

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

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

March 19, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 411

In consideration of
S.B. 414 HD1
RELATING TO RESTORING ACCESS TO DISASTER-AFFECTED AREAS.

Chairs Belatti and Hashem, Vice Chairs Iwamoto and Lamosao, and members of the Committees.

HHFDC **supports** SB 414 HD1, which requires the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to institute proceedings to condemn certain lands in Lahaina to build a new access road from Keawe Street to the Kilohana and Kalaiola sites developed in the Villages of Leialii. It also appropriates funds out of the Major Disaster Fund for the appraisals and other preparations for the condemnation proceedings.

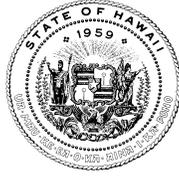
Building the new access road entails acquiring or condemning portions of the former cane haul road that crosses lands owned by Keawe Street Investment, LLC, and West Maui Venture Group parcels. We are presently having discussions with the landowners to acquire the needed parcels. The cost to design and construct the new access road to the Kilohana and Kalaiola housing sites in accordance with Maui County standards is estimated to be \$10 million.

When interim housing is no longer needed, HHFDC intends to develop the Kilohana site with permanent housing. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, likewise, has plans to develop the Kalaiola site, with permanent housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

P. O. BOX 1879
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TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
WATER & LAND
HEARING ON MARCH 19, 2025 AT 10:30AM IN CR 411

**SB 414, SD 2, HD 1, RELATING TO RESTORING ACCESS TO DISASTER-
AFFECTED AREAS**

March 18, 2025

Aloha Chairs Belatti and Hashem, Vice Chairs Iwamoto and Lamosao, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **supports** this bill which 1) requires the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to institute proceedings to condemn certain lands in Lāhainā to build a new access road from Keawe Street to the Kilohana and Kalaiola sites developed in the Villages of Leiali'i and 2) appropriates funds out of the Major Disaster Fund for the appraisals and other preparations for the condemnation proceedings.

The devastating wildfires that impacted Lāhainā underscored the critical need for improved infrastructure to support emergency response, evacuation, and long-term recovery efforts. The proposed access road will provide an essential transportation route for residents of the Villages of Leiali'i and ensure improved connectivity to surrounding areas.

The Villages of Leiali'i are home to numerous native Hawaiian beneficiaries who are part of DHHL's trust responsibilities. Ensuring safe and reliable access to these communities is vital for their well-being and aligns with DHHL's mission to provide economic self-sufficiency and improve the lives of native Hawaiians. This new access route will also strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience for the broader Lāhainā region.

We recognize the complexities surrounding land acquisition and condemnation proceedings. Nevertheless, this proactive step is necessary to ensure the timely restoration of access to these disaster-affected communities. The appropriation of funds from the Major Disaster Fund will allow for the swift completion of required appraisals and related preparations, expediting this much-needed infrastructure improvement.

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
March 18, 2025
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For these reasons, DHHL respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB414 to support the development of critical infrastructure that will serve native Hawaiian families and the greater Lāhainā community.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
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
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 17, 2025

TO: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

RE: SB 414 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO RESTORING ACCESS TO DISASTER-AFFECTED AREAS.

Hearing: March 19, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the measure's intent and defers to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the County of Maui. Cane Haul Road will provide an alternate route to reduce impacts on Fleming Road and Leiali'i Parkway and provide emergency access for the region. The emergency temporary housing for Maui Wildfire survivors is constructed above existing subdivisions. There is significant community concern that both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (169 units) and State (395 units) housing sites, added to Kaiāulu o Kūku'ia (200 units), will increase traffic in the existing subdivisions. The primary concerns for all are congestion and safety. All three new developments will benefit from the paving of Cane Haul Road.

Paving the Cane Haul Road from Keawe Street to just north of the Lāhainā Civic Center will allow two more connection points to the system where relief can be provided. From there, DOT could adjust access points to maximize efficiency and safety.

DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities

identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: This bill requires the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to institute proceedings to condemn certain lands in Lahaina to build a new access road from Keawe Street to the Kilohana and Ka la'i ola sites developed in the Villages of Leialii. Appropriates funds out of the Major Disaster Fund for the appraisals and other preparations for the condemnation proceedings. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The Senate Committee on Housing amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary further amended the measure by:

- (1) Appropriating an unspecified sum out of the Major Disaster Fund;
- (2) Deleting the appropriations into and out of the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund; and
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion on the measure.

The Committee on Housing further amended the measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

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



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 411
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 AT 10:30 A.M.

To The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Public Safety

SUPPORT SB414 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO HOUSING

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB414 SD2 HD1** which requires the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to institute proceedings to condemn certain lands in Lahaina to build a new access road from Keawe Street to the Kilohana and Kalaiola sites developed in the Villages of Leialii.

The Chamber notes that three projects are connected on their makai sides by a former cane haul road, which runs from north to south on land owned by HHFDC. At its northern end, the former cane haul road connects to Leialii Parkway and intersects with Waihikuli Road and Fleming Road as it heads south. Before reaching Keawe Street, this former cane haul road crosses lands owned by Keawe Street Investment LLC and West Maui Venture Group.

While we understand the necessity of this project, we encourage the state to engage in negotiations with the landowners prior to pursuing the complex process of eminent domain. We also hope that the landowners will enter into negotiations in good faith with the HHFDC.

Given the severe housing shortage in both the State and Maui County, we strongly support initiatives that promote, rather than hinder, the development of housing for our residents.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT SB414 SD2 HD1** and respectfully request its passage.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.