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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
LABOR

Tuesday, January 28, 2025  
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 201  
RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

House Bill 201 proposes to appropriate additional funds for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to support the salary of the State Fire Marshal. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure.**

The Department strongly supports HB201 as the position of the State Fire Marshal is a crucial missing component of the state's fire service. A full-time State Fire Marshal's office will be able to provide critical input to and oversight of the State's fire code, standardize training requirements for county fire departments, provide fire investigations to determine fire origin and cause, as well as provide and coordinate public education and awareness on fire safety. The current salary appropriation from the 2024 legislative session only provides funds commensurate with the captain-level pay grade while requiring significantly higher responsibility and workload. Increasing the salary appropriation to be commensurate with that of fire chiefs within the state will increase the selection pool of qualified candidates.

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



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**  
Before the House Committee on  
**Labor**

In Consideration of House Bill No. 201  
RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

To Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and the honorable members of the committee,

We are writing on behalf of Lahaina Strong, an organization deeply rooted in our community's resilience and advocacy. Originally formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and revitalized after the devastating fires of August 8, 2023, Lahaina Strong has become the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 20,000 supporters. Our mission is to amplify local voices and champion community-driven solutions, which are more critical than ever as we continue rebuilding and recovering.

Lahaina Strong, stands in **support of House Bill 201** and for the supplemental needs of the state fire marshal and a dedicated wildfire prevention team. The devastating August 8, 2023, Lahaina fire exposed Hawaii's urgent need for improved wildfire preparedness and response. Establishing and fully funding the State Fire Marshal's office is essential to ensuring proactive fire prevention and safety statewide. This role is critical, especially for vulnerable communities like Lahaina.

We urge your **support for House Bill 201** to strengthen wildfire preparedness and safeguard Hawaii's communities from future tragedies.

Mahalo for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Lahaina Strong