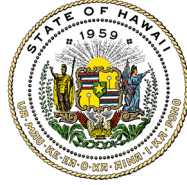


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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 2908 SD1 HD1,
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 27, 2024

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **SUPPORT** SB2908 SD1 HD1.

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is expressing its support for Senate Bill 2908 SD1 HD1, which aims to provide better guidance and protection for individuals impacted by emergencies such as wildfires. HI-EMA acknowledges that many people who still have housing available to them are facing predatory rental rate increases, while those who have lost necessities of life may also face unfair pricing for essential goods and services.

Under this legislation, predatory pricing in any form, including the sale of commodities at retail or wholesale levels, will not be tolerated during emergencies. Landlords will also not be allowed to terminate rental agreements unless there is a breach of a material term of the agreement or if the unit is unfit for occupancy. Additionally, landlords are prohibited from increasing rent for residential units in the affected area unless the increase was agreed upon in writing prior to the declaration of the emergency.

HI-EMA supports this legislation as it aims to reduce stress for individuals facing unforeseen emergencies and ensures that predatory pricing is not allowed. It also helps property owners and suppliers understand that unfair pricing practices will not be tolerated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2908 SD1 HD1.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

March 27, 2024

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 2908, SD1, HD1, Relating to Emergency Management

HEARING: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawaii and its over 11,000 members. HAR **strongly supports and suggests amendments** to Senate Bill 2908 SD1, HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation. Shortens the duration of price control periods and prohibition against residential-tenancy termination from ninety-six hours to seventy-two hours. Effective 1/1/3000.

We support the intent of this bill to provide additional clarity for businesses and consumers in times of emergency by specifying that the Governor or a Mayor give guidance within 72 hours as to whether price freezing will occur and on which goods and services. We greatly appreciate the amendments made in the previous committee and would respectfully request a few additional clarifying amendments.

The suggested amendments to Section 2 of the HD1 would amend the language from page 4, line 15 through page 5, line 19 to have HRS §127A-30 subsection (c) read as follows:

"(c) [~~The prohibitions~~] Each prohibition under [subsection (a)]: ~~(1)~~ Subsection (a) (1) or (2) shall remain in effect until twenty-four hours after the severe weather warning is canceled by the [~~National Weather Service;~~] issuing agency; or in the event of a declaration, [~~the later of a date specified by the governor or mayor in the declaration or ninety-six~~] seventy-two hours after the effective date and time of the declaration, unless [~~such~~] the prohibition is identified and continued [~~by a supplementary declaration issued by~~] and the types of commodities or other prohibitions are identified by the governor or mayor [~~—Any proclamation issued under this chapter that fails to state the time at which it will take effect, shall take effect at twelve noon of the day on which it takes effect.~~] in the proclamation or any supplemental proclamation; ~~or~~

~~(2) Subsection (a) (3) shall remain in effect until _____ days after the severe weather warning is canceled by the issuing agency; or in the event of a declaration, the later of a date specified by the governor or mayor in the declaration or _____ days after the effective date and time of the declaration, unless the prohibition is continued by a supplementary declaration issued by the governor or mayor."~~

Currently under HRS §127A-30, whenever the Governor or a Mayor for their respective county declares a state of emergency, it automatically triggers a prohibition on "any increase in the selling price of any commodity, whether at the retail or wholesale level, in the area that is the subject of the proclamation or the severe weather warning." This provision also applies to rental housing.

The original intent of the price freeze protections was likely to protect the public in times of natural disasters or other calamities to allow them access to important goods, such as food, water, gas, housing, etc. without the fear of being unable to afford these products. However, the use of Emergency Proclamations has expanded in recent years and there is almost always an active Emergency Proclamation at any given time. Both consumers and businesses are often confused on whether price freezing needs to happen in a given situation and on which products. A broader interpretation of the law suggests that these price controls could apply to all goods and services in the state, including contracts, during any state of emergency or active proclamation. These differences in interpretation have led to confusion and inconsistent business practices.

While we are grateful the Administration has begun to specify which commodities the price freeze statute applies to in the Governor's recent Emergency Proclamations, we believe a permanent legislative fix is necessary to help provide needed clarity to both businesses and consumers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and provide amendments to this measure.



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**
Before the House Committee on
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

In Consideration of Senate Bill No. 2908, SD1 HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

To Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

We are writing on behalf of Lahaina Strong, an organization that was initially formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and re-energized last year after the devastating Lahaina fires on August 8. Our organization is the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 20,000 supporters, engaged in emphasizing the importance of local voices and community-driven solutions.

Lahaina Strong stands in support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

Lahaina Strong has been at the forefront of relief and advocacy efforts, including the initiation of the "Fishing for Housing" camp, which has been in operation for over nineteen weeks along Kaanapali Beach, highlighting the need for dignified housing for Lahaina fire victims. We commend the legislature for considering measures that address the pressing issues faced by our community.

One of the primary goals of Lahaina Strong, as outlined in our ongoing efforts and collaboration with the affected community, is housing for the people of Maui. While our primary focus is on the displaced fire victims of Lahaina, we firmly believe that stronger protections are needed for all tenants, as we have borne witness to the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the recent disasters have caused island-wide.

We strongly support the inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing or notifying tenants of an increase in rent for a residential dwelling unit in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis.

In summary, we believe that **SB2908 SD1 HD1** presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by our community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. We urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond.

Mahalo for your attention and commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Courtney Lazo, Pa'ele Kiakona & Jordan Ruidas

Lahaina Strong



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

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Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 27, 2024
TIME: 2pm
PLACE: Room 325

RE: SB2908 SD1 HD1 Relating to Emergency Management

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

HFIA is in support of this measure which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation and shortens the duration of price control periods, and prohibition against residential-tenancy termination from ninety-six hours to seventy-two hours.

Price controls can play an important role after an emergency in ensuring that those impacted have access to essential items at standard prices. Currently, emergency proclamations are used in our state not only to address emergency situations such as those after a natural disaster, but also to enable the government to take action on ongoing crisis such as homelessness, that may not rise to the level of a statewide emergency but still require immediate attention.

This means that HRS §127A-3 is sometimes not well aligned with how an emergency proclamation is being used or intended. The administration has addressed consumer and businesses confusion on this by being very specific in emergency proclamations about the details of the price freezes for that particular proclamation. We believe the best way forward is to update the HRS to provide clarity to Hawaii consumers and businesses and align the law with the current use of emergency proclamations.

We appreciate the amendments made in the previous committee and have a few additional clarifying amendments to respectfully request. The suggested amendments to Section 2 of the HD1 would amend the language from page 4, line 16 through page 5, line 19 to have HRS §127A-30 subsection (c) read as follows:

(c) The prohibitions under subsection (a) shall remain in effect until twenty-four hours after the severe weather warning is canceled by the ~~[National Weather Service;]~~ issuing agency; or in the event of a declaration, ~~[the later of a date specified by the governor or mayor in the declaration or ninety-six]~~ seventy-two hours after the effective date and time of the declaration, unless ~~[such]~~ the prohibition is identified and continued ~~[by a supplementary declaration issued]~~ and the types of commodities ~~or other~~ prohibitions are identified by the governor or mayor~~[-]~~ in the proclamation or any supplementary proclamation. Any proclamation issued under this chapter that fails to state the time at which it will take effect, shall take effect at ~~[twelve]~~ noon ~~[of]~~ on the day on which it takes effect.

We thank the Committee for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to testify.



Ave Kwok, Chairman - Jade Dynasty

Andy Huang, Incoming Chair - L&L Hawaiian Barbeque **Tambara Garrick, Secretary** – Hawaii Farm Project

Kahili Soon, Treasurer – Hukilau Marketplace **Ryan Tanaka, Past Chairman** – Giovanni Pastrami

Sheryl Matsuoka, Executive Director **Ginny Wright**, Operations Associate **Holly Kessler**, Director of Membership Relations

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Date: March 25, 2024
To: Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead
Subj: SB 2908, SD1, HD 1 relating to Emergency Management

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing 4,000 Eating and Drink Place locations SUPPORT SB2908, SD1, HD1 that shortens the duration of price control periods and prohibition from ninety-six hours to seventy-two hours.

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes 127A-30, when a state of emergency is declared by the Governor or a Mayor of a county, it automatically prohibits any increase in commodity prices, both retail and wholesale in that affected area.

The many Emergency Proclamations in recent years has created confusion among consumers and businesses regarding when price freezing is required and which commodities it applies to, resulting in inconsistent practices

While the Administration has begun to specify which commodities the price freeze statute applies to in the governor’s recent Emergency Proclmations, we believe a permanent legislative fix is necessary to help provide needed clarity for both business and consumers during emergencies.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.





House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) SUPPORTS: SB2908 SD1 HD1

Wednesday, March 27th, 2024 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members,

HAPA is testifying to express support for SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation, shortens the duration of price control periods, and prohibits residential-tenancy termination from 96 hours to 72 hours. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lāhainā fires.

The Lāhainā community has seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on their community after recent disasters. This bill would prevent landlords from raising rents in disaster areas without prior agreement from tenants, providing much-needed protection during this housing crisis.

HAPA urges the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lāhainā.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

March 25, 2024

Committee On Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii.

Hundreds of our union members and their family lost their homes in the Lahaina wildfires. Our union has worked to provide what support we can to these working-class families in this impossibly difficult situation. Affordable housing and getting back to work are two key steps needed for Maui families to begin to rebuild their lives.

We are in support of SB2908. The bill will address one of those key building blocks needed for long term recovery. Rental costs were a serious problem for Maui residents even *before* the fire destroyed a significant number of homes in West Maui. It's hard to imagine a scenario where families can rebuild their lives if our government allows predatory rental prices to drain their financial resources. In order to support our 'ohana in their efforts to recover from this disaster, keeping rents from spiraling out of control, as they already have, is of utmost importance. We urge the committees to consider a timeline for these restrictions that allows the community a chance to start building longer-term solutions, because otherwise the problem of inflated rents will come up again before long. Securing fair and reasonable rents will give our Maui ohana the stability and foundation they need to rebuild.

We urge you to pass SB2908.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 3:47:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua DK Lum	Lahaina Strong	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas,

Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1,

which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island.

Due to the August 8th wildfire

we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely, Joshua DK Lum

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:37:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Jewish Voice for Peace-Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

As a community we watched in horror as the Lahaina fires and the aftermath unfolded. We then watched the government promise to listen to the residents of Lahaina and their leadership in the aftermath of the fires. This bill is a crucial step in letting Lahaina lead and in protecting tenants across the pae 'āina in the aftermath of disasters.

Hawai'i is facing an unprecedented housing crisis, losing an average of 20 local residents per day. This issues are further exacerbated when landlords are allowed to capitalize on disasters through predatory rent increases, which happened after the Lahaina fires, causing more evictions and rent hikes across the islands, forcing many Lahaina families to have no other choice but to relocate to the continent. The ripple effects of this have only grown.

This bill is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires and to protect our communities during future disasters.

Please help fulfill the government's commitment to let Lahaina lead and to learning from this fire and its far reaching impact and toll it has taken on Lahaina residents by passing this bill. No one should have been forced out of Hawai'i due to this trajedy. You can take a step toward making sure families stay protected and that you remain committed to addressing the pressing needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Jewish Voice for Peace-Hawai'i

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 2:44:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sherri curry	Lahaina Strong	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, prohibit rent increases after emergency proclamations. It is a humanitarian crisis.

March 27, 2024, 2 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice-Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

COMMENTS ON SB2908 SD1 HD1 — RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Aloha Chairs and Committee members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [SB2908 SD1 HD1](#), which would clarify the powers of the governor and mayors to extend an emergency via proclamation; shorten the duration of price control periods during an emergency; and prohibit residential rent increases in specific areas for an unspecified amount of time following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation.

We agree that the emergency management statute is in need of an update, but we are concerned about the potential effect of these amendments. In particular, the clause allowing the governor or mayors to extend an emergency via supplementary proclamation would exacerbate a problem in the state's current emergency management law that was not apparent until the COVID-19 lockdowns, which is the lack of a meaningful legislative check on the governor's emergency powers.

Currently, the law includes a 60-day limit on emergencies, but it does not address what should happen if an emergency exceeds that limit. This bill would make that problem even more severe by guaranteeing that the governor and mayors would be able to extend their emergency proclamations indefinitely, with little input or oversight from the legislative branch.

What is needed is a legislative check on the possibility of an unending emergency arising from the governor's or a mayor's ability to issue supplemental proclamations extending the original emergency period. For that

reason, we respectfully suggest an amendment that would authorize the Legislature to terminate a declared state of emergency after 60 days via an affirmative two-thirds vote in both chambers.

An amendment that retains legislative power over the prospect of unending supplemental proclamations would help ensure that the public retains a voice in an ongoing emergency, and that the emergency powers do not become a tool for unchecked executive power.

This bill also shortens the period of price controls on commodities specified in an emergency proclamation, which would be a step in the right direction.

Economists frown on price controls — even during emergencies¹ — as they tend to create economic inefficiencies and distort the market, often hurting the disadvantaged and vulnerable populations they are intended to help.²

If anything, such controls incentivize those with more resources and advantages to take advantage of artificially lower prices, leading to hoarding and unnecessary purchases. One study found that pandemic-era price controls actually undermined COVID-19 mitigation efforts, as they exacerbated shortages and forced consumers to travel to more stores in order to locate goods, thereby frustrating social-distancing efforts.³

Keeping the duration of price controls to a minimum, or even eliminating price controls completely, would help address the problems caused by the market disruptions they cause

Finally, we are concerned about the vagueness of the emergency rent control period described in this bill. Without a clear statement of the intended length of this proposed rent freeze, it is difficult to properly anticipate its effect on the state's rental housing market as a whole.

Recent years have seen an increase in the use of emergency proclamations for situations outside of the natural disasters envisioned in this bill. Combined with the legal uncertainty surrounding the governor's ability to extend emergencies indefinitely via supplemental proclamations, this presents the possibility that SB2908 could affect the financial calculations involved with renting residential housing.

Because there is a real and ever-present threat of natural disasters in Hawaii, this bill may unintentionally contribute to higher overall rent prices or lower rental availability as landlords try to mitigate the risk of being affected by the bill's potential for rent freezes.

¹ ["Price Gouging,"](#) Chicago Booth, Kent A. Clark Center for Global Markets, May 2, 2012.

² Ryan Bourne, ["Abolish Price and Wage Controls,"](#) Cato Institute, Sept. 15, 2020.

³ Rik Chakraborti and Gavin Roberts, ["How price-gouging regulation undermined COVID-19 mitigation: county-level evidence of unintended consequences,"](#) Public Choice, Vol. 196, 2023, pp. 51–83.

Research demonstrates that even over a limited period of time or limited geographic area, rent freezes can have a negative impact on the rental market.

A recent study of Berlin's 2020 rent freeze found that even in the short term, rent control in Germany's capital city resulted in a dramatic drop in the number of properties advertised for rent.⁴ In fact, many of Berlin's rentals appeared to permanently disappear from the rental market. Meanwhile, the policy created a significant rent gap in neighboring areas, pushing up rental prices where the freeze didn't apply.

In other words, landlords who are fearful of the long-term impact of a rent control law often protect their interests by either raising their rental rates in advance or leaving the market entirely.

Another example: When the city of Buenos Aires in Argentina announced a plan to "stabilize" rents in 2021, rental prices shot up 67% in anticipation of the coming rent freeze.⁵

If the rent control period created by this bill were to be of substantial duration, it could have an undesirable effect on the housing market as a whole. If a rent freeze is deemed necessary anyway, perhaps it would be best to subject rental rates to the existing law's more general price control provision.

Regardless of how it is included, however, the rent control period must be kept as short as possible in order to prevent a negative effect on the housing market as a whole.

It is important that Hawaii's emergency management law reflects the lessons we have learned over the past few years. There is room to balance civil rights concerns and protect Hawaii residents without handicapping the ability of the governor to respond quickly and effectively to emergency situations.

The goal should be to amend the law so that Hawaii is better able to address future emergencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

⁴ Anja M. Hahn, Konstantin A. Kholodilin, Sofie R. Waltl and Marco Fongoni, "[Forward to the Past: Short-Term Effects of the Rent Freeze in Berlin](#)," Management Science, March 22, 2023.

⁵ Patrick Gillespie, "[How a Plan to Stabilize Rents Sent Prices Skyrocketing](#)," Bloomberg, April 16, 2021.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 2:07:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keasha nuesca	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Keasha Nuesca. Born and raised on the Island of Maui in our little town called Lahaina.

I urge our legislators to support this bill because it is only right! We need more action to be done in our community as we are all suffering in many different ways. But I believe that if we come together and do what is RIGHT for our people who have been greatly impacted by this tragedy then I believe everyone will be happy.

Please think about the future of our community. Greatly appreciate your time , looking forward to what's to come. Xoxo

Mahalo Nui , Keasha Nuesca

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2024 7:11:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Kidd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2024 6:09:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a resident of Lahaina.

I am writing today **in support of SB2908 SD1 HD1.**

The Maui community has been dealing with a ripple effect of secondary traumas since the August 2023 wildfires, and this proposed bill would offer some protections that were not available to our community in these months since the fire.

My only concern is a lack of enforcement or clarity as to what entity is expected to carry it out - while I assume it's the AG, we have seen an astonishing lack of enforcement for the Governor's Emergency Proclamations. What we heard their office said is that "the EPs have no teeth," so if that was true I hope the same is not true of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Keefe

Lahaina, Maui

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 1:06:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aulani Dusenberry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire, we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Aulani Dusenberry

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 1:11:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lara OConnor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8thwildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 1:12:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana Abbey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Ana Lehua Abbey

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 1:12:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Noel Shaw

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 1:19:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely, Susan Douglas, Kihei

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 1:26:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Billy woods	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill opposing short term rentals as a kanaka very frustrating to see this going on in my home called HAWAII please work with the people especially in Lāhainā to come to a solution bin goin on way to long enough is enough mahalo nui billy woods

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 1:52:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Despres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Jamie Lynn Silva

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 1:59:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Palacios	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA ALL,

IN SUPPORT OF SB2908.

MAHALOS,

ANN PALACIOS

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 2:16:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Stacey Alapai, Makawao 96768

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 3:28:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Kevin Kekoa Dolan-Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely, Thomas

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 3:46:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dale chappell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Dale Chappell

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 3:50:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arna Lahela Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I write to you as a concerned member of our community to express my full support for SB2908 SD1 HD1. This bill is crucial in prohibiting residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period following severe storm warnings or emergency proclamations.

I firmly believe that tenants require stronger protection, especially in the aftermath of recent disasters that have led to increased evictions and rent hikes across the island. The aftermath of the August 8th wildfire has brought about a secondary wave of evictions, rising rents, and overall instability, impacting communities island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1 represents a vital measure to safeguard our community following the challenges posed by the August 8th wildfires.

Thank you for your dedication to addressing the urgent needs of our community.

Mahalo,
Arna Lahela Johnson

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 4:00:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tinamarie McRoberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Tinamarie McRoberts

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 4:45:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Consuelo Apolo-Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 4:51:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ke'alohe Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide. Many residents whom are families, including young keiki.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

How would you feel if your family faced a similar situation? Where is the compassion, empathy and support for these community members who have suffered the unimaginable on August 8th. Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Ke'alohe Naipo

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 5:10:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Shay Chan Hodges

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 5:17:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Gabriel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

As a mental health counselor, I see the detrimental impact on our community when basic needs are not met. Stable housing is a basic need. I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8thwildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Tanya Noelle Gabriel, LMHC, NCC

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 5:19:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekuulani Haake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8thwildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Kekuulani Haake

Born Maui. Rooted Lahaina.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 5:32:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayleen Barino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community and resident of Hawai'i to express my full support for SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better and improved protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the horrific August 8, 2023 wildfire we have seen firsthand the secondary wave of evictions, drastic rent increases, and instability the horrific wildfire disasters have caused throughout the island of Maui.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial and essential step to help protect families and children after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community.

Warm regards,

Jayleen Barino

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 5:53:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheryl Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sheryl Johnson

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 6:48:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Violeta Morales Vazquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,
Violeta Morales Vazquez

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 6:33:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Tariao Montano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member and medical provider of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

As a pediatrician, I see through my own experience and through the research that housing is an important determinant of health. Without it, all other health needs cannot be met. Providing affordable rent is not only a housing issue, it is a public health issue.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide. This will severely affect the health and well-being of those affected. I have seen the impact of these evictions and rent hikes first hand. My patients having unstable housing have poor grades, worsening anxiety and depression, and difficulty managing chronic disease like asthma and diabetes.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community and prevent a public health crisis after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing housing and health needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Gerald Montano, DO

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 7:02:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Wylie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Beth Wylie

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 7:27:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Garnier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I truly believe tenants/renters, etc need better protection. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a step forward to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to work with our community.

Lorraine Garnier

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 7:45:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Fred

Hofer

Hilo

(Your Name)

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 8:19:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Richard Ho

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 8:22:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Bruch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

James Bruch

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 8:28:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alba Bermudez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

stop the increases of rent , stop the evictions , rent to local families . No more vacational rentals
! we deman long term housing

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:35:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

As a communtiy we watched in horror as the Lahaina fires and the aftermath unfolded. We then watched the government promise to listen to the residents of Lahaina and their leadership in the aftermath of the fires. This bill is a crucial step in letting Lahaina lead and in protecting tenants across the pae ‘āina in the aftermath of disasters.

Hawai'i is facing an unprecedented housing crisis, losing an average of 20 local residents per day. This issues are further exacerbated when landlords are allowed to capitalize on disasters through predatory rent increases, which happened after the Lahaina fires, causing more evictions and rent hikes across the islands, forcing many Lahaina families to have no other choice but to relocate to the continent. The ripple effects of this have only grown.

This bill is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires and to protect our communities during future disasters.

Please help fulfill the government's commitment to let Lahaina lead and to learning from this fire and its far reaching impact and toll it has taken on Lahaina residents by passing this bill. No one should have been forced out of Hawai'i due to this trajedy. You can take a step toward making sure families stay protected and that you remain commtited to addressing the pressing needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Julie Warech

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:38:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dino Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Dino Rivera support this bill!

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 10:21:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Palakiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I'm a resident born and raised in Lahaina, writing to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1.

The crucial issues Hawai'i government is faced with is how to minimize human suffering and speed up the recovery process in the post-disaster period. Our people of Lahaina town have suffered too much.

Non-displaced are also now becoming displaced as property owner opportunists seek to take advantage of FEMA money.

The underlying fear of what will happen when FEMA and all other assistance is gone is ever present on our minds: will the landlords bring rent back to what it was pre-fire? (Which already had the town living paycheck to paycheck).

Price gouging is prohibited after disasters. This should absolutely be true of the rental market from the very start.

Thank you for hearing our voices. We need your help. We want our local people to stay here and not be forced to move out of state.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Lauren Palakiko

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 10:23:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Sanchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Amy Sanchez

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 11:14:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taulia Tuua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of bill SB2908 as we need to better protect the workforce housing and local community to be able to afford to live in their community that they love and work in. There should not be evictions or rent increases to profit off of the huge loss that has occurred in our community. We need to continue to put safe guards in place to protect our people and our place.

mahalo!

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 1:12:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Monteiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

PLEASE WE HAVE TO ACT NOW. The prices of housing had gotten out of touch for so many members of our community. I personally had a land lord raise the price of the home I was trying to live in from \$3595 to \$7500 to \$9500 in a matter of one day siting that insurance would pay or the government. This blew it completely out of reach for me a single Dad!!! The prices for housing are becoming absurd at best and unattainable for many.

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Robert Monteiro Jr.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 2:02:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Dickerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Kylie Dickerson

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 2:48:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing to express strong support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

No one should be evicted after a disaster. No one should be making profits from the suffering of folks experiencing the aftermath of a disaster.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 7:27:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Keala Fung

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 7:30:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to protect tenants during this unforeseen time of emergency after the fire. I support SB2908, we must protect our people and not allow rent increases. This bill is crucial for our community.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 7:40:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janelle Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of this bill which will limit rent increases after an emergency. We can see by what is happening right now on Maui that this bill is extremely important as some landlords are raising rents in this time of critical housing shortage thereby taking advantage of the citizens . Please pass this bill!

Sincerely ,

Janelle Brown

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 7:50:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Cho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Ashley KV Cho

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 8:01:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RODNEY MATHIAS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

As a Lahaina resident, it's time to start doing what's right and fight back against people who value money over people. I find it disturbing that we even have to create legislation against things like this.

I absolutely **support SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

~Rodney Mathias

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 9:01:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Changing the duration of price controls from 4 days to 3 days does not even make sense.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 9:01:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miriam Keo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing this as a concerned member of the community in support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

My belief is that tenants such as myself need better protection. This recent disaster in Lahaina and Kula shows the great need. We have seen waves of evictions, rent increases, and instability across the island.

This bill SB2908 SD1 HD1 is crucial to ensure protection for our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community.

Mahalo,

Miriam-Ashley Keo

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 9:47:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tarsis Rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing to you as a concerned community member to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8 wildfire, we have seen a secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability caused by island-wide disasters.

SB2908 SD1 HD1 is crucial in helping protect our community after the August 8 wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community.

Thank you,

Tarsis

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 9:56:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Julia Marrack. Kamuela, HI

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 10:31:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2908. In the wake of the Lahaina wildfires, we have witnessed a wave of evictions, rent increases, and increased housing instability across Maui. I support inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing rent in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis. SB2908 presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by the Lahaina community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. I urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond.

- Isis Usborne, 96815

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 10:32:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2908. In the wake of the Lahaina wildfires, we have witnessed a wave of evictions, rent increases, and increased housing instability across Maui. I support inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing rent in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis. SB2908 presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by the Lahaina community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. I urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 10:41:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Nalani Abellanida

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 10:48:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Respected Legislators,

I support SB2908. In the wake of the Lahaina wildfires, we have witnessed a wave of evictions, rent increases, and increased housing instability across Maui. I support inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing rent in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis. SB2908 presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by the Lahaina community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. I urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond.

Concerned Citizen,

Jessica dos Santos

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 12:44:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayah Abdo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2908. In the wake of the Lahaina wildfires, we have witnessed a wave of evictions, rent increases, and increased housing instability across Maui. I support inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing rent in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis. SB2908 presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by the Lahaina community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. I urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 1:24:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Cravalho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Sarah Cravalho

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 1:25:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is vital to our Ohana in Lahaina and the whole Westside. We beg of you.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 2:29:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonniebrooke Bullock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2908. In the wake of the Lahaina wildfires, we have witnessed a wave of evictions, rent increases, and increased housing instability across Maui. I support inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing rent in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis. SB2908 presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by the Lahaina community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. I urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 2:32:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Matila	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Regards,

Charlene Matila

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 2:41:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 2:42:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Wahinehookae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Eric Wahinehookae

200 malanai st

Popsez808@gmail.com

[808-793-8796](tel:808-793-8796)

3/26/24

Subject: Support for SB2908 - Prohibition of Residential Rent Increases in Affected Areas

Dear Rep Yamashita.

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2908, a bill that prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation. As a concerned citizen, I believe that this bill is crucial in ensuring the protection and well-being of residents during times of crisis.

Severe storms and natural disasters can have devastating effects on communities, causing significant damage to homes and infrastructure. In such situations, it is essential to prioritize the safety and stability of affected individuals and families. The proposed legislation plays a vital

role in ensuring that residents are not burdened with sudden and unreasonable rent increases during their recovery process.

By prohibiting rent increases in affected areas, SB2908 promotes stability and provides much-needed relief to residents who may already be facing financial challenges due to the impact of a severe storm or other emergencies. This measure will help prevent opportunistic price gouging and ensure that residents can focus on rebuilding their lives without the added stress of unaffordable housing costs.

Furthermore, the bill's provision for an unspecified period of rent increase prohibition demonstrates a commitment to flexibility and adaptability in response to the unique circumstances of each emergency situation. This allows for a tailored approach that takes into account the specific needs and recovery timeline of affected areas.

I believe that SB2908 is a necessary and compassionate piece of legislation that upholds the values of fairness and social responsibility. By supporting this bill, you will be making a significant contribution to the well-being of the community and promoting a more resilient and equitable society.

I kindly urge you to consider my support for SB2908 and to advocate for its passage. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information or if there is any way I can assist in this matter.

Thank you for your attention and for your dedication to serving our community.

Sincerely,

Eric Keali'i Wahinehookae

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 3:13:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genesis Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Mahalo,

Genesis Purdy

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 3:14:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kepuhi Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Mahalo,

Kepuhi Purdy

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 5:21:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara O'Connor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Barbara O'Connor

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 6:10:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clint Kahahane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Clint Kahahane

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 6:10:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Haynes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2908. In the wake of the Lahaina wildfires, we have witnessed a wave of evictions, rent increases, and increased housing instability across Maui. I support inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing rent in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis. SB2908 presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by the Lahaina community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. I urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 8:10:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Tyler Watanabe

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 8:39:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the committee,

I stand in support of SB2908.

I believe tenants need better protection, especially after disasters which can cause evictions and rent hikes across the islands. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen evictions, rent increases, and instability in our housing market. Victims of disasters sometimes have lost everything, including their job, modes of transportation, and many of their belongings. While the demand for housing may increase as victims are displaced by the disaster, we have seen that there is a need for controlling rent increases and evictions.

It is truly despicable that landlords and homeowners would take advantage of a disaster situation and make it into an opportunity to increase their profits, but we have seen that it will happen. It has happened following the Lahaina wildfire, and more needs to be done to ensure that doesn't happen following any future disaster.

Please support this bill and protect those without the power (renters, lessees) from those who abuse the situation of a disaster to increase profits.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

Keoni Shizuma

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 9:08:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2908. In the wake of the Lahaina wildfires, we have witnessed a wave of evictions, rent increases, and increased housing instability across Maui. I support inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing rent in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis. SB2908 presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by the Lahaina community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. I urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond

Testimony in Support of SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and honorable members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Lahaina community to express my strong **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908 which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact the recent Lahaina fires have had on our housing situation. The surge of evictions and rent hikes following this disaster has created immense instability for many families across the island. It is evident that stronger tenant protections are urgently needed to safeguard the well-being of our residents during times of crisis.

We have been seeing a surge of evictions around the island, so owners can raise rent sometimes double what their current tenant was paying. As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. Unfortunately, the fire has caused a fall out in everything related to housing island wide, and it is having detrimental effects across the board.

In **supporting SB2908 SD1 HD1**, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protection to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Katie Austin

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 9:19:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richy Palalay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my support of SB2908 SD1 HD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Richy Palalay

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 1:44:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Kapon Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Jordan Kapon Nakamura, I'm a kama'aina worker and I support SB 2908. Lahaina residents deserve protections from predatory rent increases and land theft occurring since the early days following the disaster. Mahalo.

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 7:28:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Patton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th fire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th fires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely,

Sara Patton

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 9:15:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely, Pahnelopi McKenzie

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 9:19:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiley Adolpho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for SB2908 SD1 HD1

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **support of SB2908 SD1 HD1**, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

I firmly believe tenants need better protection, especially after the recent disaster that caused more evictions and rent hikes across the island. Due to the August 8th wildfire we have seen the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the disasters have caused island-wide.

SB2908 SD1 HD1, is a crucial step to help protect our community after the August 8th wildfires.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community,

Sincerely, Kiley Adolpho

SB-2908-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 10:24:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luanna Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2908. In the wake of the Lahaina wildfires, we have witnessed a wave of evictions, rent increases, and increased housing instability across Maui. I support inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing rent in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis. SB2908 presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by the Lahaina community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. I urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond.