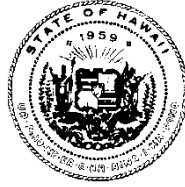


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## STATE OF HAWAII

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

Statement of  
**DEAN MINAKAMI**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of  
**S.B. 3068**  
**MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY.**

HHFDC supports SB 3068, which appropriates funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that affected the counties of Hawaii and Maui.

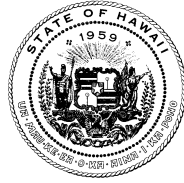
HHFDC supports this bill's amendments to the General Appropriations Act of 2023 by replacing general funds with general obligation bonds as the means of financing for the following Fiscal Year 2024-2025 infusions into HHFDC-administered funds.

- \$50 million into the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund
- \$180 million into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund

However, we note that there appears to be a typographical error on Page 9, Line 15 of this bill. We believe that the amount "30,000,000" (as highlighted below) should read "230,000,000" and suggest that the committee amend the bill accordingly.

7	"24.	BED160 - HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION			
8		OPERATING	BED	150,000,000A	[230,000,000A]
9					A
10			BED	3,100,000N	3,100,000N
11				23.00*	23.00*
12				45.00#	45.00#
13			BED	13,533,889W	14,046,265W
14			BED	3,000,000P	3,000,000P
15		INVESTMENT CAPITAL	BED	45,000,000C	30,000,000C
16					

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'  
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN  
44 MERCHANT STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**Wednesday, February 21, 2024**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 211**

**By Stacey A. Aldrich**  
**State Librarian**

**S.B. 3068 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY**

To: Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** S.B. 3068, which makes appropriations for wildfire recovery following the devastating wildfires brought on by winds from Hurricane Dora on August 8, 2023. The bill allocates \$125,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025 for temporary libraries located in Makawao and Lahaina, Maui.

The Hawaii State Public Library System's (HSPLS) Lahaina branch was destroyed in the wildfire. HSPLS is currently providing limited service to the people of West Maui through the Holoholo Bookmobile, but this cannot take the place of a public library. We are currently working with Maui County to identify a suitable location for a temporary library, and the funding in this bill would go toward making this a reality.

In addition, the Makawao Public Library is 55 years old and requires renovations and an expansion to meet contemporary needs. The \$125,000 funding in this bill will also allow us to continue to serve this community while the construction work.

Hawaii's public libraries support these Maui communities, and this funding will help us continue to connect people to information, stories and the technology they need to heal and move toward a positive future.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit supporting testimony for S.B. 3068.

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



**KENNETH S. HARA**  
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
**HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3068,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
**WAYS AND MEANS**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **SUPPORT** SB 3068.

We are in support of this legislative bill that appropriates funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that impacted the counties of Maui.

The wildfires in August 2023 caused significant damage and devastation in Lahaina. It is crucial that the State takes proactive measures in addressing the aftermath of the wildfires and it is vital that the State continues to support recovery efforts and aid the affected communities in Maui. Appropriating funds for this purpose demonstrate the State's commitment to helping those impacted by the wildfires and ensuring their well-being and recovery.

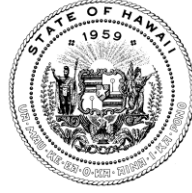
The allocation of funds will enable the State to effectively respond to immediate needs and address critical issues arising from disasters like the wildfires. This may include providing emergency relief, supporting displaced individuals and families, restoring infrastructure, and implementing measures to prevent future wildfires.

This bill validates a commitment to the well-being and resilience of the people of Maui and the entire state of Hawai'i. It also ensures that they will receive the assistance they need to rebuild and recover.

HI-EMA **strongly supports** this bill, which reflects the State's responsibility to protect its citizens and communities during times of crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 3068.

James Barros: [james.barros@hawaii.gov](mailto:james.barros@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. BOX 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850  
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO  
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 21, 2024  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 3068, Making Appropriations for Wildfire Recovery**

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department supports this administration bill.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that affected the counties of Hawaii and Maui.

The Department appreciates the recognition and support provided by the Legislature of the various agencies' response to the devastation that occurred on Maui last August. Additional funds will be needed by many state agencies to address the State's ongoing response to the wildfire, and the Department fully supports funding such needs. Without impacting funding for any other agency, the Department requests that this Committee consider appropriating funds for the Department's Division of Consumer Advocacy (CCA 103 or Division) for its ongoing response to the wildfires. The Division will need additional funding to hire consultants to assist the Division in its statutory duties

to protect the interests of all consumers and ratepayers throughout the State. The current Governor's Budget reflects a ceiling increase for the Division in the amount of \$900,000, and the Department respectfully request that this bill be amended to reflect the same addition. Specifically, the Department requests that a new section be added to the bill to read as follows:

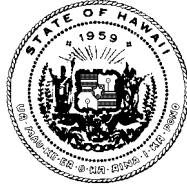
There is appropriated out the public utilities commission special fund established by section 269-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$900,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for consultant contracts for utility dockets.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the division of consumer advocacy (CCA 103) for the purposes of this Act.

The funding is needed to obtain outside services to protect ratepayers during any electric utility corporate restructuring, reorganization and/or change of control action, to evaluate the Hawaii electric grid as it pertains to the Wildfire Recovery, and to ensure equitable process and outcomes. The Department appreciates your support for this bill and your consideration of the amendment set forth above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this administration bill.

Melburne2024!  
JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 20, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3068 – MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY.**

Hearing: February 21, 2024, 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 221, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure, defers to the Department of Budget & Finance (B&F), and respectfully requests an amendment to Section 6 of the measure to authorize three full-time equivalent temporary positions to be funded by federal funds and three full-time equivalent temporary positions to be funded by state funds. DHS amends this request based upon receipt of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) award of the Disaster Case Management grant.

**PURPOSE:** This bill appropriates funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that affected the counties of Hawai'i and Maui.

DHS submitted the State's application for the FEMA Disaster Case Management (DCM) program. Prior to receiving the grant award from FEMA, DHS included in its executive budget request \$13,370,000 in general funds to support continued Maui Wildfire recovery activities and to support the DHS implementation of the FEMA DCM. While we project three executive positions will be federally funded, we require state general funds for three of the six temporary

executive positions to oversee Maui recovery efforts. DHS will submit a Governor's Message with an amendment to the executive budget request.

The Director's Office needs staff and resources dedicated to the Maui relief efforts to lead an equitable recovery. This request includes funds for salaries of three temporary exempt administrative positions not covered by the FEMA grant award: the DCM Administrator (\$110,000), the Maui Emergency Response Director (\$112,944), and the Emergency Management Communications Director (\$105,516). For the current fiscal year, we anticipate using vacancy savings from HMS 904 to fund the salaries.

The DCM grant does not provide funds for survivors' unmet needs. The additional request for general funds (\$12,986,000) is necessary to meet the needs of survivors who may be ineligible for federal disaster assistance or for expenditures not covered by federal disaster assistance. Expenditures may include rental subsidies, including first-month rent and deposit, pet security deposits, utilities, document replacement, vehicle replacement, travel, and other personal expenses. Funds may also be used for travel assistance for survivors to relocate off-island or out of state to seek housing, employment, or educational opportunities as the debris removal and rebuilding processes are ongoing.

Further, to support the DCM and other Maui recovery work, DHS needs general funds to support IT and data-sharing needs.

DHS respectfully requests the following amendments:

"SECTION 6. (a) The department of human services is authorized to fund ~~six~~ **three** full-time equivalent (~~6~~**3**.0 FTE) temporary positions to be funded by federal funds, **and three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) temporary positions to be funded by general funds.**

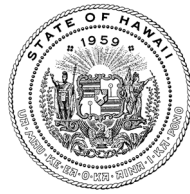
(b) There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$13,370,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025, and the sum of ~~\$12,751,554~~ **\$12,211,402** or so much



thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 in federal funds for emergency management related to the Hawaii wildfires that began on August 8, 2023.

(c) The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services, general administration - DHS (HMS 904), for the purposes of this Act."

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



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kāla*  
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

**TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
**DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**ON**  
**SENATE BILL NO. 3068**

**February 21, 2024**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

**MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY**

The Department of Budget and Finance offers the following comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 3068.

S.B. No. 3068 displays, in a single legislative vehicle, all of the FY 25 Executive Supplemental Budget requests relating to the State's response and recovery from the August 8, 2023, wildfires and statewide wildfire mitigation and response. These appropriation items totaling \$452.2 million are already included in House Bill No. 1800 and the Senate counterpart, S.B. No. 2234.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

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



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

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

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

February 19, 2024

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT SB 3068,  
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY**

I **support** this measure to appropriate funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires.

This testimony is in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. As is well-stated in this measure, Federal, State, and County agencies have worked together with nonprofit organizations, including the American Red Cross, Hawaii Community Foundation, Maui United Way, and many others, on emergency response and recovery since the August 2023 wildfires. Further support is needed to address ongoing response and recovery efforts.
2. This measure provides much-needed help to Maui County and its people at this critical time in our history.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.



## TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

### SB 3068, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY

#### POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports** SB 3068, making appropriations for wildfire recovery. Pursuant to the "Public Safety and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness" section of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform, the party supports "policy that protects the people of Hawai'i and their property against natural and man-made disasters," and "believes that climate change is real, affirms human activity as its primary cause and main driver, and supports emergency preparedness and planning efforts to mitigate its impacts."

Last year, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south.

The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures, including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated

the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. According to a report issued by the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization on September 22, 2023, the unemployment rate on Maui was expected to soar above 11 percent by the end of 2023 and remain above 4 percent through 2026. A total of 10,448 new claims for unemployment in Maui County were filed in the four weeks following the wildfires, about 9,900 more than the preceding four weeks. Displaced families and workers who lost their jobs are still attempting to recover from the disaster, with a full recovery expected to take many years to achieve.

**Accordingly, we must do all we can to prevent tragedies like this from recurring on our shores and appropriate funds to help mitigate future emergencies.** The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency released an updated State Hazard Mitigation Plan last November, in which the state's wildfire risk level soared 74 percent to 6.6 from its prior level of 3.8 in the 2018 draft of the report.

The updated hazard mitigation plan contains statistics on how many people by county are at risk from wildfire hazards. For Honolulu, 427,293 people could potentially be affected by wildfires, which was listed as the highest risk with a risk factor of 5.7. Maui County also has wildfires as its highest emergency risk with a score of 5.8 and 81,424 people at risk. On Kaua'i, wildfires carry a 5.6 risk level and threaten 27,604 people. Hawai'i Island has a wildfire risk score of 4.6 and 32,080 people at risk.

Wildfires are now designated as the top hazard in the state according to the updated HIEMA report. It is incumbent upon policymakers to respond with urgency to keep our communities safe.

Mahalo nui loa,

**Kris Coffield**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

(808) 679-7454

kriscoffield@gmail.com

**Abby Simmons**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

(808) 352-6818

abbyalana808@gmail.com

Bill No.: SB 3068

DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 2024  
TIME: 9:30 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
TIMESLOT: WAM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Jade Garcia and I am a student at the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, but I am not representing this organization. I am testifying in support of SB 3068 which makes appropriations for wildfire recovery following the catastrophic Maui wildfires on August 8, 2023.

The Maui wildfires took the lives of 100 plus people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes. Maui experienced a severe economic disruption in the wake of the wildfires, as visitor arrivals plunged by nearly three-quarters. Maui lost more than \$13 million of visitor spending each day in the weeks following the fire. The employment effects of the fires have been rapid and severe as the fires destroyed the vast majority of businesses and jobs in Lahaina. Across Maui, local businesses are struggling from the lower visitor numbers.

There is a need for further support in order to address the ongoing recovery and response efforts, and SB 3068 provides financial funding that is needed in order to restore the Maui community.

I strongly support SB 3068.

Jade Garcia  
Senatorial District 18  
Email: [Jadegarc@hawaii.edu](mailto:Jadegarc@hawaii.edu)