



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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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
Friday, March 1, 2024
9:55 a.m.
Conference Room 211**

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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 wildfires, 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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
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STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Friday, March 1, 2024
9:55 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

S.B. 3068
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports** S.B. 3068, that supports the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that affected the county of Maui.

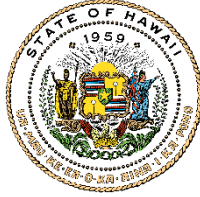
HDOT is requesting in the executive budget, an appropriation of \$6,600,000 in Highway revenue bond funds and \$26,400,000 in federal authority for the Lahaina Repair, Rehabilitation, and/or Reinstallation.

The transfer proposed in this bill is a budget-neutral transfer of highway revenue bond funds and federal authority, and will not impact the fiscal year 2023-2024 general fund expenditure ceiling.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Friday, March 01, 2024
9:55 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3068
RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY**

Senate Bill 3068 proposes to appropriate funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that affected the counties of Hawai'i and Maui. SB3068, in part, appropriates funds to DLNR for operating expenses and equipment. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is the primary responder for wildland fires across 1,368,002 acres of the State of Hawai'i's forested watersheds (or 26% of the land area in Hawai'i) and supports federal and county responders on other lands in the State. Due to climate change and associated droughts, the annual area burned in Hawai'i has grown in past decades. The percentage of land area burned annually in Hawai'i exceeds the national average, and in some years, it surpasses the 14 most fire-prone western states.

DOFAW collaborates with the counties to extinguish fires on forested lands and in the wildland-urban interface managed by the counties. DOFAW provides specialty expertise, equipment, and other resources in these environments. The Department also assists counties during natural disasters like hurricanes and lava flows. DOFAW's fire and emergency response mandates require specialized equipment. Much of DOFAW's firefighting equipment is decades old and needs modernization. DOFAW also needs additional funds to create and maintain fire breaks, execute fuel reduction projects, monitor fire weather, and initiate post-fire recovery of burned areas. A detailed breakdown of the budget requests has been provided to the committee's staff.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife

FY25 Supplemental Draft Budget Request for Fire & Emergency Response (LNR 402)

Personnel (22 civil service positions 6 mos.): \$706,464

Administrative Office (1):

- Planner IV to support Fire Management Program

Maui District (6):

- Fire management and emergency response crew: (4) Forestry and Wildlife Worker II (BC05); will double the number of firebreaks currently managed by DOFAW
- (1) Heavy Equipment Operator (BC10) and (1) Automotive Mechanic I for maintaining heavy equipment used in fire response and fuel reduction projects

Hawaii Island (5):

- Three (3) Heavy equipment operator positions (BC10) for Hawaii Island to operate machinery for fuel reduction projects, fire break and road maintenance as well as operate equipment and water tenders on fires. They are required to have a CDL which is necessary to drive the water tenders.
- One (1) Heavy Vehicle and Construction Mechanic I (BC11) and (1) Heavy Vehicle and Construction Equipment Mechanic II (WS11) to repair and maintain our heavy equipment. The WS11 is to supervise the mechanics in the mechanic shop.

Oahu (4):

- Natural Resource Management Specialist IV (SR-22) for outreach and education on native resource and fire protection
- Establish (1) Forester IV (SR24) (assistant protection forester), and (2) Forestry and Wildlife Worker II's (BC05) for fuels management and fire response.

Kauai (6):

- Natural Resource Management Specialist IV (SR-22) for outreach and education on native resource and fire protection
- Establish (1) Heavy Vehicle and Construction Equipment Mechanic I (BC11) and (1) Heavy Vehicle and Construction Mechanic II (WS11) to repair and maintain our heavy equipment. The WS11 is to supervise the mechanics in the mechanic shop.
- Establish three (3) Forestry and Wildlife Workers for fuels management.

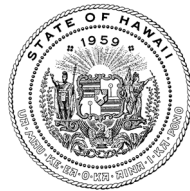
Upgrades and MOF Changes:

- Upgrade position #2947 (Hawaii) from Equipment Operator II (BC06) to Equipment Operator III (BC09) To increase productivity by allowing more effective use of equipment.

- Change MOF from P (.5) to A for **Forester Management Supervisor, SR 24, Position #118212**; position is currently paid by USDA fire assistance grant which is not intended for staff salary
- Add funds to upgrade Forestry and Wildlife Worker III (Maui), Position #04663, WS 05 to Automotive Mechanic I, BC 10

FY25 Supplemental Budget Request: Fire Equipment

Equipment	Gov Request	Branch	Priority per branch
D6 Bulldozer (Molokai)	375000	Maui	
4000 gal Water Tender (Molokai)	250000	Maui	
D6 Bulldozer (Maui)	375000	Maui	
15 F450 Fire Engines (Statewide)	3,750,000	Statewide	
3 dip tanks (Maui)	450000	Maui	
3 off road 1000 gal tenders (Hawaii)	1,950,000	Hawaii	
Trailer D4	80,000	Hawaii	
D4 Bulldozer (Hawaii)	300000	Hawaii	
Hooklift truck w/attach (Kauai)	500000	Kauai	
1 off road 1000 gal tender (Kauai)	650000	Kauai	
2 Fire UTV (Kauai)	70000	Kauai	
Tractor mower (Kauai)	150000	Kauai	
Front End Wheel Loader (Kauai)	600000	Kauai	
Fire UTV trailer (Kauai)	20000	Kauai	
Logistics Trailer (Kauai)	20000	Kauai	
Logistics Trailer (Oahu)	20000	Oahu	
8 RAWs Stations (Statewide)	200000	Statewide	
5 UAS w/ Thermal Detectors (Statewide)	75000	Statewide	
Radio Equipment (Statewide)	150000	Statewide	
Total	\$ 9,985,000.00		



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

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
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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

March 1, 2024
9:55 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY

The Department of Budget and Finance supports this Administration bill.

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.