

**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 HOUSE BILL 1835,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
**WATER AND LAND**

BY

**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

JANUARY 30, 2024

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **SUPPORT** HB1835.

Prioritizing an efficient and transparent distribution management system is a critical aspect of HI-EMA's operations during emergency situations. HI-EMA supports the establishment of this advisory board as an effective means of bringing administrators of state and local agencies together to develop and advise on HI-EMA's statewide distribution management plan.

HI-EMA eagerly anticipates collaborating with the individuals comprising this advisory board, as they will serve as representatives of crucial frontline divisions within their respective organizations. These individuals will be responsible for efficiently allocating resources during times of crisis. A management board is crucial to HI-EMA for several reasons but not limited to the following:

- They will all provide a platform for strategic decision-making by experienced individuals
- Members will bring their expertise and diverse perspectives
- Governance and accountability – ensuring the Agency operates within legal and regulatory frameworks
- Stakeholders represent various entities – ensuring decisions and actions align with the interests and needs of respective stakeholders

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1835.

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

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 430  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 AT 9:00AM**

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

**SUPPORT OF HB1835 RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly supports this bill to establish the distribution management advisory board to develop and advise on the statewide distribution management plan.

With the increasing prevalence of wildfires and other disasters, it is critical update the list and add wildfires and any other omitted disasters (for example, there was recently a tornado warning for Molokai) as a trigger to start plan implementation. We also strongly believe the board should review all plans and update them to include lessons learned from the Maui wildfires, other region's best practices, and other impacts. In addition to the takeaways from Maui noted in the bill, we also suggest adding in triggers when it would be appropriate and needed to ask for military assistance and the roles of and partnerships with the private sector.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support of this bill.

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-1835**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:12:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I supprot this bill

**HB-1835**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:16:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeanine Mentnech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

**HB-1835**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:18:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an important bill because disaster areas need immediate help in receiving supplies. We saw how important it was last year. Including wildfires in the distribution network corrects a serious omission.

Renee Rabb

Hawaii Paradise Park

District 4

**HB-1835**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:36:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Mentnech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-1835**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:47:17 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keita Jo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

January 29, 2024

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

*Please accept my testimony in favor of HB1835.* HB1835 will go along way to ensure that our State's emergency response is current and reflective of the ever-changing landscape of disasters that have and may occur in Hawaii's future. Hawaii's isolation requires an all hands-on deck approach which provides collaborative input from various stakeholders that allow for a response that is measured and effective when disaster strikes. A statewide distribution management plan that is continuously reviewed by an advisory board is a positive step in the right direction for the residents of our State.

Thank you for your consideration,

Keita Jo

Resident, County of Hawaii

**HB-1835**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:51:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Jo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my testimony in favor of HB1835.



**HB-1835**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:52:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: My name is Barbara Cigainero and I am a resident of the Big Island of Hawai'i. I am writing in support of HB 1835 which amends current law regarding the distribution of supplies in an emergency to include providing those supplies in response to a wildfire. There are numerous areas of the Big Island that are subject to wildfires. Being able to respond through the emergency management system to ensure that all necessary supplies are being distributed in response to wildfire events is an important and vital update to current law. If we have learned anything from the recent tragedy on Maui it is that wildfires can be horrific and devastating and that government response needs to be prompt and meaningful.

Thank you for your consideration of my remarks.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI

**HB-1835**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:51:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexey Katko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this extra layer of checks and balances for emergencies will greatly benefit all of Hawaii State.