

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

House Committee on Finance

Thursday, March 28, 2024

3:30 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

With Comments

S.B. No. 2836 HD2, Relating to Maui's Permanent Housing Recovery

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

The Office of the Governor offers the following comments on S.B. No. 2836 HD2, Relating to Maui's Permanent Housing 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 Legislature for adding the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator and the recovery support functions identified by the Governor with their corresponding state leads. This change will ensure continued coordination among all stakeholders involved in recovery.

For the purposes of this bill many partners have been identified. In developing an effective and efficient model for managing many priorities and interests, additional consideration should be given to the distinction between voting and non-voting members. This would facilitate the Council's decision-making and reduce potential difficulties in attaining quorum.

The Maui wildfires 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 Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery and facilitate consultation and collaboration between state and county agencies on housing recovery initiatives for the island of Maui. It also designates the executive director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to serve as chair of the council.

Testimony of Office of the Governor
S.B. No. 2836 HD2
March 28, 2024
Page 2

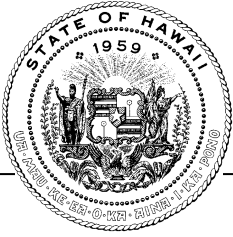
The State of Hawai'i State Disaster Recovery Coordinator has the role of coordinating and planning for long-term recovery and resiliency efforts in support of the County of Maui. This is in contrast to emergency response which is led by HI-EMA under Emergency Support Functions.

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 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. Within this framework, HHFDC has been designated the lead agency to coordinate and advance housing development and redevelopment on state and county lands on Maui, as this bill proposes. Moreover, the majority of the Federal, State, and County members envisioned by this bill are already participating in multiple RSFs.

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.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
INTERIM DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 28, 2024

3:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
BILL NO SB2836, SD2, HD2
RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY.

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

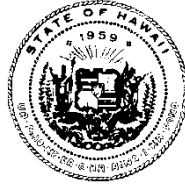
The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** SB2836, SD2, HD2, which establishes the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery and facilitate consultation and collaboration between State and county agencies on housing recovery initiatives for the island of Maui, and appropriates funding.

The need for additional and replacement affordable housing on Maui is clearly established, as is the urgency to deliver the housing. While recovery efforts are currently coordinating between State and county agencies, a long-term structure such as the proposed Interagency Council would help ensure that housing production continues to be a well-coordinated priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of
SB 2836 SD2 HD2
RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee.

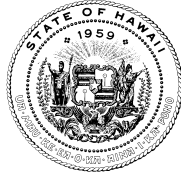
HHFDC **supports** SB 2836 SD2 HD2, which establishes the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery as an advisory body administratively attached to DBEDT to help to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery, and to facilitate consultation and collaboration between the State and the County on housing recovery initiatives for Maui. The council will be chaired by the Executive Director of HHFDC. This bill, which sunsets on June 30, 2034, also makes an unspecified appropriation for the purpose of providing assistance in applying for federal loans and grants.

HHFDC recognizes that effective coordination among Federal, State, and County governmental agencies and the Maui community is essential for the recovery of permanent housing on Maui. This measure creates a council which will facilitate communication among the entities that are assisting in that effort, thereby streamlining the permanent housing recovery process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HEARING ON MARCH 28, 2024 AT 3:30PM IN CR 308

SB 2836, SD 2, HD 2, RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY

March 28, 2024

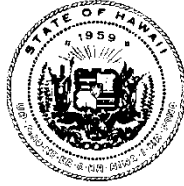
Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this bill which 1) establishes within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery and facilitate consultation and collaboration between state and county agencies on housing recovery initiatives for the island of Maui; 2) designates the executive director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to serve as chair of the council; 3) makes an appropriation; and 4) sunsets 6/30/2034 - effective 7/1/3000.

DHHL concurs with the appropriate part of section 2 of the bill on page 5 which notes the Hawaiian Homes Commission Chairperson to serve as co-vice chairperson of the Hawaii Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery. DHHL has prospective housing projects located on the island of Maui which includes the Pu'uhona Homestead Subdivision and the Leiali'i Homestead Subdivision. Some of the funds pursuant to Act 279, SLH 2022, have been encumbered to develop these projects. DHHL understands the importance of collaborative and strategic housing recovery initiatives with State and County agencies for the island of Maui and we look forward to being a part of this effort.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 28, 2024
3:30 PM – Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2836, SD2, HD2
RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY

Honorable Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 2836, SD2, HD2, relating to Maui's permanent housing recovery.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** SB 2836, SD2, HD2, which establishes within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery and facilitate consultation and collaboration between state and county agencies on housing recovery initiatives for the island of Maui. Designates the executive director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to serve as chair of the council.

Please know that the HPHA stands ready to assist the Legislature in this endeavor and looks forward to collaborating with all stakeholders with the future planning, development, and redevelopment efforts of public lands on the island of Maui.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308
Thursday, March 28, 2024 AT 3:30 P.M.**

To The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

SUPPORT SB2836 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB2836 SD2 HD2.**

Maui County had a housing crisis prior to the wildfires and given the now extreme need for housing on Maui exacerbated by the wildfires, we need urgent solutions. We recognize there are significant state and county lands that can be used for housing, and we support the idea of creating this council who will formulate a strategic housing plan, recommend policy, regulatory and statutory changes, and more. With strong representation by authorities currently involved in housing, we feel this council could expedite the planning, permitting, and building of desperately needed affordable housing and rental units. We appreciate that the council will also help secure funding for the projects and have to report to the Governor, Legislature, and Mayor of Maui County as it will help ensure this remains a high priority item and is constantly moving forward.

We appreciate the previous committee addressing our concern with an amendment that requires the council to work with Maui-based businesses to the greatest extent possible.

Further, while housing is imperative to our economic recovery, we can already see that DBEDT has a significant number of other responsibilities on our economic recovery and diversification for the next few decades. We support SB2028 to establish a separate Department of Housing and would like to see this council centralized under that department, should this bill pass.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT SB2836 SD2 HD2** and respectfully ask that it be passed.

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.



Maui Hotel & Lodging
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of
Lisa H. Paulson
Executive Director
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association

House Committee on Finance

Senate Bill 2836 SD2 HD2: RELATING TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY

March 28, 2024, 3:30 pm
Conference Room 308

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association (MHLA) is the legislative arm of the visitor industry for Maui County. We represent over 180 property and allied business members and 22,000 employees. **MHLA SUPPORTS Senate Bill 2836 SD2 HD2**, which establishes within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery and facilitate consultation and collaboration between state and county agencies on housing recovery initiatives for the island of Maui. Designates the executive director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to serve as chair of the council.

MHLA recognizes that effective coordination among Federal, State, and County governmental agencies and the Maui community is essential for the recovery of permanent housing on Maui. This measure creates a council which will facilitate communication among the entities that are assisting in that effort, thereby streamlining the permanent housing recovery process. A long-term structure such as the proposed Interagency Council would help ensure that housing production continues to be a well coordinated priority.

MHLA **supports SB2836 SD2 HD2** in support of our workforce and our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.