

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,
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is expressing its support for Senate Bill 2908 SD1, 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.

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

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 2908 SD1, Relating to Emergency Management

HEARING: Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR provides **comments** on Senate Bill 2908 SD1, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation. Takes effect 1/1/2042.

Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §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.

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 what products.

HAR appreciates the intent of this measure to help address this issue with regard to rental housing; however, we prefer the original language in Senate Bill 2843 as it would help to address the wider business community's concerns surrounding the need to update the Emergency Powers statutes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on this measure.

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 3:39:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Sinenci	Testifying for Maui County Councilmember	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supportive!

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:34:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lewanna Godinez	Testifying for Ohana Guardians Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Lewanna Godinez

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:02:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Salazar Hyman	Testifying for Tagnawa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my **support for SB2908 SD1**, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Michelle Salazar Hyman

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:11:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB2908 SD1



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**
Before the Senate Committee on
Judiciary

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

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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, 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 fifteen 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 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



Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

Thursday, February 29th, 2024 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

HAPA is testifying to express support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. 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

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 6:32:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this measure

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 12:44:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for SB2908 SD1, a crucial piece of legislation aimed at protecting residents in Hawai`i during times of disaster and emergency. This bill, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following severe storm warnings or emergency proclamations, is essential for safeguarding the well-being and stability of our communities.

As we continue to witness the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, it is imperative that we enact measures to shield residents from exploitation and price gouging in the aftermath of such events. SB2908 SD1 addresses this pressing need by ensuring that individuals and families are not subjected to unjustifiable rent hikes during times of vulnerability and uncertainty.

By prohibiting residential rent increases for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, SB2908 SD1 provides residents with a sense of security and protection, allowing them to focus on rebuilding and recovery without the added burden of exorbitant housing costs.

Furthermore, this bill aligns with Hawai`i's values of aloha and ohana, emphasizing the importance of community solidarity and support in times of crisis. By prioritizing the well-being of residents over profit-driven interests, SB2908 SD1 embodies our commitment to equity, fairness, and resilience.

I urge you all to wholeheartedly support SB2908 SD1 and take swift action to ensure its passage into law. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we stand in solidarity with our fellow residents and enact policies that promote the common good and protect the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Jessica dos Santos

Testimony in Support of SB2908 SD-1

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Gabbard, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong **support of SB2908 SD1**. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908 SD1, 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.

We have been seeing a surge of evictions around the island, so that owners can hike 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.

The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In **supporting SB2908 SD1**, 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:44:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2908 SD1.

Mahalo,

Lorena Martinez
Resident of West Maui

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:07:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

support

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:55:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Athena Roebuck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please vote to pass this bill SB2908 that prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation!

This bill is extremely important for survivors of any disaster including the Lahaina wild fire!!

Mahalo for your Yes vote!!

Athena Roebuck and family

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:30:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicki Tedesco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please approve this bill as it will help the housing crisis and displaced residence long term.

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:19:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Eric Balinbin

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:23:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tia Lee Klug-Wessell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Tia Lee Klug-Wessell

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:31:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Winternitz

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:33:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My pension is my long-term rentals on Maui. And I fully support prohibiting raising rents after events. The price gouging I'm seeing for the Lahaina people is absolutely sickening. I would never do that with my rental properties! I don't think anybody should be allowed to gouge people when people are in need.

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:38:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Godinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
marissa Godinez

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:42:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalom Costa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need your support and protection please 🙏

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:43:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my **support for SB2908 SD1**, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Keala Fung

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:00:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hollis Lazo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

with warm aloha, Hollis Lazo

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:00:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:06:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazuo Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm a born and raised kanaka of Napilihau in support of Bill SB2908, SD1

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:23:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Julia Marrack

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:23:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kitch Richie Jackson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please protect us all from rent increases

my heart is breaking, I'm so scared

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:23:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Kiakona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nikki Kiakona

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:12:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Julia McGrath Lahaina

SB-2908-SD-1

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

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
louise drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i stand in SUPPORT of bill 2908 . Let Lahaina Lead. Lahaina Strong. Mahalo

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:36:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires. As a mental health provider, I see firsthand the negative impact that unstable housing has on our community.

We've seen firsthand the alarming amount of rent increases and evictions in our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tanya Noelle Gabriel, LMHC, NCC

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:44:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to support for SB2908 SD1, which prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

Thank you. a concerned Hawai'i resident,

Lorraine Garnier

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:01:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Shay Chan Hodges

Haiku, Maui

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:47:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please, prohibit rent increase in areas after a severe storm or emergency

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:13:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:25:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sara Jelley

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:30:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Herrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Janice Herrick

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:44:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill and ask that you please support this bill.

Mahalo for your time and support.

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:18:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Ranieri	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Ranieri

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:42:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Bilbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Lana Bilbo

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:59:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Richard Ho

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:12:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my **support for SB2908 SD1**, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely
Nalani Abellanida

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:20:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariko Higashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mariko Higashi

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:23:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Abril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nathan Abril

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:25:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ravi Bugga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ravi Bugga

Lahaina

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:40:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelique Pokipala-Kahula	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my **support for SB2908 SD1**, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Angelique Pokipala-Kahula

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:50:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support sb2908 to prohibit residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation. Our rental prices are outrageous in Maui right now because there is no protection for us. This is causing homelessness for our previously housed community members and skyrocketing rent prices for everyone who doesnt have FEMA or Red Cross rental help. 5 of my friends and Maui lifetime residents have already been displaced with more to come when people can no longer stay at the hotels. Please pass this bill and help us when we need it most.

Thank you, Brandi Corpuz

26 February 2024

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my **support for SB2908 SD1**, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Me ke Aloha pumehana,
Tristen Daniel

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:12:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Cody Roberts

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:18:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Nojima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In SUPPORT

Mahalo,

Cory Nojima

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:45:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committe on Judiciary,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a resident of Lahaina. I am writing in support of SB2908 SD1 with request.

Thank you for choosing to make a decision on this bill. My request is that this act shall take effect upon signing.

Since the August 2023 wildfires, I have seen our housing reach a crisis point that I didn't know was possible.

We've had a housing crisis on Maui for years which has only been exacerbated by the loss of thousands of residential structures. I have been horrified at the loophole that landlords have been able to use to evict tenants, and we have seen and heard nothing from the Attorney General regarding enforcement. I have to hope that investigations take a while and these people will ultimately get held accountable! Unfortunately, that does nothing in the stress of the moment, when people don't know what recourse they have to fight illegal evictions.

We have seen landlords evict a tenant, say that they are going to be housing family, then simply that it "fell through" and charge a new tenant significantly more. If someone can pay it? Well, that's just too bad for those who can't! West Maui housing was already unaffordable.

Now you have places like Sunset Terrace in Honokowai charging over \$2100 for a studio apartment, but that doesn't include electric! The cost of electric has sky-rocketed, and that can be upwards of \$600/month for just a studio. This is one specific example, but that's how they all are. I list Sunset Terrace specifically because I know that they do not offer pest control services, so there are always cockroach infestations. This is especially true when someone moves out - they will treat that apartment, then the closeby apartments suffer. They continually raise prices without making upgrades like solar or efficient washing machines.

It is unacceptable that these private companies and corporations make huge profits from squeezing our working class. It is important that measures like this bill are put in place to place some form of controls on unbridled capitalism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Keefe

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:13:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Medeiros-Criste	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mahealani Medeiros Criste

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:26:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:31:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
rose elovitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support SB2908.

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:52:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuomomimakamae Nahooikaika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members.

I'm writing to express my **support for SB2908 SD1**, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our community after recent disasters. This bill would prevent landlords from raising rents in disasters area without prior agreement from tenants, providing much-needed protection during this housing crisis.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ku'umomimakamae Naho'oikaika

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:15:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Torres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in support of SB2908. The fires in Lahaina have shown us how heartless people can be when driven by greed. Too many residents have been displaced from rentals so that landlords can sign a new lease at a higher price. Residents need protection from this in the future. The rental price increases have made it nearly impossible for the average person to find housing in our current market. We've seen now how devastating these sudden and drastic rent increases can be and owe it to our commute to protect them from this moving forward.

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:36:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB2908. Post Lahaina fire our community came together in an amazing way. There were also people, many of whom do not live on Maui but are property owners, who saw the tragedy as an opportunity to make money. Please do whatever you can to protect us from disaster capitalists. It's disgusting, but if people cannot make good choices on their own, it is the job of the government to force them to.

Mahalo,

Gretchen Losano

Lahaina, Maui

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 3:03:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuikeokalani Kamakea-Ohelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2908: A Native Hawaiian Farmer's Perspective

As a proud native Hawaiian farmer, I am writing this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2908. This bill proposes important amendments to the Emergency Management Act, specifically regarding the duration and provisions of a state of emergency and local state of emergency declarations. I believe these amendments will greatly benefit our community, particularly in times of crisis and severe weather events.

Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation for the proposed amendment to Section 127A-14(d) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. This amendment requires that any proclamation issued under the Emergency Management Act state the time at which it will take effect. This clarity is crucial for our community, as it ensures that we are fully aware of when a state of emergency or local state of emergency commences. By clearly defining the effective time, we can better prepare ourselves and take necessary actions to protect our families, properties, and livelihoods.

Furthermore, I wholeheartedly support the provision that automatically terminates a state of emergency and a local state of emergency sixty days after their issuance. This amendment, as outlined in Section 127A-14(d), ensures that emergency declarations do not unnecessarily persist beyond a reasonable timeframe. By implementing this automatic termination, we can strike a balance between addressing emergencies promptly and preventing any potential misuse of emergency powers. This provision safeguards against prolonged states of emergency, allowing our community to return to normalcy and begin the process of recovery and rebuilding.

Additionally, I commend the proposed amendments to Section 127A-30(a) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. These amendments focus on protecting our community during emergencies, specifically in terms of pricing and tenancy. Prohibiting any increase in the selling price of commodities during a state of emergency is crucial in preventing price gouging and ensuring that essential goods remain accessible and affordable for all. This provision is especially significant for farmers like myself, as it ensures fair pricing practices and protects consumers from exploitation.

Moreover, the provisions outlined in Section 127A-30(a)(2) regarding tenancy during emergencies are essential for safeguarding the rights of tenants. By prohibiting landlords from terminating tenancy, except for valid breaches of rental agreements or when a dwelling unit is unfit for occupancy, this amendment offers crucial protection and stability for individuals and

families facing the challenges of an emergency. Additionally, the provision allowing landlords to require tenants to relocate during repairs, provided certain conditions are met, strikes a fair balance between the needs of landlords and tenants.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 2908 presents important amendments to the Emergency Management Act that will greatly benefit our native Hawaiian community. These amendments provide clarity, accountability, and protection during times of crisis and emergencies. As a native Hawaiian farmer, I wholeheartedly support this bill and urge the legislature to pass it into law. By doing so, we can ensure the well-being, safety, and resilience of our community in the face of adversity.

Mahalo,

Kū'ike Kamakea-Ohelo

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 3:18:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I stand in support of SB2908.

It is absurd that a bill like this needs to be written and passed, thinking that the humanity in people (landlords) would ensure that they would care for people over profit, keeping the pricing of renting at status quo, or even lowering the cost, following a disaster like the one we have all witnessed. However, we've seen that the humanity of property owners does not exist in the times we are going through, as we are seeing rents prices shooting up to unattainable amounts, simply because the demand for housing is very high.

It is sad that we do need rent control/limits following a disaster, but we do. People affected by a disaster are very vulnerable, losing some, if not all, of their belongings due to the disaster that is totally out of their control. This bill will protect those affected by a disaster from the greed of landlords who are putting profit over people.

While I do support this bill, one suggested amendment I'd like to offer is to Section 2 - 3, "No landlord shall increase, or give notice of an increase to, the rent for a residential dwelling unit in the area *or in the surrounding areas*, that is the subject of the proclamation or the severe weather warning if the increase was not contained in a written instrument that was signed by the tenant prior to the declaration or severe weather warning."

I suggest this amendment because while Lahaina was devastated by the wildfire, prohibiting rent increases should apply to the island of Maui, not only the area subject to the proclamation (Lahaina). This way, regardless of how the governor declares the proclamation, the prohibition of rent increases will apply to the areas where victims may be searching for housing. Mahalo for your time and consideration

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 8:25:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Aulani Dusenberry

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 9:56:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlie McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my **support for SB2908 SD1**, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Ashlie McGuire

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 5:56:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Harter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nancy Harter

SB-2908-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 7:46:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/29/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Marzan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for SB2908 SD1, which aims to prevent residential rent increases in areas affected by severe storms or emergencies. This is crucial for providing stability to tenants, especially in the aftermath of disasters like the Lahaina fires.

We've seen firsthand the impact of rent increases and evictions on our 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.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill to support tenants and provide relief to communities like Lahaina.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Theresa