



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

Deputy Directors  
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
CURT T OTAGURO  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

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

February 11, 2025  
3:01 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**S.B. 1659**  
**RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports the intent of SB1659**, which seeks to establish funding mechanisms for the completion of the Lahaina Bypass North, a critical infrastructure project for West Maui.

While we support the bill's overall intent, HDOT has concerns regarding certain aspects of the proposed funding structure and the use of a public-private partnership (PPP) model. We respectfully offer the following recommendations:

1. Funding Sources Must Be Clear and Sustainable

- The bill proposes funding the project through a \$3 rental car surcharge, estimated to generate \$15 million annually.
- HDOT supports extending this surcharge for 30 years to secure the necessary funding through bond financing while minimizing the financial impact on other state revenue sources.
- HDOT recommends the additional \$3 per day rental vehicle surcharge revenues be deposited into a separate fund for the purpose of isolating the moneys that will be used for a specific purpose and not comingled with other state highway fund revenue streams. A new special fund or a subaccount in the Highways development special fund (HRS 264-122) can be established allowing the additional \$3 per day rental vehicle surcharge revenues to be deposited and can be expended for the Lahaina Bypass North Project.

2. Concerns About the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Model

- Traditional PPP models rely on user-based revenue streams, such as tolls, to allow private partners to recover their investment. However, SB1659 does not propose a tolling mechanism and instead requires HDOT to lease the facility back from a private partner after the revenue collection period ends.

- This structure is financially unsustainable, as it creates a long-term financial obligation for HDOT without a dedicated revenue stream to cover lease payments.
- HDOT recommends bonding the remaining project cost after five years of rental car surcharge collection, leveraging the next 25 years of surcharge revenue to pay off the bond. This approach would eliminate the need for a PPP, streamline project financing, and ensure state ownership of the facility from the outset.

### 3. Avoiding the Diversion of Critical Revenue Streams

- The bill suggests redirecting transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenue and repurposing fines to fund the project.
- HDOT is concerned that reallocating TAT funds could negatively impact other state agencies that rely on these revenues for essential programs.

### 4. Project Cost and Timeline Considerations

- The estimated cost of completing the bypass from Keawe Street to Honokowai is between \$280 million and \$300 million.
- A state-funded approach using the rental car surcharge and bond financing would allow the project to be designed and ready for construction within five years, avoiding the additional delays associated with federal funding requirements.
- Maintaining local control over funding would provide a more efficient and predictable project timeline compared to a PPP model.

HDOT appreciates the Legislature's commitment to addressing West Maui's transportation challenges and supports a funding approach that ensures long-term financial stability. We recommend modifying the bill to rely solely on an extended rental car surcharge and bond financing, eliminating the proposed PPP model to streamline funding and retain state ownership of the bypass.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau  
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA  
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF  
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

**TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. No. 1659, Relating to the Lahaina Bypass.

**BEFORE THE:**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025

**TIME:** 3:01 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 224

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) offers the following comments regarding S.B. 1659 for your consideration.

Section 2 of S.B. 1659 amends section 251-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a special assessment of \$3 a day or any portion of a day that a rental motor vehicle is rented in Maui County<sup>1</sup> in addition to the \$5 Rental Motor Vehicle Surcharge Tax. This new surcharge will be allocated to the State Highway Fund, specifically for expenditure on the Lahaina Bypass North, and sunsets in 10 years.

Section 4 of S.B. 1659 amends section 237D-6.5, HRS, by directing 50 percent of all Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) collected from West Maui to be deposited into the State Highway Fund, designated for the Lahaina Bypass North.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025, with the proposed surcharge in Section 2 repealing on June 30, 2035.

DOTAX notes that Section 4 of S.B. 1659 will require changes to TAT forms so taxpayers can specifically report amounts of income that are earned from transient

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<sup>1</sup> The bill specifically imposes the surcharge on rentals in "a county with a population of more than one hundred thousand but less than two hundred thousand[.]" Page 3, lines 11-13.

accommodations located in West Maui. While taxpayers report income based on the county where the transient accommodation is located on the TAT return, neither taxpayers nor DOTAX currently track income from transient accommodations to a more specific location within each county.

DOTAX also notes that “West Maui” needs to be defined so both DOTAX and taxpayers can distinguish which transient accommodations will be affected by Section 4. DOTAX thus recommends that Section 4 of the bill be amended to add a definition for “West Maui”.

DOTAX requests that the effective date of the bill be amended for Sections 2 and 4 of the bill to take effect on January 1, 2026. This will allow sufficient time for the various form, instruction, and system changes needed.

In the alternative, DOTAX recommends that Section 4 be amended to allocate a specific percentage of TAT collections from all of Maui into the State Highway Fund to be designated for the Lahaina Bypass North.

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



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**  
Before the Senate Committee on  
**Transportation and Culture and the Arts**

In Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1659  
RELATING TO THE LAHAINA BYPASS

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

We are writing on behalf of Lāhainā 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, Lāhainā Strong has become the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 35,000 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.

Lāhainā Strong **supports Senate Bill 1559**, which provides funding and support for the construction of the Lahaina Bypass North. This project is essential to address the long-standing transportation, safety, and infrastructure challenges faced by the residents of West Maui.

Our region has faced increasing hardships due to insufficient infrastructure. The devastating wildfires of 2023 tragically revealed the dangers of relying on a single major access road—Honoapiʻilani Highway—which was blocked during critical moments. In such emergencies, residents were left stranded without safe evacuation options, while emergency responders struggled to reach those in need. Beyond emergencies, daily traffic congestion continues to disrupt the lives of residents, limiting access to schools, healthcare, businesses, and other essential services.

Without an alternate access route, Lahaina and the greater West Maui region remain vulnerable to disasters, accidents, and infrastructure failures. SB1659 provides a

much-needed solution through the construction of the Lahaina Bypass North, which will bring multiple benefits to our community:

1. **Emergency Preparedness:**

The bypass will create a critical alternate route for safe evacuation and emergency response. With recent climate events increasing the frequency of wildfires, landslides, and floods, our community can no longer afford to rely solely on Honoapiʻilani Highway. When this highway is blocked, lives are at risk. The bypass will ensure that residents and emergency responders have safe and reliable access during crises, potentially saving lives in future disasters.

2. **Improved Traffic Flow:**

As West Maui's population grows due to new housing developments—many of which are geared toward affordable housing and Native Hawaiian communities—existing roadways are becoming increasingly strained. Congestion on Honoapiʻilani Highway impacts families, workers, and businesses on a daily basis. Commute times are growing longer, and delays in travel reduce access to essential services and discourage local economic growth. By relieving the pressure on our current infrastructure, the bypass will enable more efficient movement across the region, allowing residents to lead more productive and stable lives.

3. **Community Stability and Economic Recovery:**

Infrastructure plays a key role in the recovery and long-term stability of our town. Lahaina is still rebuilding after the 2023 wildfires, and many of our families and businesses are just beginning to regain their footing. The bypass will help maintain stability by ensuring access to key services such as healthcare, education, and employment. Businesses, which are vital to the economic foundation of Lahaina, will also benefit from improved transportation, as reduced congestion will enable more reliable deliveries, customer access, and workforce movement.

4. **Resilience for Future Growth:**

Lahaina's future depends on our ability to adapt to both current and future challenges. The bypass will enhance our ability to plan for sustainable growth, giving our community the infrastructure needed to support long-term development while preserving our unique cultural and environmental heritage. It will help ensure that new housing developments, businesses, and public facilities are connected in ways that support resilience and well-being.

We also appreciate the funding mechanisms outlined in SB1659. The use of public-private partnerships and targeted tax revenues—such as transient

accommodations and rental vehicle taxes—represents a fair and balanced approach. This strategy shares financial responsibility with industries that rely on our infrastructure, rather than placing the full burden on local residents. Public-private partnerships can also expedite the project by leveraging additional resources and expertise, ensuring the bypass is completed in a timely and efficient manner.

For our community, this bypass is not a luxury—it is a necessity. It represents a key step toward a safer, more resilient, and more connected Lahaina. The people of West Maui deserve infrastructure that protects their lives, improves their quality of life, and supports a sustainable future.

We respectfully urge you to **support SB1659**. By doing so, you will be investing in the safety, stability, and well-being of Lahaina and West Maui for generations to come.

Mahalo for your consideration and commitment to the Lahaina Community.

Sincerely,

Lāhainā Strong

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

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SUBJECT: RENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE AND TOUR VEHICLE SURCHARGE,  
TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS, MICELLANEOUS; Lahaina Bypass North

BILL NUMBER: SB 1659

INTRODUCED BY: MCKELVEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Adds a special assessment to the Rental Motor Vehicle Surcharge Tax, sunsetting in 10 years, to fund revenue bonds for the Lahaina Bypass North. Includes payment of principal and interest of revenue bonds for the construction, operation, and maintenance costs of the Lahaina Bypass North as a permissible use of the State Highway Fund. Authorizes the issuance of general obligation and revenue bonds to fund the Lahaina Bypass North. Authorizes public-private partnership agreements for the construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of the Lahaina Bypass North. Directs transient accommodations taxes collected from West Maui transient accommodations to fund the Lahaina Bypass North.

SYNOPSIS: Amends section 251-2, HRS, to provide that for a rental motor vehicle rented in Maui county, there will be a special assessment of \$3 a day, or any portion of a day, that a rental motor vehicle is rented or leased. The special assessment shall be allocated to the state highway fund for expenditure on the Lahaina bypass north.

Amends section 237D-6.5, HRS, to provide another earmark on the transient accommodations tax: 50% of all TAT revenues collected from operators of transient accommodations located in West Maui shall be deposited in the state highway fund and shall be spent by the department of transportation for the Lahaina bypass north.

Makes a conforming amendment to section 248-9, HRS, relating to the state highway fund.

Adds a new section to chapter 264, HRS, authorizing the department of transportation to enter into public-private partnerships to finance, design, construct, operate, and maintain the Lahaina bypass north.

Authorizes \$35 million in general obligation bonds for Lahaina bypass north.

Requires annual reporting by the Department of Transportation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, provided that Section 2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2035.

STAFF COMMENTS: The 1989 Tax Review Commission noted that use of special fund financing is a “departure from Hawaii’s sound fiscal policies and should be avoided.” It also noted that special funds are appropriate where the revenues to the funds maintain some direct connection between a public service and the beneficiary of that service. The Commission found that special funds which merely set aside general funds cannot be justified as such actions restrict budget flexibility, create inefficiencies, and lessen accountability. It recommended that such



programs can be given priority under the normal budget process without having to resort to this type of financing.

Although this bill does not involve a special fund, it does involve the use of tax earmarks to provide a revenue stream specifically for one project. Which creates a bypass not of Lahaina traffic, but of the legislative budgeting and appropriation process.

We recommend that the normal appropriation process be followed and that the tax earmarks not be enacted. The Foundation takes no position on the balance of the bill.

Digested: 2/9/2025



**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 10, 2025

TO: Senator Chris Lee  
Chair, Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

FROM: Matt Tsujimura / Tiffany Yajima

RE: **S.B. 1659, Relating to the Lahaina Bypass**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 3:01PM**  
**Conference Room 224**

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Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts:

We submit this testimony on behalf of Enterprise Mobility, which includes Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Alamo Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental, and Enterprise Commute (Van Pool).

Enterprise Mobility **opposes** S.B. 1659, which adds a special assessment to the Rental Motor Vehicle Surcharge Tax of an additional \$3 per day.

While Enterprise appreciates the State's need for additional funding, we are very concerned that adding a special assessment on top of the surcharge tax will negatively impact an already hurting industry. At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rental car industry was down 95% and still has not returned to pre-COVID levels.

Since 2018, the surcharge tax has increased from \$3 per day to \$8; and S.B. 1659 would raise the total amount to \$11 per day.

The tax burden on rental cars is already disproportionately high. While rental cars only comprise about 5% of the total vehicles in the State, the rental car surcharge accounts for 32.4% of the revenue in the highway fund.

Enterprise supports the Department of Transportation's efforts to improve the safety and functionality of Hawaii's highways. However, Enterprise is concerned that S.B. 1659 puts an excessive burden on the rental car industry.

For the above reasons, we respectfully oppose this measure and ask that it be held. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:54:33 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| mary drayer  | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

please fund this project - and definitely prioritize funds from the Rental Car surcharges and TAT - those folks are the main reason we even need all these roads!!! do the math - 50,000 visitors a day, and \$1 each would be crazy money we can use for our communities - not only infrastructure!...

mahalo

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:03:48 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Vickie Kadotani | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1659

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Vickie Kadotani

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:08:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:25:56 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| India cote   | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

India Maile Cote-Cosme

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:35:08 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Keila Paahana | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:06:21 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii



**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:31:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Aviva Libitsky | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1659

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Aviva Libitsky

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:22:13 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| De Andre Makakoa | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

Lahaina burned, and our people had nowhere to go. **Senate Bill 1659 is not just about infrastructure—it's about survival.** The fires made it painfully clear that **West Maui needs more accessible escape routes.** Without them, we are gambling with lives.

The **Lahaina Bypass North must be built.** This is not a luxury or a convenience—it is an urgent necessity. **We cannot afford another disaster where residents are trapped with no safe way out.** Prioritizing funding from **rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue** ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to the infrastructure that their business relies on. Tourism depends on our roads; it's only right that it helps maintain them.

West Maui's recovery cannot happen without investing in critical infrastructure that protects our people. **I urge you to pass SB1659 to make sure Lahaina is never left without a way out again.**

Mahalo for your time and for taking real action toward Lahaina's future.

De Andre Makakoa

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:40:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kristy Lam   | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,**

**I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.**

**Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.**

**We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.**

**Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.**

**Me ke aloha 'āina,**

**Kristy**

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:51:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1659**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **support of Senate Bill 1659**, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your **support for SB1659** as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Pahnelopi McKenzie

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 5:05:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By         | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Jennifer Kau'i Young | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:12:53 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kazuo Flores | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm in support of Bill SB1659

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:39:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Paul Carter  | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Paul Carter

201 River Rd.

Wailuku, Hawaii

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:45:20 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Cardenas Pintor | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Cardenas (Cards) Pintor



**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:01:13 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sierra Mcveigh | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Sierra Mcveigh

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:03:20 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

I urge you to support SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Elizabeth Winternitz, Kula Maui

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:18:26 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lana Albright | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1659

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

So excited to see this bill! Prioritizing funds from rental car sur charges to benefit the roadways is much needed! What a great idea! I fully support!  
West Maui is need of this infrastructure!

We need more accessible routes and this is a great way to fund and should be priority!

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery <3

Lana Albright

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:12:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kelcy Durbin | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.

We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Kelcy Durbin

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:20:21 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,**

**I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies.**

**Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements.**

**We urge your support for SB1659 as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.**

**Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.**

**Nicki Tedesco**

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:24:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Ali Grimes   | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

**As a Lahaina resident who lost our home and business, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies. Mahalo**

**SB-1659**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:26:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/11/2025 3:01:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Keahi Ho     | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

**As a Lahaina firefighter, resident who lost my home and side business, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1659, which supports securing funding and ensuring the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The fires showed how urgently we need more accessible escape routes, especially for emergencies. Mahalo**

**SB-169**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:06:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kara Kiernan | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Support for Senate Bill 1659**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1659, which aims to secure funding and ensure the construction and operation of the Lahaina Bypass North. The recent fires have underscored the urgent need for more accessible escape routes, especially during emergencies.

This bill proposes authorizing public-private partnership agreements for the construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of the Lahaina Bypass North. It also directs transient accommodations taxes collected from West Maui transient accommodations to fund the project.

Prioritizing funds from rental car surcharges and transient accommodations tax revenue ensures that high-impact industries contribute directly to infrastructure improvements. This approach not only addresses immediate safety concerns but also promotes sustainable development in our community.

I respectfully urge your support for SB1659, as West Maui's recovery depends on investing in critical infrastructure.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina's recovery.

Kara Kiernan