette Jauregui*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:49:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:49:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Konane Pokipala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Konane Pokipala STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:49:56 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina residents need to be fully authorized and included in any and all developments, decisions and building of the land in Lahaina Maui.

Outsiders have no place in making decisions for the Lahaina residents.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:49:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Goff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Maui resident I oppose this bill.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:55:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taytum Herrick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Taytum Herrick

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:56:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:13:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Delyon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth DeLyon

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:19:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Crawford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Greg Crawford

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:24:56 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiko Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kaiko

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:40:27 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable members of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

With its non-resident majority, the proposed cultural corridor authority risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must primarily comprise those deeply rooted in the community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in rebuilding, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Ezgi Green

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:43:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina is a culturally rich and diverse town with a unique history and identity. Any redevelopment initiatives must be driven by the people who know and love Lahaina best - the residents, small business owners, and community leaders who have a vested interest in preserving the character and integrity of Lahaina. The community needs support, resources and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top down decision-making which may not align with the aspirations and needs of Lahaina residents. Mahalo.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:46:17 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Liu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable members of the Committee,

I would like you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

With its non-resident majority, the proposed cultural corridor authority risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must primarily comprise those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in rebuilding, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for keeping Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Andrew Liu

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:51:11 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Patton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:05:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Channing M Bridges	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the taking of any Lahaina Resident's property by means of Imminent Domain, if they lost their home in the August 8, 2023 wildfires. These residents have been through way too much loss and the taking of their land would be unfair to these families.

Please focus on taking commercial property over private property. Mahalo!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:07:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicki Tedesco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Nicki Tedesco

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:09:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meagan Harden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Meagan harden and I am a resident of Manoa. I oppose this bill.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:22:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
louise drayer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

cultural preservation is very important - but it must be done with the input and direction of k̄anaka who ARE the culture, and with the input and direction of the the lineal descendants and residents who ARE Lahaina - please provide them that respect mahalo

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:25:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

the governor and all the politicians, including President Biden assured/promised that the community of Lahaina would be rebuilt with LAHAINA residents at the forefront of decision making ...please KEEP that promise ... "Let Lahaina Lead" ...

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:38:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micaleh I Crane-Worley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Micaleh Crane-Worley

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:53:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

michelle

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 1:01:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Schlea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

While I agree with certain parts of this bill like the preserving the cultural and historic element of Lahaina Town as well as the tax incentives for those directly affected, but strongly disagree with the Attorney Generals ability to commence eminent domain proceedings for any reasons...

Sincerely,

Brent Schlea

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 1:02:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Tyler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do agree with Lahaina's community in self-determination. I don't believe that can come to fruition, without more of it's local community/families making the decisions. So I oppose this legislation, until those actions are met.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 1:26:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marjorie Masalta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Marjorie Masalta

Maui

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 1:40:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Robinson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Jodi Robinson

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 2:26:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalana-michelle U Kaneakua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

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Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Dalana-michel'le Kaneakua

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 2:35:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Noonan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Joe Noonan

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:21:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine Lahaina's community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Winternitz

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:29:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Inda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:33:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

*Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:34:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LISA ISODA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

*Lisa Isoda
Lahaina, Maui*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:36:34 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Gabriel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Tanya Noelle Gabriel, LMHC, NCC

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:39:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorena Martinez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, **not** top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,
Lorena Martinez
Resident of West Maui

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:58:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantell Cambia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Chantell Cambia

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 4:03:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Ching Harbin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Susan N. Ching Harbin

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 4:21:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Medeiros-Criste	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Mahalo,

Mahealani Medeiros Criste

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 4:43:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa deAquino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Lisa deAquino

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 4:44:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Kala McShane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Elijah Kala McShane

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 5:01:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Velasquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Catherine Velasquez

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 5:10:17 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maryam Siddiqui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of the United States and a lifelong resident of Hawaii, I disapprove of this bill. I believe that this bill will further displace native Hawaiian people and other families who have lived on Maui. This bill will also make it practically impossible for any local businesses or financially struggling people to remain in Lahaina. This bill is also very disrespectful to the native people of Hawaii, especially considering the tragic fire they've very recently experienced on this land.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 5:20:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aree Worawongwasu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Aree Worawongwasu, and I am testifying in strong opposition to HB2693. HB2693 would place excessive power in the hands of Honolulu and the State of Hawai'i (the illegal U.S. occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom) to dictate the development of Lahaina.

The Kanaka Maoli and community of Lahaina should have the central role in shaping the future of their home, especially in the aftermath of the wildfires. I stand with Lahaina Strong in urging the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on the self-determination and autonomy of Lahaina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Aree Worawongwasu, PhD student at the University of Hawai'i.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 5:27:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Llanes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

MeleLani Llanes, Makakilo

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 6:37:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makoa Elgin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2693.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 7:24:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kellie penman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou!

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kellie Cole

A servant of the community

Mahalo nui loa!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 7:36:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Yvonne Alvarado Oppose Bill SB2693

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 7:42:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

*Mahalo,
Shelby Esteban*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:37:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Keahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against HB2693. Our community knows what is best for Lahaina. Let Lahaina Lead!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 10:09:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Agcaoili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kanoë Agcaoili

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:49:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Keala Fung

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:35:00 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:39:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

i believe this bill takes away the rights of the people of Lāhainā by eminent domain and funds giving their rights to redevelop Lahaina in a culturally sensitive way to for-profit developers, which to me seems to not make any sense at all.

Please leave Lahaina land in Lahaina hands.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:10:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Snedikor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's future. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily composed of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need your support and generous resources.

Please reconsider this important decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Best Regards,

Sandra Snedikor

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 4:41:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josephine Keliipio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Josephine L Keliipio

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 4:56:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikiala Akau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Mikiala Akau

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:17:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharee Orr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This will be used in poor form for land grab in Lahaina.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:47:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Kiakona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

*Mahalo,
Nikki Kiakona*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:12:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazuo Flores	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I'm a born and raised napilihau kanaka in opposition of HB2693

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:00:43 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Mahalo.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:07:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Esteemed Members of the Water & Land Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination. Too often we have let outsiders dictate what can be done by local communities. This needs to stop and more respect given to people affected by development.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

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Mahalo,

Susan Stayton, Lawai, Kauai, HI

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:12:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devon Steck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Devon Steck

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:16:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill HB 2693 which establishes the Cultural Corridor Authority to develop plans to redevelop areas affected by disaster while maintaining historic and cultural preservation. Establishes an income tax credit to incentivize the voluntary relinquishment of real property located in areas affected by disaster. Directs the Attorney General to commence eminent domain proceedings for certain purposes. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

I OPPOSE this bill because it is not a good thing for the people and place of Lahaina & Maui and sets a poor precedent for future similar situations. This bill is unclear and vague which is unacceptable and puts additional stress on the people of that place. The people who should be developing the plans for that place ARE THE PEOPLE OF THAT PLACE.

Again I OPPOSE this bill.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:16:38 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Herrera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Heather Herrera

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:21:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Lee Nava	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Cathy Lee Nava

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:28:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Herrick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee:

I urge you to **oppose HB2693**, which threatens to jeopardize Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery. This bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. While I appreciate local representation, the decision-making body must be **primarily comprised of those deeply rooted** in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires re-development initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. Lahaina needs support, resources, and a true voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Janice Herrick

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:42:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Batalona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, sidelines Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We DEMAND local representation, the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in the westside Maui community with preference given to those who have been directly affected by the fires and those who have organized on behalf of regaining and restoring the land back to the people!

I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Over the course of six months top-down decision makers have showcased their lack of care and support through it's mishandling and poor organization as the westside community remains houseless living in hotels and on the beach. For this bill to ask the community to trust an "authority" that you can't name, is unfair and disrespectful, given everything they have been living through. You can't ask this community to trust the state when the state continues to fail them!

The last thing we want on the westside of Maui is another Waikiki. This bill continues to put us on a path of releasing our precious land to the hands of those who only see profit, who do not care of keeping Hawai'i culturally intact.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric. It is a new year which means it's a good time to turn over a new leaf by showing the people of Lahaina that you put them FIRST! Meaning...people over profit!

Mahalo,

Kris Batalona

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:49:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luanna Peterson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing on behalf of Weaving Our Stories. A Hawai'i rooted community project engaged in emphasizing the importance of our stories in forwarding individual and collective well-being. There are a multitude of stories available for our consideration that reveal solutions to the challenges we face in the aftermath of the Maui fires.

House Bill 2693, in its current form, undermines the principle of "let Lahaina lead" and silences their stories by placing excessive power in the hands of Oahu and the state of Hawaii to dictate the redevelopment of Lahaina. The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its composition and decision-making structure, risks sidelining the very people who call Lahaina home and understand its unique needs and challenges.

Solutions to our most pressing problems draw from a memory missing the most important lessons that can heal and change lives. We must harvest lessons from our beautiful, brilliant, life-affirming stories. We also need lessons that can be distilled from the dark stories of our past, stories that can help everyone to understand the consequences of our short-sighted actions.

What lessons are we forgoing when we omit the collective stories and voices of our community? When lessons are we choosing to ignore when we do not look to the past when building our collective future? We have been here before.

The bill's provision for the cultural corridor authority to consist of appointed members, the majority of whom are not residents or small business owners in Lahaina, raises serious concerns about representation and local input. While we appreciate the inclusion of one resident and one small business owner or nonprofit representative from each cultural corridor district, we believe that the decision-making body should primarily comprise individuals deeply rooted in and directly impacted by the community they are tasked with overseeing.

Lahaina is worthy of her her stories. Lahaina's stories must be centered and must inform our response to any development initiatives. Any redevelopment initiatives must be driven by the people who know and love Lahaina best-the residents, small business owners, and community leaders who have a vested interest in preserving the character and integrity of our town.

In conclusion, Lahaina Strong urges the committee to reconsider the implications of House Bill 2693 on the self-determination and autonomy of Lahaina. We appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to preserving the unique cultural heritage.

Mahalo,

Luanna Peterson

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
TIME: 10:15 AM

Committee on Water & Land
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, members of the committee,

I stand in opposition to this bill as it is written. I strongly disagree with a few aspects of this bill.

First, if this Authority will possibly establish additional Cultural Corridor Districts in the future, there is no clear separation of authority between the representatives appointed for each Cultural Corridor District. Thus, as currently written, representatives for the Lahaina Cultural Corridor District (the first district) would seem to be involved in the decisions being made for future Cultural Corridor Districts. As we have heard from the voices of Lahaina residents who have spoken publicly, Lahaina's redevelopment and recovery should be led by Lahaina. With the current form of this bill, outsiders are systemically put into positions that would impede or interfere with the redevelopment of future Cultural Corridor Districts.

Second, having 2 representatives from each Cultural Corridor District as part of the Authority is insufficient. With all the powers and decisions that the Authority will have to make, relying on the judgment of 2 representatives from the community to provide the insight of a whole community is unrealistic. Also, having 2 representatives from the each Cultural Corridor District, while having 3 other members appointed by the Governor (Cultural Specialist, At-large from the President of the Senate, At-large from the Speaker of the House), systemically creates the same issue, a minority say from residents on the future of the area. Outside of the 5 appointed positions, there are still 5 more seats provided to outsiders of the area (Dept of Finance, Transportation, DEBDT, BLNR, P&P), which leaves a mere 20% of the Authority actually belonging to the area impacted. This is insufficient.

Third, the descriptions of the 2 representatives from each Cultural Corridor District is insufficient as well. In the Hawaiian language, we use the phrase "*No _____ mai au,*" to say "we belong to _____" (with the blank being the geographic area you are from). Translated, the "*No*" means, to belong to, and not simply a location a subject is/was at. In this Hawaiian worldview, there is a difference between belonging to a place (having a deep connection and responsibility/obligation to the place) vs. being from a place (simply living there without a deep connection and responsibility/obligation to the place). I point this out because those who represent a community in an affected Cultural Corridor District should belong to the affected area, having deep connection, responsibility, and obligation. Those who belong to a place have ancestry and family times that have been there for generations, and their responsibility/obligation to the area is deep rooted in their identity, and these are the ones who should be representing the affected areas in the development of a Cultural Corridor District. Those who have been living as a resident in an area for decades may feel some sort of connection, but it is undeniable that their connection is not as deep as one who has family ancestry connecting them to the area over generations.

Thus, the appointment of a resident of the affected area and a small business owner or nonprofit organization officer or director to the Authority is appalling. Deeper connections need to be required to ensure that the affected areas are represented by someone who is truly connected to the area.

Fourth, the Authority is to develop the plan for the Lahaina Cultural Corridor District, which should be finalized by the end of the transition period, yet there is no mention or requirement of substantive community involvement. A (re)development of this scale needs to have pathways in which the community is able to play a major role in the planning of the Cultural Corridor District. In § -6, the bill does mention that a public hearing be held on the proposed plan, and after consideration of comments and revisions, they can submit the plan to the Governor for approval, but this is insufficient as well. This bill needs to require a process to involve those belonging to the affected area to collaboratively create the Cultural Corridor District plan, prior to the public hearing.

In summary, this bill lacks the community connection that the community has called out for and rightfully deserves in being part of the process of redeveloping an affected area. For Lahaina today, for other areas tomorrow. Thus, I stand in opposition to this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.
Keoni Shizuma

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:09:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Micha'el Leventhal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee:

Aloha and greetings. I humbly urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily composed of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo for doing the right thing for our island community!

Eric Micha'el Leventhal

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:14:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blossom Jean FLORES	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

*Mahalo,
Blossom Jean Flores*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:26:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley Bond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned community member deeply invested in the well-being of Lahaina and its residents to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2693. My academic background in social work, particularly classes on human behavior within the social environment, has heightened my awareness of the profound impact our surroundings have on our cultural identity and collective well-being.

Lahaina is not merely a location; it is a close-knit community within our broader context of Hawaii. The recent devastating fires on August 8, 2023, have posed challenges, but they have also highlighted the resilience and unity of Lahaina's people. I have witnessed firsthand how our unique cultural environment shapes us, influencing our values, traditions, and interconnectedness.

The proposed Cultural Corridor Authority outlined in HB2693, with its potential non-resident majority, poses a genuine threat to Lahaina's integrity.

As a close community in Lahaina, we are committed to preserving our land and natural resources for future generations. The bill, in its current form, risks undermining our autonomy and the ability of Lahaina's residents to actively participate in shaping the rebuilding process. Lahaina needs support that aligns with our values, and a decision-making body primarily comprised of individuals rooted in our community is essential for achieving this balance.

Our community's resilience is not solely based on physical reconstruction but is deeply embedded in our identity and the preservation of our unique way of life.

Your opposition to HB2693 is paramount in ensuring that Lahaina's people, as stewards of our land, can actively contribute to the rebuilding process and safeguard our home for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Riley Bond

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:26:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Appreciate the intent, but this bill creates a lot of bureaucracy and red tape, and does not ensure that Lahaina will be redeveloped like the residents want, as promised by the Governor.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:49:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Barbeau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Generational residents and those of 20 plus years of residency need be the deciding factor in guiding the redevelopment of the land and town of Lahaina. Deep connection to West Maui, Lahaina, are these people, who hold knowledge of spiritual and cultural areas revered and respected as well. Even as assistance is offered and welcome, it need be brought before the residents for acceptance and all decision making must be done together with final results passed and accepted before our local residents for any finalizing vote. Those who are unaware should not, in any cases be making decisions which affect the local residents, surrounding environment, and possible negative effects in the future. Mahalo for your time. Stay Safe.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:05:50 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeff rogers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Now, more than ever, Lahaina needs to have autonomy when it comes to the rebuilding of Lahaina.*

Mahalo,

Jeff Rogers

Lahaina resident since 1976

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:08:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Position: Support Intent (with request)

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a resident of Lahaina, Maui. I am writing to express my support of the intent behind HB2693, relating to Historic and Cultural Preservation. Specifically, I'd like to request that the committee consider moving this bill forward to allow our community time to discuss and create consensus around the proposal.

You have likely received a lot of opposition to this bill and the current way that it is written. With that, I agree. The way the proposal was submitted gives too much power to parties outside of Lahaina, and part of what we would like to do as engaged community members is learn what the greater community believes would be the right way forward.

I understand that time is of the essence, as we have less than three months left before this legislative session closes. My request is that the committee passes this bill, so that the community is granted the time to come together and create amendments that would make the Lahaina community not only comfortable with but proud of this bill.

Our community is on high alert about the number of bills that have been brought forward about Lahaina, and the easiest way to deal with these is to support or oppose them. A smart friend who used to work for Senator Baker's office put it to me in the way that I hope we can share with the community: these bills are like a ball of dough... We need to suggests amendments or edits to the bills in order to prepare them for us to enjoy.

It has become clear from my involvement in the community since the fire that the restoration of Moku'ula and Mokuhinia are some of the top priorities for what we would like to see come out of this devastation that our town has experienced. I appreciate and support what this bill's intention is, though I believe that the Authority is not currently written in a way that the community would be comfortable with (and I believe that is much of the opposition that you will hear/have heard). I believe that the Authority should consist of a majority of Lahaina residents or lineal descendents with cultural and/or historical knowledge or Lahaina, local subject matter experts, and locals with urban developing expertise.

As an engaged community member, I am aware that there is a group of private citizens from Lahaina who are working to bring the community together to workshop the bills from the current legislative session. Our first meeting is going to be this Tuesday night. Coming out of these meetings, we hope to develop consensus as a community that we can provide as testimony when we have had more time to review and discuss this bill's intent.

Our community is experiencing overwhelm from many effects of this devastating fire on their lives and have had very little time to review, discuss, and understand this bill. I believe that the community engagement process will allow for us to share with one another both the positive and negative effects that this bill's potential contains as well as provide us with the opportunity to better understand each other's perspectives.

I hope that you will pass this bill through committee without amendments to allow us the time needed to review and modify HB2693 in the way that our Lahaina community sees fit.

Thank you,

Jackie Keefe

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:49:54 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Meade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify on HB2693. I oppose HB2693.

We already have a register of historic places. This new concept of cultural corridors is ripe for abuse and by the time the lawsuits are over it will be too late to have done what is right for the people of Lahaina.

Please vote no on HB2693.

Erik Meade

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:55:00 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for your work. I am opposed to this method of moving forward with the Lahaina historic district and shoreline management area. There are definitely difficult decisions that need to be made to build Lahaina into a more resilient town that reflects its authentic history and culture and while well intentioned, I do not think that this is the way for our community to move forward with the majority of decision makers not even living in West Maui. This process needs to be inclusive and transparent. New shoreline setbacks have recently been adopted with the county of Maui's special management area rule process and a community plan update could address other concerns in an inclusive and transparent way that would allow more participation by the residents of west maui

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:01:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genesis Purdy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

*Mahalo,
Genesis Purdy*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:22:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kepuhi Purdy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

*Mahalo nui loa,
Kepuhi Purdy*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:36:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cambria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina for the people by the people! LOCAL residents!!

Testimony in Opposition to State of Hawaii and Honolulu County Involvement in Lahaina
Redevelopment (HB2693)

To the COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND,

I write to you today as a concerned citizen of Hawaii, to express my unequivocal opposition to any proposed involvement by the State of Hawaii or Honolulu County in the redevelopment efforts of Lahaina. My opposition is grounded on constitutional principles and state laws that enshrine the rights to local self-governance and highlight potential infringements upon these rights.

1. Violation of Home Rule Principles

The involvement of state-level authorities in local redevelopment projects encroaches upon the principles of home rule, as guaranteed under the Hawaii State Constitution. Home rule allows for local government entities to manage their affairs without undue interference from the state government, ensuring that decisions can be made by those who are most affected by them. The imposition of state or county will upon Lahaina's redevelopment undermines this foundational principle, stripping our community of its rightful autonomy.

2. Precedent for Local Governance

Historically, the State of Hawaii has respected the autonomy of its various localities, recognizing the unique needs and desires of each community. The intrusion of state or county authorities into matters specifically pertaining to Lahaina's redevelopment not only sets a dangerous precedent but also disregards the established respect for local governance and community self-determination.

3. Potential Infringement on Property Rights

The increased involvement of state or county authorities in local redevelopment efforts raises significant concerns regarding property rights, as protected under both the Hawaii State Constitution and the United States Constitution. Any attempt by higher-level governments to dictate or overly influence redevelopment in Lahaina could lead to actions that infringe upon these

rights, including the potential for eminent domain abuses and the limitation of property owners' rights to freely develop or sell their property.

4. Lack of Local Representation and Accountability

The direct involvement of state or county officials in Lahaina's redevelopment efforts risks creating a scenario where decisions are made by individuals who are not accountable to Lahaina's residents. This lack of local representation in decision-making processes undermines the democratic principle that decisions should be made by those who will bear their consequences.

In conclusion, while the redevelopment of Lahaina is a matter of significant importance that requires thoughtful consideration and planning, it is imperative that this process remains under the purview of Lahaina and its residents. I urge you to oppose any measures that would grant the State of Hawaii or Honolulu County undue authority over Lahaina's redevelopment, in defense of our constitutional rights and the principles of local governance and community self-determination.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Fenton Kaulana Lee

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:50:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely OPPOSE HB2693!

This is government overreach trying to take the land of Lahaina

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:25:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Athena Roebuck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Athena Roebuck

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:58:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonard Nakoa III	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill. I believe this is putting too much power in people from Honolulu, to have the decision for the fate of Lahaina. We should have majority of the board be from LAHAINA.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:55:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB2693 - Protecting the Rightful Decision-Making Power for Lahaina

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Hawai`i to vehemently oppose HB2693. This bill, if passed, would undermine the rightful decision-making power of the people who should play a pivotal role in determining the future development of Lahaina. Instead, it places this crucial authority in the hands of individuals who lack the profound ties and understanding of this unique and culturally significant place.

The development of Lahaina must be directed, consented to, and led by the Lahaina community, particularly the Kanaka Maoli descendants who have a deep connection to the area. It is imperative that the decision-making process aligns with the wishes and insights of the local residents, who have a vested interest in preserving the essence and heritage of Lahaina.

The people of Lahaina and Hawai`i have unequivocally expressed that decision-making authority must be retained by those who genuinely care about the land and the community. We are no longer content with government officials who maintain close affiliations with developers or external entities that may not prioritize the well-being of the people and the land. The community demands that decisions regarding Lahaina's future be made through meaningful consultation and, most importantly, with explicit consent from those directly affected.

It is crucial to safeguard the democratic principles that empower local communities in determining their own destiny. HB2693, in its current form, poses a threat to this principle and risks imposing decisions that may not align with the values and aspirations of the Lahaina people. I urge you to reconsider and oppose this bill, ensuring that the voices of the community are heard and respected in the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Jessica dos Santos

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:55:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Leventhal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and greetings. I humbly urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily composed of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo for doing the right thing for our island community!

April Leventhal

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 4:03:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Rosario	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Malia Rosario

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 4:58:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamanao'i'o Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I'm In Opposition To This Bill As I'm Aware That There Is A Lack Of Maui Residents Who Reside On This Decision Making Board.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 5:03:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiley Adolpho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose. Stand with the people of lahaina and historical preservation.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 5:09:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose, stand with Lahaina and kanaka maoli led preservation

Opposition for HB2693

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **strong opposition for HB2693**, which addresses a proposed cultural corridor authority. This bill jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. In the aftermath of the challenging fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is steadily recovering, and this bill has the potential to undermine our community's self-determination. The establishment of the proposed cultural corridor authority, especially with its non-resident majority, raises concerns about sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners.

While we value local representation, it is crucial that the decision-making body is predominantly composed of individuals deeply connected to our community. Lahaina's distinctive identity necessitates redevelopment initiatives led by its residents and community leaders.

I implore the committee to reassess the ramifications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. What we truly need is support, resources, and an active voice in the rebuilding process- not top-down decision-making that could hinder our unique community-driven recovery.

Furthermore, this bill sets a precedent that could leave other culturally sensitive communities vulnerable to control outside their desires. Our community's vision for redevelopment aligns with the capabilities of our County Council or the establishment of a working group. Such a group, primarily composed of Lahaina leaders, can effectively address the five proposals our community desires, ensuring a locally driven approach to our recovery.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Katie Austin

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:04:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aliya Schlea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Aliya Schlea and I am from Lahaina. I strongly oppose HB2693 because I believe this cultural authority would majority consist of members who do not live or own businesses in Lahaina. This is a bad bill. Please kill HB2693 today and let Lahaina lead.

Mahalo,

Aliya Schlea

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:17:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Akamu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

None

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:21:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jake Manning	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Hb2693. Have you ever been somewhere and seen something that you knew just didn't belong in that area ? I'm sure you have. That's how we don't wanna see Lahaina rebuilt. Outsider perspectives have no right to be depicting Lahaina and rebuild. I'm a hails boy grew up Maui. Left to mainland first time when I was 16. It was then I really knew why people came to Maui. Not for the same shit that's mirrored all threw the Mainland. For the beauty, the natural beauty that you guys destroy so conveniently. I say start from the oldest Kapuna to the youngest adult. Get their insights. Keep it Hawaiian. Imua Lahaina 🙌

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:24:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
taryn sutherland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

i strongly oppose HB2693 as it is up to the people of lahaina to make the decisions that afeect their own community and not those who have no living connection to this...

it must be up to the local community who live there to decide these matters...

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:29:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Kahaialii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric. Please consider the decision that you make not only has an effect on Lahaina residents now but also in the long future ahead, for better or for worse for the locals that actually reside in and call Lahaina home.

Mahalo,

Nathan Kahaialii

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:31:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoelani Delatori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kanoelani Delatori

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:33:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital to Lahaina's autonomy, self-determination & identity during this crucial time. We only have this one opportunity to do it right.

Mahalo,

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros

Maui Resident

(808)866-7409

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:36:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristelle Turalva-Albano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kristelle Turalva-Albano

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:39:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Falkenbury	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing to strongly oppose bill HB2693.

I believe this bill does not have the bedt interest of Lahaina Residents.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:41:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Delatori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023,

Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,
Sean Delatori

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:48:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaneia Perkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:52:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rowan Adara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am a Maui resident and I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during their recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining the local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

The unique identity of Lahaina requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. The community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

I am deeply concerned about what will happen to Lahaina residents if their voices and needs are not given top priority. They need to be at the forefront since this is their home.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Rowan Adara

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:54:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vince	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A'ole HB2693

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:56:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amey Hempel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Honolulu taking over the process of redesigning Lahaina. The planning should be done by locals.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:59:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Nooney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose House Bill 2693.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:01:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Clapper	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill in the interest of protecting historical sites and lands. Maui needs to put history and Hawaiian culture before development and profit.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:03:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Earl Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

After the losses that we as residents have suffered from these fires; having EVERYTHING we know as home and daily life stripped from us in one day, we should have a say in what our future looks like when we return home. The lack of support and needed funds to many Lahaina residents has caused undo strain and stress to ALL of us. The failures of FEMA, Red Cross, and our government is enough to shake any faith we may have had in Lahaina's future. There is time, there are funds... please find the common decency to take the RESIDENTS wants and needs above ALL.

Thank you for your time.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:04:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Palacios	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo nui,

Ann Palacios

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:08:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Garrett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Lisa Garrett

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:10:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Palakiko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina. From Lahaina, for Lahaina! These representations must make up majority of the committees... if not, this bill should die here!

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo!

Jaime Palakiko

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:11:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meikaila Makahanaloa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2693 due to the bills complete disregard of the inputs of the people of lahaina, and by people of lahaina i mean the generations of families who are rooted here. Let our people lead the way! Only the people of this land will know whats best for it, this goverment has messed it up enough, let our people heal the land so the land can heal us.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:11:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:12:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maiya Hannon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Maiya Hannon

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:17:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare whitehead	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Tiare Whitehead

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:20:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Vela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not want there to be such an easy path for people to give up property. There should be more effort to ensure that people who want to keep property can do that.

Instead, make a tax credit that actually helps people keep their homes!

Kyle Vela

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:21:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valentin Neamtu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:22:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:23:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Hudson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693.**

It seriously undermines the power of Lahaina residents and respected community leaders to guide the recovery of Lahaina following the August 8, 2023 fires.

Please protect and preserve the unique culture of Lahaina by voting no on this bill.

Mahalo,

Jacqueline Hudson

6 Kiohuohu Lane unit 8

Lahaina, HI 96761

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:24:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaikona Kuhaulua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kaikona Kuhaulua"

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:24:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Reichert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Sarah Reichert

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:26:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ravi Bugga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

mahalo

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:36:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jedidiah S White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony against HB2693

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:36:34 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Castro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Tracy Castro

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:40:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan ng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Jordan Ng .. i am from Lahaina. I strongly oppose HB2693 because I believe this cultural authority would majority consist of members who do not live or own businesses in Lahaina. This is a bad bill. Please kill HB2693 today and let Lahaina lead.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:45:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Arquero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2693 - Support Intent (with request)

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:52:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Maben	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I can't express how much I oppose this bill and it's crazy to me that this is even something that needs to come to a vote, but if I had to do it concisely, letting decision makers on Oahu decide the fate of Lahaina would be like letting a bunch of old men decide what women can and cannot do with their own bodies.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:52:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Penny Atcheson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In line with the Lahaina Strong efforts, please consider the direct impact of those who have immediately suffered and those who have struggled with survival based on decisions by those looking beyond the immediate. Yes, we are all effected by the Maui Wildfires but the protection of the kanaka maoli and minimally the Maui residents must be taken care of now.

Respectfully,

Penny Atcheson

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:54:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Richard Ho

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:00:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Pizzitola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. While I am not a Maui resident, I support the local residents and community leaders in guiding their own recovery plan and process. They state:*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Linda Pizzitola

[Submit Testimony](#) today in Support of this critical legislation and join us via Zoom or in-person on Tuesday.

Mahalo nui loa!

Lahaina Strong

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:10:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaylene Nuesca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill. I believe that if you haven't lived in Lāhainā and been immersed in the culture of the people, you can understand what has been lost, and you won't be able to truthfully, and with integrity, carry out the desires of what the people would want for their town.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:14:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Godinez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB2693! It is very important that the local community be prioritized in the Lahaina rebuild and this bill directly undermines the people that it affects.

Please consider how HB2693 will impact Lahaina's community and their ability to build a future and home that is right for them. They need to be directly influencing the decisions made on the future of their town and not subjugated to the decisions ruled out by people who will never be affected by their outcome.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

marissa Godinez, a Maui born and grown

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:20:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonja Corrigan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:25:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aulani Dusenberry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and the Honorable Memembrs of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision making-body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina. Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision making. Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Aulani Dusenberry

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:28:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Mountain	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Jody Mountain

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:30:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:30:31 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wil Noye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Wil Noye

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:36:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle Herrin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2693

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:43:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Coontz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Amber Coontz

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:57:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Diaz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Hannah Diaz

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:00:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:07:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Asuncion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:10:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dina Edmisson	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

I may not have been born in Maui but as a 23 year resident of Lahaina town, I consider Lahaina my home and my children's home. I know you've heard many people say Lahaina is special and it needs to be preserved. That's not a cliché. It's a literal treasure so significant culturally, historically, environmentally, socially and as an indescribable tight nit community of folks who understood the value of where they were and literally took it upon themselves to preserve and perpetuate it. Please leave the decision making to our local Lahaina leaders and cultural advisors. They, more than anyone know what's best for our community as they and their families, for generations before them, have been the responsible stewards of that place. Be a support for them, lift them up, listen and let them lead. I say this with respect and aloha...please remember who you work for. Listen to the voice of the people. It literally is your job.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo nui,

Dina Edmisson

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:10:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamauliola Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,
Kamauliola Medeiros

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:15:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Kapono Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jordan Kapono Nakamura, a kama'aina worker, and I strongly oppose HB2693. The Lahaina community has been devastated by wildfires often mischaracterized as a natural disaster. In reality, the region which famously used to be primary fishpond territory has over time been subject to overdevelopment, tourism, and water redirection which produced documented and increasingly severe drought conditions which for years have been protested by the local community. It is precisely this community-- those who both worked to prevent the wildfire conditions and were ignored, who were directly affected by this horrific disaster and displaced, and who found it falling upon mostly themselves to remediate and aid each other in the wake of the disaster-- who stand to lose even more of their self-determination and autonomy as a result of this bill which seeks to defer jurisdiction to the fate of Lahaina away from kama'aina residents and into the hands of the state. The residents have no reason to trust that the passage of a bill that seeks to remove more power from residents will be the start of goodwill on the part of the state towards their plight: Governor Josh Green has already scapegoated Lahaina kanaka maoli water commissioner Kaleo Manuel, ignored Lahaina residents' requests for suspension of tourism which has already begun to exacerbate current conditions as well as reopen still festering wounds of state betrayal and insufficient response, and continues to demonstrate that tourists and mainland business relations are priorities for the state well over the basic housing, safety, mental and physical health, and kokua for kama'aina residents and kanaka oiwi voices who demonstrate they are the supreme authority on assessing, reporting, and even manifesting the needs of Lahaina and Hawai'i as a whole. I urge the committee to align their response with that of the affected Lahaina community. Mahalo nui loa.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:21:02 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelei Tancayo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693. Lahainas residents and community leaders need to lead the building process of their Lahaina town.

Mahalo,

Michelei Tancayo

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:21:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Amine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, to Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina. I have been raised in Lahaina all of my life and I truly believe the residents should have support on how they would like Lahaina to be.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Maile Amine

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:39:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailani Amine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,
Kailani Amine

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:39:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Keopuhiwa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,
Tiana Keopuhiwa

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:42:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Carter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Paul Carter

201 River Rd, Waihe'e, Maui

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:44:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Porreca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It seems like a very sneaky way of taking the rebuild of lahaina out of west maui residents hands and into oahu and yhe states hands. I cannot believe this is even being discussed. Listen to the people- listen to the generational families- its THEIR land, not yours.

The way the governments has handeled even the debris removal so far is disturbing and shameful. The ash bags are not completely sealed that you're dumping!! We see the ash flying through olowalu. And now the whole island is compromised because of the government not thinking and listening to the peoples wishes because acting.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:52:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CHARISSE TADEO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am CHARISSE TADEO and I am a resident of Lahaina. I am born and raised here. I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. I want to be apart of how Lahaina is rebuilt and moves forward. We have been struggling enough. Our families, keiki, kupuna, our whole Lahaina community deserve better and should always be put FIRST! Our Lahaina people will always fight together as one and we will never stop until it is done right. This bill takes power away from the people to be able to do what they want for Lahaina and gives it to the higher ups. Please, let Lahaina lead. Mahalo!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:53:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please oppose this bill, it is not designed to support the residents of Lahaina. I kāko'o the statements regarding this bill made by Lahaina Strong. LET LAHAINA LEAD

Mahalo,

Gretchen Losano

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:55:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamahie Baricuatro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Kamāhie Baricuatro. I write to you folks today in opposition of bill HB2693. As a Native Hawaiian from Lahaina, who lost everything to the August 8th fires, I believe that this bill directly takes away any all autonomy that members of the Lahaina community will have in the redevelopment of Lahiana. I believe that the only way for Lahaina to be rebuilt with the same integrity and Aloha it had, is to allow those who are from here be a part of the decision making when it comes to our cultural and historical sites and the redevelopment of our home. Mahalo for your time

me ke aloha

Kamāhie Baricuatro

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:00:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill HB2693.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:05:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nameaaea Hoshino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou

My name is Nameaaea Hoshino, I'm here to testify in the opposition of HB 2693. I fear this bill will determine the future of Lahaina towards the wrong direction. I, too I'm a multi-generational family of Lahaina, Maui and victim of losing our home in Lahaina on August 8th 2023 wildfire. We do need changes but not in the way the State or County to see it as. Lahaina have lot of historical and cultural significance not only the place, also the people. More decisions are being made to create in other people images what Lahaina should look like. I refuse to see that happen. "WE" I mean Lahaina people need to control the narrative and future plans. Be very considerate and listen to the people of Lahaina testimony and oppose this bill.

Ke aloha no

Nameaaea

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:08:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition to HB2693 which places excessive power in the hands of Honolulu and the state of Hawai'i to dictate the redevelopment of Lahaina. The people of Lahaina and Maui should be the ones leading the vision of what they see fit for the future of Lahaina.

Mahalo

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:12:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Bruch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

James Bruch (Former Resident of Lahaina)

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:15:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekuulani Keahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kekuulani Keahi and I am a born and raised Lahaina girl. As a mākuā to 2 Little boys whos future depends on this rebuild of our hometown, i will not stand by and allow Honolulu officials and the governors puppets to decide what that looks like. It is my job to protect them and give them the best life and by doing so that is to protect and preserve our land and our culture from vultures who seek otherwise. My keiki is my future and their future is Lahaina! Let LAHAINA decide how we rebuild our hometown!

Mahalo

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:27:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Jasmine

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:40:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hokulani Delatori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023,

Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,
Hokulani Delatori

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:08:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina Ahia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

I've lived and worked in Lahaina for 23 years. I've taught several generations of children from Lahaina families. I have been blessed to be a part of this community and to contribute alongside my neighbors and the multi-generational families to the well-being of our kaiaulu and the 'āina. It is unconscionable to me to establish a cultural corridor authority as described in this bill. It is imperative that Lahaina, ko Lahaina - the people that have long and deep ties to this place be the decision makers and planners of Lahaina's redevelopment.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Katrina Ahia

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:09:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Audrey Alvarez

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:13:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celle Galarza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill. Lahaina deserves to be locally managed and run especially in the aftermath of the tragic fires. Lahaina is rich in culture and history and it's important this is recognized and honored. Any redevelopments must be from the people of Lahaina and by the people.

Sincerely,

Celle Galarza

Maui resident

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:17:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aviva Libitsky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Mahalo,

Aviva Libitsky

Aloha mai kākou,

I oppose HB2693 as I feel it is not complete and has been rushed, which would be to the detriment of Lahaina.

We, the people of Lahaina, were told by Governor Green as well as President Biden that Lahaina will lead and decide how Lahaina will be rebuilt. To me, that means appointing a board FULL of Lahaina people, not just one approved by the governor. These should be rooted Lahaina people, born and raised. We have the knowledge, 'ike kupuna, and undoubtedly the best interest at heart for Lahaina.

In addition, the words "eminent domain" should not be thrown around easily. This should be the very last result that we do our best to avoid. Please recall that a lot of these families who lost everything have land that

was in their family since Lahaina was the capitol of Hawai'i. This idea of eminent domain should not be taken lightly, and avoided at all costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lauren Palakiko

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:34:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leo Nahe Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill because I believe that all future plans regarding restoration and cultural preservation should be dictated by the people of that specific area. For example, the people of Lahaina, Maui should be responsible and at the center of all decision making regarding the restoration of their hometown, Lahaina.

Restoration projects such as this should **not** be done by the hands of those unfamiliar or unaccustomed to the space that was impacted. Allow the Lahaina community to keep their autonomy in all future plans.

Na,

Leo Nahe

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:37:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frances Kekahuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Frances Kekahuna, oppose HB2693. As a member of the Lahaina Community I want us as a community have a say on how our town will be rebuilt. We the people of Lahaina Residentd, small business owners, and cultural advisors should be the voice in rebuilding not those that don't live here. Mahalo for your attention.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:53:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Palakiko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

E ALA E, E MAKA'ALA NŌ
KA LEHULEHU O LELE!!!

After reading through the entirety of the language in SB2980/HB2693 referring to the establishment of a newly appointed State entity named the "Cultural Corridor Authority", I have found numerous points of contention and potential to our collective Lāhainā voice being stifled and diminished.

Whether it is...

1-the defined parameters of who shall constitute the membership of the authority (with State agencies and the two at-large members delegated from the same state level) making up a disproportionate majority of the whole of the governing body of the authority,

2-or the many vague definitions related to scope, scale, purpose of the authority (such as "... the cultural corridor authority, a public entity that shall DETERMINE a shared vision..." in which "... the shared vision should FOCUS on community, historic, and cultural preservation...")

3-or the establishing of this body to govern (with broad-strokes governmental oversight and authority) the redevelopment plans related to the LAHAINA CULTURAL CORRIDOR DISTRICT, even as determinations of what the breadth and scope defining the physical boundaries and size is still undetermined.

4-or the overall executive power recognized in this bill given to the governor (by manner of appointment, suspension, and/ or removal of membership) , in a manner that has the potential for abuse and the formulation of a jilted, bias body possibly more inclined to operate in conjunction with political positions and agendas (as opposed to the unadulterated perspective of Lāhainā herself!)

... here is the simple reality: as long as the defined structure/ model being formulated is being established as a state agency, there is little real guarantee of the redeveloped of Lāhainā being directed and initiated from the communal level. The inevitable state involvement will always be prevalent and overwhelming, and only further remove our voice from the equation. Furthermore, as it is, no amount of amendments will rectify this simple fact.

Instead, we must continue to involve the state ONLY from a partnership perspective, where their involvement is the SECONDARY vehicle of support in our mitigating efforts and measures, ... AFTER WE HAVE FIRST DETERMINED LOCALLY WHAT THOSE EFFORTS ARE.

I THUS EMPLORE YOU TO STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS DANGEROUS PIECE OF LEGISLATION!!!

Danny Ku'u lei Palakiko

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:16:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janell Beattie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let the people of Lahaina rebuild on their lands without govt. bureaucracy! Oppose HB2693

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:32:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SusanEgdamin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, VC Poepoe and Committee members.

I strongly oppose HB2693, this poses a significant threat to self govern Lahaina during the recovery from the wildfires. The rebuilding of Lahaina must be made by the people deeply rooted to Lahaina's Community.

These are the people who have suffered from previous negligent governance which lead to the dehydration of the land, the preservation of what Lahaina was and the failure to Malama Aina and Lahui.

The Lahui, with the right leaders will work to build and grow Lahaina for generations to come.

I strongly oppose HB2693

Mahalo

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:14:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Della Mae Briones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:22:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Forster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Bo Forster

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:31:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Haynes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to see Lahaina restored to a Historical site with a makai memorial park. Let Lahaina decide.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:02:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

*Mahalo,
Tia Lee Klug-Wessell*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:05:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani Paresa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I'm writing in opposition of this bill. Imminent domain is not an option for an entity that, by act of omission, neglected to protect our Lahaina family.

3 hours went by from the point that the emergency management agency in charge decided to call for assistance from.gpodfellows and other trucking companies to send water trucks and aid to the fire fighters, until the point where they were approved for dispatch.

5 days went by before search and RECOVERY teams not search and rescue, were dispatched for assistance.

The attorney general can't even lead with interpretation of law let alone power of Imminent domain.

One way on one way out like many of our aging small towns. And you folks are willing to continue to risk the lives of our keiki and kupuna in the name of capitalism and tourism.

Shame! Get it together. Kupuna are watching including the ones you let fie in that fire.

Mahalo.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:05:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Michele Nihipaii

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:21:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KATHERINE BROOKS	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Katherine Brooks

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:26:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Hilbert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill places too much control over the citizens of west Maui. They should be the ones directly involved as the direct recipients of the disaster. They should have the strongest voices, not Honolulu.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:31:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily States	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during their recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining their local community. While they value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Their unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Their community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Emily

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:36:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth ray	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose this bill giving all power to Honolulu to decide Lahainas fate. The amount of dissonance you have is alarming.thevpeople of Lahaina should choose how Lahaina is rebuilt and how their lives are restored. We have boots on the ground community member hammas here we are knowledgeable and suitable for decision making. To do this is to take away the right if the Lahaina residents. Please oppose this bill if you want to restore faith and respect to Maui.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:45:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Teruya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Tiffany Teruya, i am from Lahaina. I strongly oppose HB2693 because I believe this cultural authority would majority consist of members who do not live or own businesses in Lahaina. This is a bad bill. Please kill HB2693 today and let Lahaina lead. Furthermore, how dare just a small group people be allowed to make up such a bill and exclude majority of our lahaina out of this decision to write such an abomination of a bill. **OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE!!!** These people are NOT who we (the RESIDENCES, generational families, Kuleana landholders) chose to lead us. This is yet another great example of why the the people are restless with what's happening. This is NOT GOOD for LAHAINA!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:59:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felili Mendoza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Felili Pousima Mendoza

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:01:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Audrey Kaneshiro

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:08:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyra Kapuaala	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Hi my name is Kyra Kapuaala. Born on the island of Oahu and raised upcountry Maui. I went to Lahainaluna High School as a broader. Lived in Lahaina after high school and worked at Old Lahaina Luau and The Feast at Lele at 505 Front street.

What I've learned and appreciated about the Lahainaluna Boarding Department they did listen to the students when there was an issue while I was at school there. We were heard! I understand that this issue is much bigger. My testimony is listen to the people. The people who are affected the most by this. The people who have lost their homes and loved ones. The people who are very capable of taking care of their town. Desicisions should be made for Lahaina by the residents of the Lahaina. Hear them. Here us the people who oppose decisions being made anywhere else, but the Lahaina community.

Mahalo for your time,

Kyra Kapuaala

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:12:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricky Murray	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Ricky Murray and the Murray Ohana

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:12:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merritt Kaufman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Merritt Kaufman

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:13:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tarsis Rich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:14:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiara Kukahiko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,
Tiara Kukahiko

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:14:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Redford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,
Jessica Redford, RN
Maui Medic Healers Hui volunteer

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:21:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen J Comcowich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House, ji

I oppose HB2693 as currently written, although I appreciate the overall intent.

What I oppose is the makeup of the governing body. The governing body for any recovery should be primarily citizens who live in and deeply understand the needs and desires of the impacted community. State agencies should act in a supporting role.

However, I do support the intention to motivate owners to accept imminent domain for their property. There are many properties in Lahaina that would better serve the community as open space/ natural mitigation than being redeveloped.

Thank you for your time,

Karen J Comcowich

Lahaina, Hawaii

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:23:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherish Harp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Cherish Harp

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:24:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Gavagan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let Lahaina lead the restoration of Lahaina. It is nearly impossible to know what they truly need as a whole community if you're standing on the outside looking in, but if we follow their lead on how they envision Lahaina being restored, the community of Lahaina will be the ones to restore their place in the most pono way. I believe this will allow at least some healing to take place. Having any other entities outside of Lahaina taking charge of this action would potentially hinder this, there will possibly be more contention, and it will just set back progress that could be made. However, I believe what the outside communities and entities could do is follow Lahaina's lead and meet their requests; working together with Lahaina leading is the most optimal approach to not only help the community heal, but for them to grow, and in essence for all of Hawai'i to grow as one lāhui following the example of Lahaina. Their example of preservance, resilience, community stewardship, and many other leadership skills are key to follow not only during this time but for the future of all of Hawai'i. Keep the decisions of Lahaina in Lahaina hands.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:48:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Iwalani Tanigawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:53:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in OPPOSE of Bill 2693

To Chair, Vice Chair and the members of the House Committees on Education

I am writing as a concerned community member to express my opposition on Bill SB2693, which addresses

PART I

SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"CHAPTER

CULTURAL CORRIDOR AUTHORITY

PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

While I understand the intent of this bill. This is another ploy to get government control and I do not think the verbiage adequately expresses the needs of the community as a whole. I believe there are multiple revision that should take place in this bill to where there is more resident community involvement. Having minimal community involvement (One resident & one small business owner) does not represent the community as a whole and this bill only appears to further the amount of control by the state, which has been part of the problem for many decades previous.

-3 Cultural corridor authority; established. (a) There is established the cultural corridor authority, which shall be a body corporate and a public instrumentality of the State, for the purpose of implementing this chapter. The authority shall be placed within the department of business, economic development, and tourism for administrative purposes.

This bill's only furthers neglects the voices of our community, putting the same industries in charge that have only continued to sell our Hawaii resources & culture to visitors. HTA has continued to put profits over people and these things cannot be blamed on climate change ALONE. Climate change has been occurring for over the last 50+ years, and what has the State

or HTA done to help protect us? NOTHING, they opted for MORE Tourism, more control, and more draining or contaminating of our vital resources. This bill does not protect our community(ies) from that continuing or happening all over again!

In summary, HB2693 represents the same backwards thinking of our government in handling appropriations for infrastructure. There should be consideration for a trust that is outside of the state general fund and the corruption of government to help rebuild after a disaster. The expediting process for plans & permits should be the extend of state interference. The community has shown they can work together faster than the state or government ever could.

Sincerely,

Nani Be

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:58:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Balinbin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Eric Balinbin

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:00:31 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaua Kama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kauailinoe Kama

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:03:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Manley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Andrea Manley

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:05:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Albright	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose HB2693

The Lahaina Community has many strengths and is very knowledgeable and passionate about their community. Lahaina needs to be represented and guided by Lahaina on building Lahaina back up. We believe in a bright future for Lahaina and it's visitors and this can only happen with the collective help, support and trust from residents.

Mahalo,

Lana Albright

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:10:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheylah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Cheylah-Marie Uyeda

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:13:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kukui Keahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Kukui Keahi and I am more than 9 generations from Lahaina. I strongly oppose HB2693 because I believe this cultural authority would majority consist of members who do not live or own businesses in Lahaina, not have any lineage to my home. This is a terrible bill. Please kill HB2693 today and let Lahaina take the lead.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:14:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Dapitan-Haake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poe Poe, and the honorable members of the committee,

I oppose HB2693 because it establishes a new entity called “the cultural corridor authority”, which I believe could limit the people's input in Lahaina. The bill outlines that the majority of the authorities' governing body would be made up of state agencies and two at-large members appointed at the state level, which creates an imbalance in representation. Furthermore, this bill contains vague definitions regarding the authority's scope, scale, and purpose, such as its role as a cultural corridor authority and its impact on the community of Lahaina, historic and cultural preservation, and redevelopment plans. The bill also grants executive powers to the governor, including appointment, suspension, and removal of authority members, which could be subject to abuse and bias. Overall, I believe this bill provides little to no guarantee that the redevelopment of Lahaina will be directly addressed with the Lahaina people in mind.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:15:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shierlyn Arzaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Shierlyn

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:16:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Hocker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Jordan Hocker

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:24:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manu Akana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill allow as the people I don't trust to make decisions for all of us here in Lahaina and the rest of the state. This doesn't give the people of the land full discretion of there home. I oppose this Bill. Let the people decide.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:29:14 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naiwi Teruya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Maui county and the state of Hawaii. I oppose bill HB2693 because of a promise that has been made on the states behalf. It is to my understanding that the people will come first when rebuilding Lahaina. This bill takes that promise away. Please do not let this bill go through, rewrite the bill and it's and fulfill the promise that was made.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:29:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leianah Kahahawai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strong OPPOSE HB3693 we need to preserve our island autonomy.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:36:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Andreu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is apparent that Hawaii State Government is incapable of deciding how to move forward with rebuilding of the affected areas without direction from the People who have suffered the most from the devastation that these fires have caused. Although the tourism industry is heavily valued it does not and cannot override the people that have raised families here for many generations. The heart and soul of Lahaina and Maui as a whole must not be infringed upon nor its people who have created and continue to maintain the crucial balance that is needed to restore her sacredness to the land and sea that is crucial to her very existence.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:40:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade Chihara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am born and raised in Lahaina on Puiki Street and I strongly oppose this bill. Where you come from and a community vetting process is an extremely critical component to this matter and Lahaina will not accept the formation of a committee of non-Lahaina members making permanent decisions for the historical and cultural fabric of this place. The lived experience and knowledge held of our community weighs more value than outside representatives with urban planning experience and/or research about a place. Aloha.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:44:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tiare lawrence	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Tiare Lawrence. I was born and raised in Lahaina. Our family home of over 120 years burned down in the fire on August 8th. My family and I strongly oppose this bill. This bill gives too much power to the governor's administration and fails to include West Maui elected officials and community leaders. Majority of the appointed members of this cultural authority are not from Lahaina. This raises serious concerns with representation and local input. Please kill this bill today.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:47:25 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gayle M Shufeldt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. We the Lahaina community should have the say, NOT non residents. We the residents of Lahaina & our communities leaders should be the only voice. Please reconsider and let Lahaina people be the voice of what Lahaina needs/wants

again I strongly oppose this bill

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:48:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kai nishiki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:48:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louise Palmer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, w only one person from lahaina making decisions..tk u

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:55:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ingrid Lynch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am a resident of Lahaina. I lost everything in the fires of August 8th. I was one of the last people to escape. My heart is completely broken because I have never lived in such a united community. I lived on Front Street and would walk it everyday. We all knew each other and we all took care of each other as a community. This is very rare. I will give you an example of the Aloha that we all showed one another. I was awaiting my daughter's ashes from the post office. For some reason the postman did not reach me. Rather than returning my daughter's ashes to the post office, he returned to my home one more time because he knew how precious that package was. Mind you this was after hours for him and he was off duty at that point. We both cried together and I was so grateful. I knew Lahaina would be my home forever. These are the people of Lahaina. Pure of heart and full of kindness and love. The future of Lahaina should remain with the people of Lahaina. I feel strongly about this and my heart continues to break thinking that because of this bill, it will not be the case. Please reject this bill.

Mahalo.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:59:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rochelle Sombelon-McEwen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 2693 as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB 2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision making.

Your opposition to HB 2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive culture fabric.

Mahalo

Rochelle Sombelon-McEwen

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:01:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Lota	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 2693. Lahaina should have a MAJORITY voice in the futre of Lahaina.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:02:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Carty	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our community in Lahaina can make our own decisions on what is right for our recovery. We don't need Oahu folks for that.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:03:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Letitia Cabanilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Letitia Cabanilla

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:04:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brigitte Leilani Axelrode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Gigi Axelrode

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:09:25 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brandi corpuz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it is a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

As the Executive Director of a nonprofit who has been dealing with the state on several different issues, I know full well that the DLNR is understaffed, has a lack of funds and does not work in our communities favor at times. Over all authority of Lahaina should be given to the people from Lahaina and not appointed by our Governor, Mayor or anyone not from Lahaina.

Sincerely, Brandi Corpuz

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:13:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Nalani

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuumomimakamae Nahooikaika	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to **OPPOSE HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 08,2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kuumomimakamae Nahooikaika

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:23:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ASTRID	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Astrid Magallon

[Submit Testimony](#) today in Support of this critical legislation and join us via Zoom or in-person on Tuesday.

Mahalo nui loa!

Lahaina Strong

Testimony for HB2693

TO: Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, nad Honorable Members of the Committee

FROM: Teva Medeiros
Community Member/ Kumu Kaiapuni

RE: **HB2693**
Hearing on February 6, 2024
IN STRONG OPPOSITION of HB2693

‘Ano‘ai me ke aloha mai ka ‘āina paia‘ala i ka hala a i ke one nene‘e o Ni‘ihau, mai ka ihu a ka lā ma ka ‘āina o ka Noenoe uakea a i ka ihu o ka moku ma ka ‘āina o ka ua Nahua, waianuheka kākou. ‘O au kēia ‘o **Teva Medeiros**, he kama no ka ‘āina laha i ka honua ‘o **Lahaina** ho‘i kahi a‘u i hānai a ho‘oulu piha ‘ia ai. ‘O ka ma‘amaui, he kumu au no ke **Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Lahianaluna**. Eia nō na‘e, ua ne‘e kūmanawa au i ke **Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Maui ma Pā‘ia** i ke kūpliki‘i o ia wā ma hope o ka pauahi o ku‘u kaiaulu.

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

I have previously given testimony pertaining to this dilemma as Lahaina and Hawai‘i in general is one of the most, if not the most biodiverse places on earth. As you may know, in the early half of the 19th century our beloved town of Lahaina was made the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Along with this came an influx of commerce and development that upset the delicate ecosystem that provided a wealth of sustenance for our community. As time went on and the capital was moved to O‘ahu, our town of Lahaina took on many rolls as a plantation town, then a tourist destination which furthered the abuse of our natural ecosystems and turned a once abundant and thriving community into a pile of tinder.

All of this led by the County of Maui as well as the state Hawai‘i with countless opposition from the people of this land. Now, the same entities who “led” my generational home into this dilemma plan to completely take over the rebuilding process. How does that make sense? The rebuilding and crucial decision making should be made by the people of whom this disaster affected. The state and county have failed the people of Lahaina, let the people of Lahaina lead

the way and undo the generational trauma that has accumulated over many decades and make way for a promising future. We the people of Lahaina know what is needed, the state and county should only be there to support the rebuild financially and emotionally.

Your **opposition to HB2693** is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Teva Medeiros

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:34:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Cabanilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina's future should be rebuilt by the Lahaina community for its community. This bill calls for the erasure and rewriting of our people, community, and all our histories. After everything that's already been lost and in our unending grief, we cannot afford to lose anymore. We did not choose this. We are exhausted by grief. But Lahaina people are stubborn, resilient, and strong. We will not give up our autonomy and we kindly ask you to reconsider this bill with us, the people of Lahaina, in mind and not the money or the malihini.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:35:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Pillen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during the community's recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining their local community. While this community values local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

The unique identity of Lahaina's local community requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Their community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Michelle Pillen

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:40:21 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonni Schwartzbach	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and other honorable members of the committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB2693, which, although it appears harmless in its objectives, has the potential to threaten and undermine the autonomy and self-determination of Lahaina residents. This bill appears to place too much authority in the hands of the State government when it comes to re-building and developing Lahaina post-fire.

The fact that the cultural corridor authority would largely consist of small business owners and residents who are not from Lahaina is of grave concern. This has the potential to limit the power of those most affected by the fires in determining how they might lead their own recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Any redevelopment initiatives should be directed by those that are/were directly affected by these wildfires, which include local communities and residents and business owners from the Lahaina area.

I stand in opposition to this bill and encourage our legislators to vote NO.

With Aloha,

Sonni Schwartzbach

Hilo, HI 96720

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:41:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbie Rose Acosta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Barbie Rose Acosta

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:44:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc Akana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo, Marc Akana

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:44:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Dew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Sierra Dew

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:45:50 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to **HB2693**.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:45:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trayline Kiesel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:47:38 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne W English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and honorable members of the committee,

I strongly oppose HB2693. It poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy and their chance to build back their community during their recovery

Your opposition is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive fabric.

Mahalo,

Anne English

PO Box 389

Lawai, HI 96765

(808) 635-7884

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:54:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Marisa

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:54:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kristen Young

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:58:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john carty	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We don't need Oahu folks taking decision making power out of our communities hands. Lahaina Strong!

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:59:38 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Hendrickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the establishment of the cultural corridor authority.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:09:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Stierhoff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Lahaina's community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making. Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for rebuilding Lahaina in a way that preserves its distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Emma Stierhoff

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:10:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong opposition** of HB2693. This proposed authority would not be beneficial to the people of Lāhainā affected by the recent wildfires. As stated in the bill, "All members except the director of finance, director of transportation, county directors of planning or planning and permitting, director of business, economic development, and tourism, chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, or their respective designees shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to section 26-34." Relying on the governor to appoint individuals for this committee is NOT pono.

If an authority such as this were to be created, it should be made up of community members and leaders of Lāhainā. The only way we will know who they are is by being in the community. The governor is not capable of the correct decision on who the members are to be.

Please, I urge you to reconsider how HB2693 will impact the aina of Lāhainā and the people who make it up.

Mahalo,

Kilihea Inaba

Kaloko, Kona

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:12:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikiala K Poepoe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to HB2693 - Cultural Corridor Authority

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB2693, the bill proposing the establishment of the Cultural Corridor Authority for the redevelopment of areas affected by disaster, particularly Lahaina. As a concerned resident, I believe this bill raises significant concerns regarding the autonomy and prioritization of residents' interests in the redevelopment process.

Firstly, the bill suggests the creation of a Cultural Corridor Authority, which, according to the proposed legislation, would be comprised of nominees selected by the Senate President and House Speaker, then appointed by the Governor. This approach raises concerns about the lack of direct representation from Lahaina residents in guiding the redevelopment plans for their town.

I firmly believe that the redevelopment of Lahaina must be led by a body that prioritizes the input and concerns of the local residents. Placing the decision-making power in the hands of nominees appointed through a political process may compromise the autonomy that Lahaina residents rightfully deserve in shaping the future of their community.

It is crucial to ensure that the redevelopment plans align with the unique needs, values, and aspirations of Lahaina's residents. By entrusting the decision-making power to a more community-driven body, we can ensure that the redevelopment process genuinely reflects the desires and priorities of those who call Lahaina home.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider the provisions outlined in HB2693 and explore alternative approaches that guarantee a more inclusive and community-driven process for the redevelopment of Lahaina.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate your dedication to serving the best interests of our Lahaina community.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Miki'ala K. Poepoe

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:13:20 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Kanani Benz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Kanani Benz

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:14:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB2693. I believe it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community.

I believe that if passed, this bill will set the precedent to eliminate the agency of local residents for the sake of allowing investment of outsiders to take precedent utilizing the justification of 'eminent domain' in the aftermath of natural disasters, many who have no vested interests in the well-being of the community other than a money-making venture.

I believe the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina. Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders.

I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:14:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Archie Kalepa	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

TESTIMONY BY ARCHIE KALEPA IN FAVOR OF HB 2693 RELATED TO HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe and members of the Water and Land Committee,

My name is Archie Kalepa and I am testifying today as a 9th generation Lahaina resident, in favor of HB 2693. This measure is a result of difficult conversations by Lahaina residents who are wrestling with the reality that everything has changed and we cannot return to where we were the day before the fire as if nothing has happened. As a community, we need to plan for a new piko that centers the place and people and to restore cultural stewardship. I support the part of the bill that leaves the boundaries of the cultural corridor to be determined in the future. Meeting and talking about the size and location of this corridor, allowable uses, restoration and improvements, what kinds of activities will occur in this place, and how we honor the people who died, the people who survived, and the people who are still working to this day to fill urgent needs – meeting and talking about these things in relationship to plans that will create a piko for the new Lahaina will give us tangible hope. It will make a difference if the streets are not as narrow and there is less density that make living and escaping more dangerous. It will make a difference if Lahaina is a place not only for tourists but also a place for Lahaina residents and Maui residents to gather, learn, go to restaurants and shops. If the natural water flow is restored at Moku’ula and other places, the land would not be as ready to burn. If we are able to move inland ahead of sea level rise, then we will be the shoreline community for the future shoreline and not the people who rebuilt in a place that will be soon threatened. In between the urgent meetings about FEMA and emergency housing and where our children will go to school next year, these other wishes and hopes are being expressed. Having a structured, locally directed, multi-government supported effort to make these wishes and hopes a reality would go a long way to having us be more ready when the last of the ash has been scraped away. It will make a difference. This type of planning and restoration would be very difficult under existing laws and county ordinances. An unprecedented disaster can only be met on a kākou basis – by all of us – and in this case, an authority that combines state and local officials with Lahaina residents. I don’t pretend to have ‘ike about all of the structures and processes that are in this bill. I do know what kind of community process is needed, that community must be both the center of and the destination of the new sail plan. And I know, in my heart, that we cannot return to the Lahaina of the day before the fire and expect that our children and their children will be able to call Lahaina a good home.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:19:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karyn Kanekoa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly oppose HB2693

Subject: Testimony Against HB 2693 - Cultural Corridor Authority

Honorable Members of the WAL, JHA, and FIN Committees,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2693, which proposes the establishment of the Cultural Corridor Authority. While the intention to redevelop disaster-affected areas is commendable, I believe this bill raises serious concerns regarding private property rights, potential misuse of eminent domain, and fiscal responsibility.

The provision for income tax credits to incentivize the voluntary relinquishment of real property is troubling, as it may disproportionately affect property owners in disaster-stricken areas. Such incentives could pressure property owners into decisions that may not align with their best interests or long-term community well-being.

Furthermore, the directive for the Attorney General to initiate eminent domain proceedings raises alarms about potential abuse of government power. Eminent domain should be exercised judiciously and with utmost consideration for property owners' rights, ensuring fair compensation and a transparent process.

The appropriation of funds exceeding the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025 is fiscally irresponsible and demands careful scrutiny. The financial burden on taxpayers must be justified by a clear and comprehensive plan for redevelopment that prioritizes both historical and cultural preservation alongside disaster recovery.

In conclusion, while the goal of revitalizing disaster-affected areas is laudable, HB 2693 raises significant legal, ethical, and financial

concerns. I urge you to reconsider the implications of this bill on private property rights, the potential misuse of eminent domain, and the fiscal responsibility of our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Nelmie K Brown
4356 Lower Honoapiilani Road
Lahaina, Hi 96761
Nkbmaui@gmail.com
808-280-7796

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:00:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Brandi Chun

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:25:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paele Kiakona	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose this bill for the following reasons

1. **Community Autonomy:** The establishment of a centralized authority with broad powers might be seen as limiting local community control and decision-making. Communities might prefer more direct involvement in the planning and redevelopment processes without the oversight of a state-level authority.
2. **Cultural Sensitivity:** While the bill emphasizes cultural preservation, there may be concerns about whether the authority's efforts will genuinely reflect and respect the community's cultural heritage and values. There's a risk that redevelopment could lead to gentrification or commercialization that undermines the authentic cultural fabric of the area.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** The structure and powers of the Cultural Corridor Authority may lead to questions about transparency in decision-making, accountability for the outcomes of redevelopment projects, and how community feedback is incorporated into the planning process.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:56:27 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni DeFranco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Keoni DeFranco

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:09:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robert Petty	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill,as is, could be weighted too heavily in non locals.

there are plenty from Lahaina who would like to serve.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:22:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives - please hold HB2693. The bill basically puts Honolulu in charge of Lahaina. That's exactly what the Lahaina community said they didn't want.

If nothing else, the community board should be given more authority than just making recommendations for the authority. And they should be fully compensated for their time and efforts.

Yours,

Bianca Isaki

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:30:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekai Keahi	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I'm here with a direct message: the proposed Cultural Corridor Authority is a mistake we can't afford to make. It's a repeat of history, echoing the missteps of DHHL and OHA, where power concentrated in the hands of the few dictated the fate of the many. This bill threatens to do the same, undermining our local voices and erasing our community's autonomy.

Our cultural heritage and local decision-making are on the line. This authority, with its sweeping powers, risks silencing the diverse voices of our community, replacing them with a centralized agenda that may not reflect our needs or respect our traditions. We've seen this story before, where government control over local matters leads to outcomes that fail to serve the broader community.

The bill's approach is fundamentally flawed, positioning the government to control just a few key players, effectively sidelining the rest of us. It's a shortcut to bypassing the rich tapestry of perspectives and wisdom that our community offers. This isn't just about water or land; it's about our right to self-determination, to manage our resources, and to uphold our cultural and community values.

We cannot stand by and watch another chapter of disempowerment unfold. I urge you to reject this bill and its attempt to centralize control, to remember the lessons from DHHL and OHA, and to commit to a path that genuinely empowers local voices and respects our community's right to lead its own development.

This is our call to action. Let's not repeat the mistakes of the past. Stand with us, for us.

Mahalo for hearing our plea.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:47:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Harter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee, I am writing to strongly oppose **HB 2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina. Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to **consider** HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making. Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric. Mahalo Nancy Harter.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:51:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rich Townley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Richard Townley

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:58:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Andre Makakoa	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

Aloha. I write to you today as a voice of Lahaina, a voice steeped in the rich history and profound cultural significance of our land. It is with a deep sense of urgency that I implore you to oppose HB2693.

In the wake of the catastrophic fires of August 8, 2023, Lahaina has shown tremendous resilience. We are on a path of recovery, a journey that must be guided by the hands of those who know and cherish this land. However, the proposed HB2693 bill threatens to subvert this journey, jeopardizing our community's autonomy and sowing seeds of division among us.

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its majority of non-resident decision-makers, is fundamentally flawed. It sidelines the voices of Lahaina's residents and small business owners, those who have lived and breathed the air of this land, those who carry its stories in their hearts. Their voices, our voices, must be at the forefront of any decision-making process that affects our land and our community.

The eminent domain powers vested in the authority under this bill are a cause for grave concern. They open the door to potential displacement of residents or businesses, infringing upon property rights, and fueling tensions between redevelopment goals and the rightful desires of property owners to retain their land.

The financial implications of this bill also warrant careful scrutiny. The issuance of bonds and the mechanisms for funding redevelopment projects could saddle our community with long-term debt and financial uncertainty. We must ask ourselves whether we can afford to bear this burden and whether it is just to place it on the shoulders of taxpayers.

Cultural sensitivity must be more than just a phrase in a bill; it must be the bedrock upon which all decisions are made. Lahaina's unique cultural fabric is at risk of being undermined by gentrification or commercialization. We must ensure that any redevelopment genuinely reflects and respects our community's cultural heritage and values.

Furthermore, transparency and accountability are of paramount importance. The structure and powers of the Cultural Corridor Authority raise serious questions about these critical aspects. How will community feedback be incorporated into the planning process? How will the outcomes of redevelopment projects be held accountable?

In light of these concerns, it is clear that this bill should not pass in its current form. It needs time for careful consideration, amendment, and most importantly, input from the Lahaina community. I urge you to delay this bill until next year, providing our community with the necessary time to process and propose amendments.

The county has the power and resources to address these issues without ceding control to the state. We need to learn from past mistakes and ensure decisions about Lahaina are made by those who understand its nuances, its beauty, its challenges, and its potential.

I entreat you to oppose HB2693 for the preservation of our culture, our land, and our community. Let us pave a path of recovery that is rooted in respect, understanding, and aloha.

Mahalo,

De Andre Makakoa

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:00:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** because it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023, fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by nonresidents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Priscilla Stuckey, PhD

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:10:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Machelle Forshee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The only people who should be in charge of designating how Lahaina and any area on islands should be those that live there.

I oppose HB2693

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:21:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Lahaina residents need housing before anyone can buy Hawaiian land. It is their land. They OWN it. Outside residents should not be able to even think about purchasing until these Hawaiians have homes.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:50:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Pascua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:02:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey A Drayer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Thank you

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:48:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Fung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Please listen to the local community and let them lead and decide how to rebuild their community.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:06:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Kealakai	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members,

My name is Anela Kealakai, a Native Hawaiian mother, deeply rooted in the traditions and values that have sustained our people for generations. Today, I express my concerns and opposition to the proposed bill establishing the Cultural Corridor Authority.

While the bill's intentions may seem noble at first glance, aiming to rebuild and preserve the cultural integrity of areas affected by disasters, it overlooks critical aspects that are fundamental to our people's connection to our land, our history, and our future.

Disregard for True Cultural Preservation:

The bill proposes a top-down approach, where decisions are likely to be made by those far removed from the daily realities and spiritual connections we hold with our ‘āina. The establishment of a Cultural Corridor Authority, while intended to preserve culture, might instead commodify it, turning our sacred traditions into mere attractions rather than living practices that guide our way of life.

Risk of Losing Ancestral Lands:

The provisions for eminent domain and the acquisition of privately-owned lands for redevelopment pose a direct threat to our ancestral lands. These lands are not just parcels of earth; they are the embodiment of our past, the foundation of our present, and the seeds for our future. The potential for losing more of our lands to redevelopment, even with the promise of historic and cultural preservation, is a painful continuation of the injustices we have faced for centuries.

Lack of Genuine Community Involvement:

While the bill outlines the inclusion of community boards and representatives, the structure seems to allow only limited input, without granting real power or veto authority to those most affected by these decisions. Genuine involvement means more than just a seat at the table; it means having a significant say in the decisions that impact our communities and our way of life.

Potential Environmental Impact:

The redevelopment plans, though aimed at recovery and preservation, do not sufficiently address the potential environmental impacts on our ecosystems. Our land, water, and air are sacred, and any development must prioritize their protection to ensure that our natural resources are preserved for future generations.

Alternative Approaches:

Instead of imposing a singular vision through the Cultural Corridor Authority, I advocate for a community-led approach that empowers Native Hawaiian voices and allows for a diversity of perspectives in planning and redevelopment. Solutions should emerge from the wisdom of those who live and breathe the culture every day, ensuring that our traditions are not only preserved but lived.

In conclusion, while the goal of redeveloping disaster-affected areas with an eye towards cultural preservation is commendable, the current form of the bill raises significant concerns. I urge you to reconsider its implications, to listen to the voices of Native Hawaiians, and to seek alternatives that truly respect and honor our culture, our land, and our rights.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:59:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer stadig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill addressed as is. There should not be sole authority over the cultural preservation by Attorney General. Instead it should be led and Lahaina community should have decision on eminent domain.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:07:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Franzenburg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice CHair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

It is with urgency that I reuquest you to OPPOSE HB2693.

All future plans for West Maui after the August 8, 2023 fires should be overseen by a cultural corridor of authority consisting of residents only, designated by our community. We need to preserve the culture and save the unique diversity of the people.

The Redevelopment of Lahaina town will require time, materials, energy and funding; why not use the empty buidlings and dwellings to serve this purpose. Transport alone of supplies will consume resources that we could use to update our existing structures.

Ultimately, any building that occurs on West Maui should be for residential purposes only. We need our local businesses, but basic housing comes first. Take the time to plan so we are not in a logistical nitemare forever.

Mahalo,

Annie Franzenburg

Teacher, West Maui Resident

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:21:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lory Marques	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:53:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
susan walczak-pol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable mMembers of the Committee,

*I urge you to **oppose HB2693** as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill threatens to undermine our community's self-determination.*

The proposed cultural corridor authority, with its non-resident majority, risks sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community.

Lahaina's unique identity requires redevelopment initiatives driven by its residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 1:09:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paleka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The decision of Lahaina recovers should be in the Lahaina community's and victims hands. Decisions should not be made without the community's input.

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:37:43 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kau Pali	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB2693 as it jeopardizes Lahaina's autonomy. Following the devastating fires on August 8, 2023, Lahaina is on the path to recovery, and this bill **threatens to undermine our community's** self-determination.

*The proposed **cultural corridor authority**, with its **non-resident majority**, risks **sidelining Lahaina's residents and small business owners**. We appreciate local representation, but the decision-making body **must be primarily comprised of those deeply rooted in our community**.*

*Lahaina's unique identity **requires** redevelopment initiatives driven by **its residents and community leaders**. I urge the committee to reconsider the implications of HB2693 on Lahaina's self-determination. We need **support, resources, and a voice in the rebuilding process**, not top-down decision-making.*

Your opposition to HB2693 is crucial for preserving Lahaina's unique cultural fabric.

Mahalo for your time,

Kau Pali

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 9:39:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Picabo Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

*I am writing to **strongly oppose HB2693** as it poses a significant threat to Lahaina's autonomy during our recovery from the August 8, 2023 fires. The proposed cultural corridor authority, dominated by non-residents, risks sidelining our local community. While we value local representation, the decision-making body must prioritize those deeply rooted in Lahaina.*

Our unique identity requires redevelopment guided by residents and community leaders. I urge the committee to reconsider HB2693's impact on Lahaina's self-determination. Our community needs support and a voice in the rebuilding process, not top-down decision-making.

Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Picabo Gomes

HB-2693

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:25:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/6/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clarissa Diaz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

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Your opposition to HB2693 is vital for preserving Lahaina's distinctive cultural fabric.

Mahalo,

Clarissa Diaz.