

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 2, 2024
2:30 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 308

S.B. 3068, S.D. 1
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY

House Committee on Finance

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports** S.B. 3068, S.D. 1 that supports the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that affected the county of Maui.

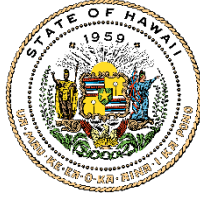
HDOT is requesting in the executive budget, an appropriation of \$6,600,000 in Highway revenue bond funds and \$26,400,000 in federal authority for the Lahaina Repair, Rehabilitation, and/or Reinstallation.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Tuesday, April 2, 2024
2:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3068 SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY

Senate Bill 3068 Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that affected the counties of Hawai'i and Maui. SB3068 SD1, in part, appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for operating expenses and equipment. **The Department strongly supports this measure.**

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

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

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

DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife

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

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

Administrative Office (1):

- Planner IV to support Fire Management Program

Maui District (6):

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

Hawaii Island (5):

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

Oahu (4):

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

Kauai (6):

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

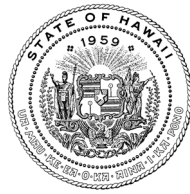
Upgrades and MOF Changes:

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

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

FY25 Supplemental Budget Request: Fire Equipment

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



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3068, S.D. 1

April 2, 2024
2:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers the following comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 3068, S.D. 1.

S.B. No. 3068, S.D. 1, displays, in a single legislative vehicle, all of the FY 25 Executive Supplemental Budget requests relating to the State's response and recovery from the August 8, 2023, wildfires and statewide wildfire mitigation and response. These appropriation items totaling \$452.2 million are already included in House Bill No. 1800, H.D. 1, S.D. 1. B&F strongly recommends that these appropriation requests be placed in the Executive Supplemental Budget rather than in this bill to facilitate budget execution and minimize administrative burden.

This bill also includes additional appropriations of \$900,000 out of the Public Utilities Commission Special Fund for consultant contracts; \$2,360,000 in general obligation (G.O.) bond proceeds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for West Maui and Upcountry Maui fire protection, erosion control and fire suppression; an appropriation of \$63,560,000 in G.O. reimbursable bond proceeds to the County of Maui for various infrastructure improvements necessary to recover from the wildfire disaster;

appropriations of G.O. bond proceeds with debt service to be paid from special funds to the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation of \$40,000,000 for temporary housing in West Maui; and \$75,000,000 for modular housing in West Maui. B&F supports the intent of these additional appropriations to the extent they do not displace or otherwise negatively impact priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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 3068 SD1,
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

APRIL 2, 2024

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **SUPPORT SB 3068 SD1**.

We are in support of this legislative bill that appropriates funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that impacted the counties of Maui.

The wildfires in August 2023 caused significant damage and devastation in Lahaina. It is crucial that the State takes proactive measures in addressing the aftermath of the wildfires and it is vital that the State continues to support recovery efforts and aid the affected communities in Maui. Appropriating funds for this purpose demonstrate the State's commitment to helping those impacted by the wildfires and ensuring their well-being and recovery.

The allocation of funds will enable the State to effectively respond to immediate needs and address critical issues arising from disasters like the wildfires. This may include providing emergency relief, supporting displaced individuals and families, restoring infrastructure, and implementing measures to prevent future wildfires.

This bill validates a commitment to the well-being and resilience of the people of Maui and the entire state of Hawai'i. It also ensures that they will receive the assistance they need to rebuild and recover.

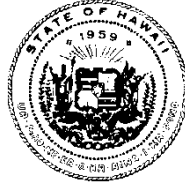
HI-EMA **strongly supports** this bill, which reflects the State's responsibility to protect its citizens and communities during times of crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 3068 SD1.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 02, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of
S.B. 3068 SD1
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY.

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

HHFDC **supports with amendments** SB 3068 SD1, which appropriates funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires so long as it does not adversely impact priorities identified in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request for FY 2025. This bill also reauthorizes previous general funded capital improvement project (CIP) operating appropriations as general obligation bond funded appropriations.

HHFDC supports the Legislature's efforts to respond to the August 2023 Maui wildfires in a fiscally responsible manner.

Means of Financing for Existing Appropriations

HHFDC supports this bill's replacement in Section 17 of general funds (A funds) with general obligation bond funds (C funds) as the means of financing for the following Fiscal Year 2024-2025 infusions into HHFDC-administered funds:

- \$50 million into the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund
- \$180 million into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund

These infusions are now even more important due to the wildfires' exacerbation of the housing supply shortage in West Maui.

New Appropriations for West Maui Temporary Housing

In Section 18, the SD1 appropriates reimbursable general obligation bond funds (D funds) for FY 2025 for the following CIPs:

- \$40 million for infrastructure for temporary housing in West Maui
- \$75 million for modular housing for temporary units in West Maui

We support the above appropriations and request that this bill be **amended** to clarify that they are to HHFDC (BED160).

Additionally, we note what appears to be a scrivener’s error in Section 18. As written, the combined CIP appropriation is \$115 billion, as highlighted below.

13	XX.	TEMPORARY HOUSING, MAUI			
14					
15		PLANS, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,			
16		ACQUISITION, AND EQUIPMENT FOR			
17		INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING IN			
18		WEST MAUI			
19		TOTAL FUNDING	BED	D	40,000,000 D
20	XX.	MODULAR HOUSING FOR TEMPORARY			
21		UNITS, MAUI			
22					
23		PLANS, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,			
24		ACQUISITION, AND EQUIPMENT FOR			
25		INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MODULAR HOUSING FOR			
26		TEMPORARY UNITS IN WEST MAUI			
27		TOTAL FUNDING	BED	D	75,000,000 D"

HHFDC Operating Budget Ceiling

Lastly, we request that Section 17 of the bill be amended so that item A-24 of Part II of Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, reflects the operating budget and position ceiling increases for HHFDC that are included in H.B. 1800 HD1 on Pages 10 and 11, highlighted as follows:

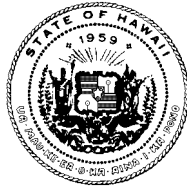
37	24.	BED160 - HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION			
38		OPERATING	BED		150,000,000A [230,000,000A]
39					165,000,000A
40			BED		3,100,000N 3,100,000N
41					23.00* 23.00*
42					45.00# [45.00#]
1					48.00#
2			BED		13,533,889W [14,046,265W]
3					16,022,225W
4			BED		3,000,000P 3,000,000P
5		INVESTMENT CAPITAL	BED		45,000,000C [0C]
6					230,500,000C

The above ceiling increases are necessary for new development, compliance, and finance positions; salary and fringe adjustments; training expenses; consulting services; and project financial management software.

Without the ceiling increases, HHFDC's mission, including its involvement in the rebuilding of Maui's permanent housing stock, will be significantly hampered. Already, two temporary housing projects are underway on HHFDC-owned lands at the Villages of Leialii, and planning has begun for the redevelopment of the former Front Street Apartments site in Lahaina. Additionally, HHFDC was recently tasked with administering the Governor's Emergency Proclamation on Housing, which assigned the functions of the former Build Beyond Barriers Working Group to the agency.

We appreciate the Legislature's ongoing support of HHFDC's programs and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Melburne2024!
JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

April 1, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3068 SD1 – MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY.**

Hearing: April 2, 2024, 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure and defers to the Department of Budget & Finance (B&F).

PURPOSE: This bill appropriates funds to support the State's continued response to the August 2023 wildfires that affected the counties of Hawai'i and Maui. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

The Committee on Ways and Means (SD1) amended the measure by:

- (1) Increasing from \$30,000,000 to \$230,000,000 the investment capital appropriation to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation for fiscal year 2024-2025;
- (2) Appropriating \$900,000 from the Public Utilities Commission Special Fund for consultant contracts for utility dockets;
- (3) Authorizing \$63,560,000 in reimbursable general obligation bonds for capital improvement projects involving infrastructure to be expended by the County of Maui;
- (4) Authorizing \$40,000,000 in reimbursable general obligation bonds for capital improvement projects involving temporary housing in West Maui to be expended by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation;
- (5) Authorizing \$75,000,000 in reimbursable general obligation bonds for capital improvement projects involving modular housing for temporary units in West Maui to be expended by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation; and

(6) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure.

DHS appreciates the SD1 amendments in Section 6 incorporating DHS budget requests to support its Maui Wildfire recovery activities. DHS submitted the State's application for the FEMA Disaster Case Management (DCM) program. Prior to receiving the grant award from FEMA, DHS included in its executive budget request \$13,370,000 in general funds to support continued Maui Wildfire recovery activities and to support the DHS implementation of the FEMA DCM. While we project three executive positions will be federally funded, we require state general funds for three of the six temporary executive positions to oversee Maui recovery efforts. Adjustments to DHS original budget requests were included in Governor's Message 5.

The Director's Office needs staff and resources dedicated to the Maui relief efforts to lead an equitable recovery. This request includes funds for salaries of three temporary exempt administrative positions not covered by the FEMA grant award: the DCM Administrator (\$110,000), the Maui Emergency Response Director (\$112,944), and the Emergency Management Communications Director (\$105,516). For the current fiscal year, we anticipate using vacancy savings from HMS 904 to fund the salaries.

The DCM grant does not provide funds for survivors' unmet needs. The additional request for general funds (\$12,986,000) is necessary to meet the needs of survivors who may be ineligible for federal disaster assistance or for expenditures not covered by federal disaster assistance. Expenditures may include rental subsidies, including first-month rent and deposit, pet security deposits, utilities, document replacement, vehicle replacement, travel, and other personal expenses. Funds may also be used for travel assistance for survivors to relocate off-island or out of state to seek housing, employment, or educational opportunities as the debris removal and rebuilding processes are ongoing.

Further, to support the DCM and other Maui recovery work, DHS needs general funds to support IT and data-sharing needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



April 2, 2024

House Committee on Finance
Chair Kyle Yamashita
Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa
Members of the Committee

Via Electronic Transmission

Re: The Imperative of Allocating Adequate Funding to Protect Natural Resources
Support SB 3068 SD1, Relating to Making Appropriations for Wildfire Recovery

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 3068 SD1, Relating to Making Appropriations for Wildfire Recovery. Taking care of our ‘āina and making funding available for preventive measures to protect, restore and nurture our land and ocean is the best insurance policy against wildfires, floods, and other disasters.

We all saw the devastating effects of the wildfires on Maui last August. No one wants another wildfire, flood, or any other disaster in our islands. It is vitally important for our state to have funds dedicated to protecting and restoring our natural resources to prevent or mitigate the effects of climate events including wildfire, drought, coastal storms, hurricanes, and sea level rise. A proactive, preventive approach to stewardship of our islands requires investment in our ‘āina. We support increased funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for its vitally important work that can significantly reduce the severity of these climate events.

The Maui wildfires have amplified to every resident, and indeed the world, that no place is immune to the impact of this climate crisis. We are a coalition of individuals and organizations committed to supporting better management of the state’s natural resources. We estimate that an additional \$360 million annually is needed to close the current budget shortfall in protecting our islands against climate threats and the impacts of tourism. At its most basic level, this funding is necessary for wildfire prevention strategies.

Natural resources are the lifeblood of our pae ‘āina, providing us with the essentials for survival and the foundation for Hawai‘i’s economy, our very society. These resources include clean air and water, fertile soil, living coral reefs, stable coastlines and beaches, biodiversity and healthy forests. We commend the legislature, cognizant of the local and global threats to these riches, for declaring Hawai‘i to be the first

state in the nation to declare a climate emergency. Protecting and restoring these resources is a moral, economic, and ecological imperative.

Based on the foregoing, we support appropriating funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for wildfire response, recovery, and preventative measures.

In addition to the amounts proposed in this bill, we urge the Committee to include additional funding to DLNR so that Hawai'i can:

- Remove flammable nonnative plants and restore sites with less flammable native plants.
- Restore coral reefs to help protect our beaches and coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surges, while also protecting the fisheries that draw tourists and sustain local residents.
- Restore watershed forests that protect our water quality and supplies, in addition to reducing the risks of fire.
- Provide grants to local communities to assist them in managing and restoring natural resources, including reducing their fire risks.

Preventing damage to natural resources is more cost-effective than trying to restore them once they have been degraded. For example, restoring a polluted stream is far more expensive than preventing pollution in the first place. Wildfire prevention is significantly more cost-effective than paying for the cost of responding to wildfires and paying for recovery of lost and damaged communities and natural resources. Legislators who allocate funding for protection and restoration are making a sound long-term investment in their constituents' well-being, and the environment.

We have a moral responsibility to protect the natural resources that sustain life on our islands. Future generations depend on the decisions we make today. Legislators have a unique role in shaping policies that reflect our ethical obligation to safeguard the environment for all living beings.

In conclusion, there are numerous compelling reasons why legislators should approve funding to protect, restore, and manage Hawai'i's magnificent and irreplaceable natural resources **now**. Disaster resilience, climate change mitigation, clean water and air, sustainable agriculture, economic benefits, public health, long-term cost savings, biodiversity conservation, and ethical responsibility all underscore the importance and urgency of such investments. By allocating the necessary funds, legislators can secure a safer and healthier future for all. It is a responsibility that cannot be ignored, and the benefits far outweigh the costs.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that our natural resources are at the forefront of policy-leaders' minds and that the state budget reflects these priorities.

Mahalo,

Care for 'Āina Now Coalition

Website: careforainanow.org

Contact: aloha@careforainanow.org



HAWAII

1164 Bishop St., Ste. 1512
Honolulu, HI 96813
tpl.org

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Brad Punu
Green Climate Fund

Kirstin Punu
AES

Tom Reeve
Conservationist

Jonathan Sprague
Pūlama Lāna'i

Dr. Rachel Sprague
Pūlama Lāna'i

Jan Sullivan
Oceanit

Trust for Public Land's Testimony Supporting SB 3068 SD 1 House Committee on Finance Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 2:30 p.m., Rm. 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members:

Trust for Public Land strongly supports SB3068 SD1, which would increase funding toward wildfire resilience. Our underinvestment in preventative conservation is causing costly devastation, from firestorms, floods, and threats to public safety. **Our best chance at avoiding the future and surmounting costs of environmental disasters is investing in resilience and restoration solutions today to protect our people.**

I am originally from Wahiawā, O'ahu, and am very concerned about wildfire threats. Land in the vicinity of Kūkaniloko owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has burned several times in recent years. If there are high winds, the fire could hop over Kaukonahua Road to damage lands owned by State Agribusiness Development Corporation and the many farmers who farm there. Depending on the direction of the wind, these wildfires could threaten residents at Whitmore and Poamoho, and even Wahiawā (although Lake Wilson separates this land from the town, if wind were strong enough, embers could be carried to the town).

It is vitally important for our state to have funds dedicated to protecting and restoring our natural resources to prevent or mitigate the effects of climate events, like fires. We support increasing funding for the incredibly important work that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) does. Increasing funding for our natural resources is a pathway to a future where our keiki is safe, our environment is healthy, and residents and visitors benefit from the ecosystems we care for. Our community safety is at risk the more years we go without significant funding toward environmental protection and restoration.

I also support including additional revenue to fund DLNR so that Hawai'i can remove flammable nonnative plants and restore sites with less flammable native plants, restore coral reefs to help protect our beaches and coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surges, while also protecting the fisheries that draw tourists and sustain local residents. We need funding to restore watershed forests that protect our water quality and supplies, in addition to reducing the risks of fire, and to provide grants to local communities to assist them in managing and restoring natural resources, including reducing their fire risks.

Recent polling showed that 80% of Hawai'i residents agree state government programs are critical to protecting natural resources, from mauka to makai, and mitigating wildlife and flood risks. These programs need funding to protect us.

I urge the committee to pass measures that would resource our State agencies and community organizations with the funding to protect our 'āina, restore our ecosystems, and manage our natural resources to build resilience and public safety.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. Unfortunately, I cannot be present to testify in person or Zoom due to a pre-existing scheduling conflict.

Mahalo –

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lea Hong".

Lea Hong, Hawai'i State Director, Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow

SB-3068-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:25:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Lee	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee and Chairman Yamashita,

I have called your office to express my concern over the hearings I have witnessed regarding SB3068. I observed the spokesperson for the Hawai'i Community Development Authority interact with Senators in its hearing before the WAM Comm of the Senate. Will Craig Nakamoto be present at this hearing? I am affirming that he will be. He was not prepared in the WAM Committee hearing and comments were made by the Committee members that I would like to understand.

For further eluciastion I attached SB 2398 (ACT 190) that created the Hawai'i Community Development Authority. Mahalo for allowing me to more clearly delineate my concerns for the citizenry of Hawai'i nei and more specifically my ohana on Maui Island.

Malama pono,

A. Kathleen Lee

April Kathleen Lee AKA (testifier) April Lee

SB-3068-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:40:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgette Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakahiaka Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Georgette Stevens, I live within the Wai‘anae moku, and I am submitting written testimony in strong support of SB3068, both of which would increase funding toward wildfire resilience. It is clear our underinvestment in preventative conservation is causing costly devastation, from firestorms, floods, and threats to public safety. Our best chance at avoiding the future and surmounting costs of environmental disasters is investing in resilience and restoration solutions today to protect our people.

I live in the hottest, driest, place on the island of O‘ahu. Like Lahaina, we are prone to wildfires and have only ONE way out. It is so important to include funding towards fire prevention and mitigation.

It is vitally important for our state to have funds dedicated to protecting and restoring our natural resources to prevent or mitigate the effects of climate events, like fires. We support increasing funding for the incredibly important work that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) does. Increasing funding for our natural resources is a pathway to a future where our keiki is safe, our environment is healthy, and residents and visitors benefit from the ecosystems we care for. Our community safety is at risk the more years we go without significant funding toward environmental protection and restoration.

I also support including additional revenue to fund DLNR so that Hawai‘i can remove flammable nonnative plants and restore sites with less flammable native plants, restore coral reefs to help protect our beaches and coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surges, while also protecting the fisheries that draw tourists and sustain local residents. We need funding to restore watershed forests that protect our water quality and supplies, in addition to reducing the risks of fire, and to provide grants to local communities to assist them in managing and restoring natural resources, including reducing their fire risks.

Recent polling showed that 80% of Hawai‘i residents agree state government programs are critical to protecting natural resources, from mauka to makai, and mitigating wildlife and flood risks. These programs need funding to protect us.

I urge the committee to pass all of these measures that would resource our State agencies and community organizations with the funding to protect our 'āina, restore our ecosystems, and manage our natural resources to build resilience and public safety.

It has been a very rainy season. So hot weather is coming and along with that tinder to spark many fires.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Georgette Stevens

SB-3068-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:55:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Dino Rivera support this bill SB3068!

SB-3068-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 12:33:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Virginia Tincher and I am submitting written testimony in strong support of SB3068 SD1, which would increase funding toward wildfire resilience.

It is clear our underinvestment in preventative conservation is causing costly devastation, from firestorms, floods, and threats to public safety. **Our best chance at avoiding the future and surmounting costs of environmental disasters is investing in resilience and restoration solutions today to protect our people.**

I support including additional revenue to fund DLNR so that Hawai‘i can remove flammable nonnative plants and restore sites with less flammable native plants, restore coral reefs to help protect our beaches and coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surges, while also protecting the fisheries that draw tourists and sustain local residents. We need the funding to restore watershed forests that protect our water quality and supplies, in addition to reducing the risks of fire, and to provide grants to local communities to assist them in managing and restoring natural resources, including reducing their fire risks.

We have the opportunity to support building resilience for our ‘āina now or continue to fund cleanups of future fires until there is no more Hawaii where people want to live or visit.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Virginia Tincher

‘Āina Haina, Oahu

SB-3068-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 3:25:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Elena Arinaga and I am submitting written testimony in strong support of SB3068, both of which would increase funding toward wildfire resilience. It is clear our underinvestment in preventative conservation is causing costly devastation, from firestorms, floods, and threats to public safety. Our best chance at avoiding the future and surmounting costs of environmental disasters is investing in resilience and restoration solutions today to protect our people.

It is vitally important for our state to have funds dedicated to protecting and restoring our natural resources to prevent or mitigate the effects of climate events, like fires. We support increasing funding for the incredibly important work that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) does. Increasing funding for our natural resources is a pathway to a future where our keiki is safe, our environment is healthy, and residents and visitors benefit from the ecosystems we care for. Our community safety is at risk the more years we go without significant funding toward environmental protection and restoration.

I also support including additional revenue to fund DLNR so that Hawai'i can remove flammable nonnative plants and restore sites with less flammable native plants, restore coral reefs to help protect our beaches and coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surges, while also protecting the fisheries that draw tourists and sustain local residents. We need funding to restore watershed forests that protect our water quality and supplies, in addition to reducing the risks of fire, and to provide grants to local communities to assist them in managing and restoring natural resources, including reducing their fire risks.

Recent polling showed that 80% of Hawai'i residents agree state government programs are critical to protecting natural resources, from mauka to makai, and mitigating wildlife and flood risks. These programs need funding to protect us.

I urge the committee to pass all of these measures that would resource our State agencies and community organizations with the funding to protect our 'āina, restore our ecosystems, and manage our natural resources to build resilience and public safety.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Elena Arinaga

SB-3068-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 3:45:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB3068 SD1

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Deborah King and I am submitting written testimony in strong support of SB3068, both of which would increase funding toward wildfire resilience. It is clear our underinvestment in preventative conservation is causing costly devastation, from firestorms, floods, and threats to public safety. Our best chance at avoiding the future and surmounting costs of environmental disasters is investing in resilience and restoration solutions today to protect our people.

As a child, I was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana and experienced water flooding damaged our family possessions. The cause of the damage was because the "open ditch" by our house was closed and culverts were installed; however, they were too small to handle the water load. My family had to install french drains to handle the flooding. Prior to the solution of the french drains being installed, when water flooded our home it created mold and mildew on our furniture and other areas that had to be repaired and/or replaced. Can you image living with your furniture on cement blocks so that the next time it floods your furniture is spared? We had to live that way so that our furniture was not ruined everytime it flooded. I have suffered from environment (mold) allergies all my life and this added more stress on my condition. It also stressed my family too since we had to do more work during this time of season and with the added financial burden. With proper planning this flooding could have been avoided and we could have lived with less stress and burdens.

I currently live on O'ahu in Waikīkī and I know the health impacts of flooding, smelling burning fires and other natural disasters that could have been avoided with proper planning and more care for our 'aina. I have also experienced smelling fuel and feeling fuel on my body when I got in the ocean at the Ala Moana Beach. I am very sensitive to environmental toxins and because I had no idea that fuel was in the water I got in and then felt unwell for a few days afterwards. I limit going to this beach because I now know that it has been and possibly still is contaminated with

fuel. I have heard that others have gotten ear infections from sewage being dumped into the ocean near this area too.

Hawai'i has special needs because it is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean and I want to be able to call it home for decades to come. I am learning to mālama our 'aina because it is our kuleana to care for it for our keiki and future generations. "We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." I have been healing from injuries and now I am becoming more active in my community by volunteering. Earth Day is around the corner so I have volunteered to help nurture our land in collaboration with others.

It is vitally important for our state to have funds dedicated to protecting and restoring our natural resources to prevent or mitigate the effects of climate events, like fires. We support increasing funding for the incredibly important work that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) does. Increasing funding for our natural resources is a pathway to a future where our keiki is safe, our environment is healthy, and residents and visitors benefit from the ecosystems we care for. Our community safety is at risk the more years we go without significant funding toward environmental protection and restoration.

I also support including additional revenue to fund DLNR so that Hawai'i can remove flammable nonnative plants and restore sites with less flammable native plants, restore coral reefs to help protect our beaches and coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surges, while also protecting the fisheries that draw tourists and sustain local residents. We need funding to restore watershed forests that protect our water quality and supplies, in addition to reducing the risks of fire, and to provide grants to local communities to assist them in managing and restoring natural resources, including reducing their fire risks.

Recent polling showed that 80% of Hawai'i residents agree state government programs are critical to protecting natural resources, from mauka to makai, and mitigating wildlife and flood risks. These programs need funding to protect us.

I urge the committee to pass all of these measures that would resource our State agencies and community organizations with the funding to protect our 'āina, restore our ecosystems, and manage our natural resources to build resilience and public safety.

The sooner that we take care of our 'aina the better quality of life we will all enjoy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Deborah King

SB-3068-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:55:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Best way to fight wildfire is to fund effective fire prevention.

Aloha,

Keith Neal

Waimea

SB-3068-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:05:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Gordon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support additional funding for wildfire prevention as well as education. As we learned, unfortunately, from the Maui wildfires, these funds are sorely needed. In addition, especially for Waikoloa, Hawaii and other high risk areas more resources need to be provided for wildfire prevention and mitigation.

SB-3068-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:01:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa & Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of this bill, which would help with wildfire protection and mitigation by removing invasive plants that are potential fuel for future fires. Mahalo for your consideration.

aloha, Stuart Coleman, Hibiscus Pl., Hon., HI