

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Finance

Monday, February 26, 2024

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

With Comments

H.B. No. 2696 HD1, Relating to Lahaina Wildfire Recovery

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of the Governor offers the following comments on H.B. No. 2696 HD1, Relating to Lahaina Wildfire Recovery.

The Office of the Governor is open to this concept identified in this potential legislation provided that there is no negative fiscal impact on the executive budget package. We thank the authors of HD1 for adding the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator as a non-voting member in the proposed Lahaina Recovery Oversight Commission to support the Maui Fires Recovery and Resiliency Efforts under Section 2(c). This change will ensure continued coordination among all stakeholders involved in recovery. The companion bill S.B. No. 2979 SD1, made a similar amendment, but included the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator as a voting member, which should be considered in further discussions related to this potential legislation.

We also suggest the following amendment to Section 2(g) to ensure the proposed Commission would receive the benefit of the lessons and experience of the seven Recovery Support Functions amassed since the Maui wildfires:

(g) No later than December 31, 2024, the commission shall establish standards for the recovery, including identifying relevant issues for analysis; establishing goals for rebuilding Lahaina, Maui; and drafting metrics to measure progress toward achieving the goals. The commission shall consult with the community and policy leaders in developing the standards and metrics required by this subsection as well as the previous work of the Recovery Support Functions (RSFs).

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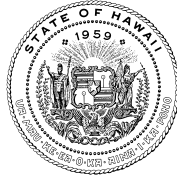
For context, the State of Hawai'i State Disaster Recovery Coordinator has the role of coordinating and planning for recovery and resiliency efforts for the Maui Wildfire impacts in support of the County of Maui. This contrasts with emergency response which is led by HI-EMA under Emergency Support Functions.

Last fall the Governor identified seven 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 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. 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.
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 26, 2024, 2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL
H.B. 2696, H.D. 1

RELATING TO LAHAINA WILDFIRE RECOVERY.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 2696, H.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the intent and offers **comments** on H.B. 2696, H.D. 1 which establishes the Lahaina Recovery Oversight Commission within DAGS to oversee and guide the recovery of Lahaina from the 2023 wildfires and requires the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to assist in establishing a website for the Commission.

DAGS is committed to assisting with the recovery of Lahaina and defers to testimony provided by the Office of the Governor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.