

**STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Thursday, March 20, 2025, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 1296 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO DISASTER RECOVERY.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

SB 1296 SD2 HD1 amends Chapter 205A, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), to streamline Special Management Area (SMA) permitting for disaster recovery from a disaster proclaimed by the Governor to constitute to a state of emergency, or a disaster declared pursuant to federal law.

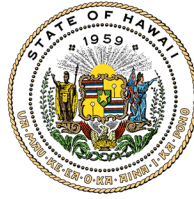
The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) is the lead agency of the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program, codified in Chapter 205A, HRS.

OPSD respectfully **supports** SB 1296 SD2 HD1 as written.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
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
JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 20, 2025
2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1296, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO DISASTER RECOVERY

Senate Bill 1296, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to exempt reconstructions of any lawfully constructed structure that was damaged or destroyed in a disaster proclaimed by the Governor or under federal law to constitute a state of emergency from the requirements of a special management area minor permit or a special management area use permit under certain conditions. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

Senate Bill 1296 would amend Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 205A, the State's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law. Chapter 205A establishes policies and regulations to manage, protect, and preserve the state's coastal resources. The lead agency responsible for overseeing the implementation of Chapter 205A is the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD). County authorities, such as planning commissions, are responsible for designating special management areas, issuing permits for developments, and enforcing shoreline setback regulations to ensure alignment with the CZM objectives.

The Department's support for this bill is based upon consultation with both OPSD and County planning officials. The Department recognizes that regulatory agencies are offer overwhelmed following a disaster, and that easing the regulatory burden can help expedite recovery. We appreciate that this bill will assist communities in rebuilding while still retaining important environmental safeguards for more vulnerable coastal issues.

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

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

TO: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
John Smith, P.E. Office of Recovery Administrator

DATE: March 19, 2025

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SB1296 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO DISASTER RECOVERY

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this measure which exempts reconstruction of any lawfully constructed structure that was damaged or destroyed in a disaster proclaimed by the Governor to constitute a state of emergency or a disaster declared pursuant to federal law from the requirements of a special management area minor permit or a special management area use permit under certain conditions.

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. The existing language of HRS 205A unduly burdens owners, residents and employees occupying previously existing lawful structures and improvements that may be destroyed by disasters by requiring significant cost, time and effort in obtaining approvals for reconstruction.
2. This proposal is a more efficient path forward in recognition of and consistent with HRS 205A-2 coastal zone management program objectives and policies.
3. This bill ensures that appropriate mitigative measures outline in HRS 205A-2 are implemented through the construction permitting process without burdening owners with the same procedural requirements as new development proposals.
4. It will benefit Lahaina residents, property owners and those who were and will be employed in the fire affected areas and if in place before the next disaster will be of significant relief to those faced with reconstruction, statewide.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Maui Hotel & Lodging
ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

March 19, 2025

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1296 SD2 HD1

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

Maui Hotel and Lodging Association is in **strong support of SB1296 SD2 HD1** as it will allow a critical pathway for businesses and property owners to rebuild efficiently, gives them hope that they will be able to return to the place they love so much, and it gets them moving in the right direction to some sense of normalcy through all of the chaos they have endured. It is an important step towards the economic recovery of beloved Lahaina town.

We humbly ask for your support for our community and pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

John Pele
Executive Director
Maui Hotel and Lodging Association



ABC Stores
766 Pohukaina Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5391
www.abcstores.com

Telephone: (808) 591-2550
Fax: (808) 591-2039
E-mail: mail@abcstores.com

March 19, 2025

Chair David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 325
March 20, 2025, at 2:00 PM

Re: Testimony In Strong Support of SB 1296 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1296 SD2 HD1.

My name is John Mark Mageo, and I am the Employee Relations and Government Affairs Manager at ABC Stores. I am writing on behalf of ABC Stores, which employs over 2,200 residents across Oahu, Maui, Kona, Kaua'i, Guam, Saipan, and Las Vegas. Three of our Maui stores were among the 600 local businesses that closed following the tragic wildfires. To this day, our stores have yet to reopen.

The wildfires have had a profound impact on our employees and their families. The closure of our stores has deeply affected their sense of stability and community. This bill represents a crucial step towards restoring not just our business, but the lives and well-being of our dedicated employees and the broader community.

We strongly support this bill because it will provide a critical pathway for businesses and property owners to rebuild efficiently by removing unnecessary permitting delays:

- Allows reconstruction of fire-damaged properties mauka of Front Street within their pre-fire footprint.
- Provides a five-year window for rebuilding to ensure property owners have sufficient time.
- Supports the economic recovery of Lahaina by helping small businesses return and create jobs.

We strongly encourage the support and passage of this bill, for the benefit of our businesses and the community of Lahaina. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
John Mark Mageo
ABC Stores
Employee Relations and Government Affairs Manager
(808) 597-3312
jmageo@abcstores.com



Testimony in Support of SB1296 SD2 HD1 with Amendments

Hearing Date: March 20, 2025, at 2:00 PM

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lahela Aiwohi, with Ola Maui, and I represent nearly 100 shoreline property owners in Lāhainā, with about half of those owners that have lost their homes, some being generational homes, in the 2023 tragic wildfires. I am submitting testimony in support of SB1296 SD2 HD1, with the request that Section (i) be removed to allow shoreline properties in Lāhainā, destroyed in the August 2023 wildfires, the opportunity to rebuild. Additionally, I urge the committee to further amend HRS Section 205A-44A to align with the intent of this measure by ensuring that properties lost in declared disasters are eligible for rebuilding without the need for a variance.

Proposed Amendment to HRS 205A-44A

I respectfully request that HRS Section 205A-44A(b) be amended as follows:

(b) Except as provided in this section, structures are prohibited in the shoreline area without a variance pursuant to this part. Structures in the shoreline area shall not need a variance if:

- (1) They were completed prior to June 22, 1970;
- (2) They received either a building permit, board approval, or shoreline setback variance prior to June 16, 1989;
- (3) They are outside the shoreline area when they receive either a building permit or board approval;
- (4) They are necessary for or ancillary to continuation of existing agriculture or aquaculture in the shoreline area on June 16, 1989;
- (5) They are minor structures permitted under rules adopted by the department which do not affect beach processes or artificially fix the shoreline and do not interfere with public access or public views to and along the shoreline; or

(6) Work being done consists of maintenance, repair, and minor additions or alterations of legal boating, maritime, or watersports recreational facilities, which are publicly owned, and which result in little or no interference with natural shoreline processes;

provided that permitted structures may be repaired, but shall not be enlarged, rebuilt, or replaced within the shoreline area without a variance, unless

(i) the structure was damaged or destroyed in a disaster proclaimed by the governor to constitute a state of emergency pursuant to chapter 127A or a disaster declared pursuant to federal law,

(ii) the rebuilding or replacement commences within five years from the date that the proclamation was issued, and

(iii) the rebuilt or replaced structure is similar to its original footprint or overall dimensions that were existing or permitted and is in compliance with the requirements of floodplain management standards.

These amendments are essential and necessary for the following reasons:

Lāhainā holds deep cultural and historical significance to Hawai'i. The devastating fires of 2023 were not only a tragedy for its residents but a loss of an irreplaceable part of our history. Preventing the rebuilding of shoreline properties lost in this disaster would erase generations of heritage and displace families and businesses that have long contributed to the identity of Lāhainā.

Additionally, Lāhainā serves as a vital economic engine for both Maui County and the state. It is one of Hawai'i's most significant tourism hubs, generating substantial tax revenue and sustaining thousands of jobs. If families and businesses are prevented from rebuilding, the long-term economic impact on the island and state will be severe. Allowing these properties to rebuild responsibly, with appropriate environmental protections, is crucial to Lāhainā's recovery and economic resilience.

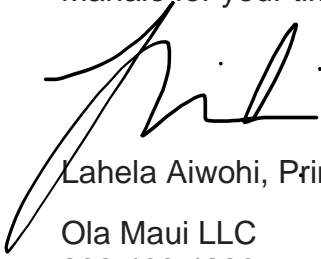
Request to Consider Language from SB830 SD2

I also ask the committee to consider adopting the language in SB830 SD2, which provides a framework for rebuilding structures lost in declared disasters. This will significantly support the families residing in the Puamana area of Lāhainā. However, at a minimum, removing Section (i) from the House Draft 1 of SB1296 SD2 HD1 is necessary to ensure fairness and consistency in rebuilding policies.

I respectfully urge this committee to adopt the proposed amendments to HRS 205A-44A and remove Section (i) from this measure to allow Lāhainā property owners the opportunity to rebuild their homes and businesses. The people of Lāhainā deserve the chance to restore their community, preserve their history, and revitalize their economy.

Please pass SB1296 SD2 HD1 out of committee with these critical amendments. I've also attached a separate and explicit document of our proposed amendments.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lahela Aiwohi', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Lahela Aiwohi, Principal Consultant

Ola Maui LLC
808.463.4200

Revise SB1296 as follows:

(W) Reconstruction of any lawfully constructed structure that was damaged or destroyed in a disaster proclaimed by the governor to constitute a state of emergency pursuant to chapter 127A, or a disaster declared pursuant to federal law; provided that:

~~(i) The structure is not situated on a shoreline parcel or a parcel that is impacted by waves, storm surges, high tide, or shoreline erosion;~~

(ii) Reconstruction commences within five years from the date that the proclamation is issued; and

(iii) The reconstructed structure is similar to its original footprint or overall dimensions that were existing or permitted and in compliance with the requirements of floodplain management standards;

Amend 205A-44A as follows:

(b) Except as provided in this section, structures are prohibited in the shoreline area without a variance pursuant to this part. Structures in the shoreline area shall not need a variance if:

(1) They were completed prior to June 22, 1970;

(2) They received either a building permit, board approval, or shoreline setback variance prior to June 16, 1989;

(3) They are outside the shoreline area when they receive either a building permit or board approval;

(4) They are necessary for or ancillary to continuation of existing agriculture or aquaculture in the shoreline area on June 16, 1989;

(5) They are minor structures permitted under rules adopted by the department which do not affect beach processes or artificially fix the shoreline and do not interfere with public access or public views to and along the shoreline; or

(6) Work being done consists of maintenance, repair, and minor additions or alterations of legal boating, maritime, or watersports recreational facilities, which are publicly owned, and which result in little or no interference with natural shoreline processes;

provided that permitted structures may be repaired, but shall not be enlarged, rebuilt, or replaced within the shoreline area without a variance, unless (i) the structure was damaged or destroyed in a disaster proclaimed by the governor to constitute a state of emergency pursuant to chapter 127A or a disaster declared pursuant to federal law, (ii) the rebuilding or replacement commences within five years from the date that the proclamation was issued, and (iii) the rebuilt or replaced structure is similar to its original footprint or overall dimensions that were

existing or permitted and is in compliance with the requirements of floodplain management standards.



DATE: March 19th, 2025

TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1296**

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of **SB1296**

I am the owner and President of Lahaina Brewery, dba Koholā Brewery. We were in the West Maui center mauka of Honoapiilani HWY in Lahaina. Our location there was our only production facility and was producing about 3000bbbs a year making us one of the largest craft breweries in the state. We also had our only taproom there that consistently hosted local events, artists and musicians.

We have been brewing and hosting both locals and visitors alike since 2016. We were proud to be the most award-winning brewery in the state and provided living wages to our staff of over 20 people. I am a strong supporter of small business and our local entrepreneurs. Lahaina was the heart of the entrepreneurial community in Maui and with the devastation of the fires, this group of extremely hard-working people have been severely impacted.

Retuning to Lahaina to rebuild is my ultimate goal. I look forward to this committee's support in those efforts.

I humbly ask for your support for our community and pass this bill.
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mary Anderson
President/Owner Lahaina Brewery Inc.
910 Honoapiilani HWY #55
Lahaina HI 96761

808-303-9491
mary@koholabrewery.com

TO: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee

FROM: Micah A. Kāne, CEO & President

RE: Testimony in Support for SB 1296 SD2 HD1, Relating to Disaster Recovery

DATE: Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 2:00 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 325

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) supports SB 1296 SD2 HD1 (SB 1296), which eases the process to rebuild lawfully constructed structures that were destroyed in the Maui wildfire disaster. The bill would exempt qualifying structures from requirements of a special management area minor permit or a special area management area use permit under certain conditions.

HCF believes that it should be a priority to allow Maui residents to return to their land with the least amount of regulatory obstacles necessary to ensure a safe rebuilding of the community. SB 1296 is appropriately tailored to make the rebuilding process more efficient and reduce obstacles for local residents. With other concerns to address, such as those related to uncertain insurance benefits, rising costs of materials, and temporary housing costs, it will be a clear benefit to property owners to remove unnecessary permitting complications.

Furthermore, the bill creates a mechanism for future disasters that will streamline the ability to rebuild when homes are lost anywhere in the state.

HCF supports SB 1296 and encourages the committee to pass the bill.

March 19, 2025
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF **SB1296 HD1**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and all members of the JHA committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB1296 HD1. I submit this testimony on behalf of the Lahaina Town Action Committee and the Front Street Recovery Organization.

This bill is critical to helping our community rebuild from the Lahaina Wildfires. Property owners within the SMA face not only devastating loss but also an overwhelming, complex rebuild process that threatens their ability to restore their homes, businesses, and livelihoods; all essential to Lahaina's recovery.

SB1296 HD1 does not propose new developments but simply allows property owners to rebuild what previously existed within its similar or same permitted footprint. By doing so, it will also help ensure that these businesses can once again contribute to our local economy, benefiting both the county and state. Without this relief, many property owners may be forced to sell and leave Maui, worsening the already alarming outmigration of our community.

Additionally, the language in SB1296 HD1 can serve as a proactive measure for other areas throughout our state that may be vulnerable to future disasters. It is critically important that we learn from past experiences and take steps to enhance our resilience moving forward.

Nearly a year and a half has passed, yet progress remains slow, with little beyond debris removal in Lahaina. With a sunset date of August 8, 2028, this bill provides a clear and necessary pathway for rebuilding before it is too late.

I respectfully ask the JHA committee for your support of SB1296.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Haloa Dudoit

Karey Kapoi LLC



House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Chair Tarnas
Vice Chair Poepoe

DATE: March 20, 2025
TIME: 2:00 pm
PLACE: House Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1296**
Testimony of Ryan Churchill

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Ryan Churchill, representing Pacific Rim Land. I am here today to offer our strong endorsement of SB1296.

Our company lost a building on Front Street on August 8. We are planning on rebuilding the same structure in the same location. Passage of SB1296 is crucial for enabling the expedited reconstruction of buildings on Front Street, assuming the building is no greater in size than the building that existed prior to August 8.

This legislation offers essential measures to streamline the rebuilding process, ensuring that we can swiftly restore the infrastructure necessary to support local businesses and jobs. By facilitating timely reconstruction, SB1296 will not only help us recover from the recent disaster but also contribute to the revitalization of Front Street, a cornerstone of our local economy.

We commend the Legislature for considering this critical bill and urge its swift passage. The support provided by SB1296 will not only assist Pacific Rim Land in rebuilding but will also serve as a beacon of hope for our community as we strive to recover and thrive once again.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,
Ryan Churchill

Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Chair David A. Tamas
Vice-Chair Mahina Poepoe

DATE: March 20, 2025

TIME: 2:00pm

PLACE: Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1296 SD2
Testimony of **SB 1296 SD2**

Aloha e Chair Tamas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1296 CD2

My family owns 764 Front Street:

- It was totally destroyed
- Our property was home to four businesses with about 20 employees
- It was one of our primary sources of income
- We owned the property for over 70 years

I am in strong support of this bill because we want Front Street back to what it was: It took us a year and a half to get to this point, this bill will ensure that those within the SMA affected during future natural disasters will not have to go through this same lengthy process. We must learn from this situation.

I humbly ask for your support for our community and pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jay Miyaki
for Miyaki Family Partnership
764 Front Street

c: 808-222-9752

e: jay@miyakicpa.com



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**
Before the House Committee on
Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

In Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1296 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO DISASTER RECOVERY

To Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and the honorable members of the committees,

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 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 stands in **support of Senate Bill 1296 SD2 HD1**, which seeks to exempt reconstructions of any lawfully constructed structure that was damaged or destroyed in a disaster. The devastation of the 2023 Maui wildfires left families without housing, and recovery efforts must center on ensuring that Lahaina residents can rebuild and return without unnecessary delays.

By exempting the reconstruction of lawfully constructed structures from special management area (SMA) permitting requirements, this bill removes a potential barrier to rebuilding. For those who lost their homes, every delay—every additional layer of permitting—extends the time they are displaced. Lahaina families cannot afford to be locked out of their own recovery.

However, while we support streamlining the process to get our residents back into homes, this exemption must remain focused on residential recovery—not an open door for outside development interests. Lahaina's future should be guided by the needs of

the community first, ensuring that those who lived here before the fire can return before speculative or large-scale redevelopment changes the character of the town.

This bill must work in tandem with strong local oversight to ensure that exemptions are used responsibly and that rebuilding efforts prioritize housing for those directly impacted by the disaster. Lahaina Strong urges the committee to **support SB1296 SD2 HD1** while maintaining a clear commitment to local families, cultural integrity, and a resilient future.

Mahalo for your dedication to Lāhainā's recovery.

Sincerely,

Lāhainā Strong

March 20, 2025, 2 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: SB1296 SD2 HD1 — RELATING TO DISASTER RECOVERY

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii offers **comments on — and an amendment to —** [SB1296 SD2 HD1](#), which would exempt any lawfully constructed building destroyed or damaged during disasters proclaimed to be emergencies from needing a Special Management Area minor or use permit, provided that such structures are not on a shoreline parcel and would be built to a similar size as to what existed prior to the disaster.

The bill would also provide that the reconstruction of the building would need to begin within five years of the first emergency proclamation.

Grassroot strongly supports the intent of this measure, but we recommend removing the following language to expand the scope of this measure to include shoreline parcels:

(i) The structure is not situated on a shoreline parcel or a parcel that is impacted by waves, storm surges, high tide, or shoreline erosion;

Second, we request the following language be added to HRS 205A-44A(b):

(6) Work being done consists of maintenance, repair, and minor additions or alterations of legal boating, maritime, or watersports recreational facilities, which are publicly owned, and which result in little or no interference with natural shoreline processes; provided that permitted structures may be

repaired, but shall not be enlarged, rebuilt, or replaced within the shoreline area without a variance, unless

(i) the structure was damaged or destroyed in a disaster proclaimed by the governor to constitute a state of emergency pursuant to chapter 127A or a disaster declared pursuant to federal law,

(ii) the rebuilding or replacement commences within five years from the date that the proclamation was issued, and

(iii) the rebuilt or replaced structure is similar to its original footprint or overall dimensions that were existing or permitted and is in compliance with the requirements of floodplain management standards.

These amendments would ensure all Lahaina residents have a chance to rebuild without going through an arduous and confusing land use approval process.

Gov. Josh Green provided multifamily dwellings an exemption from SMA rules in an October emergency proclamation, in addition to the exemption that already exists in statute for most single-family homes.¹

In early February, the governor also created an exemption for certain commercial structures in Lahaina,² but a permanent legislative fix would remove the need for navigating several iterations of an emergency order.

Without a streamlined SMA process, Lahaina's businesses will face an uphill battle to return to their community, since obtaining an SMA use permit from Maui County could take years.

Typically, obtaining an SMA permit involves an application to the Maui Planning Department and a hearing from the Maui County Planning Commission. Over the past decade, since Jan. 1, 2015, the Maui Planning Commission has issued only 41 SMA use permits.³ At the rate of four per year, it would take the county decades to approve all the permits needed for Lahaina's businesses to rebuild.

If businesses cannot return to Lahaina in a timely manner, there will be fewer entrepreneurial and job opportunities for residents, and the town could lose many of its residents, and certainly its historic charm and character.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ ["Eighteenth Proclamation Relating to Wildfire,"](#) Office of the Governor, State of Hawaii, Oct. 8, 2024, p. 10.

² Brian Perry, ["SMA permits suspended for wildfire-impacted Lahaina properties mauka of Front Street,"](#) Maui Now, Feb. 6, 2025.

³ [Maui's Automated Planning and Permitting System,](#) accessed Jan. 31, 2025. Plan type: SM1 - Special Management Area Use Permit - Maui. Status: Approved. Applied date: From 1/1/2025.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325
Thursday, March 20, 2025 AT 2:00 P.M.

To The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

SUPPORT SB1296 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO DISASTER RECOVERY

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB1296 SD2 HD1** which exempts certain reconstructions of all or a portion of a structure in the Lahaina National Historic Landmark District that was destroyed by wildfire on 8/8/2023, from the requirements of a special management area minor permit or a special management area use permit.

The Chamber notes that the 2023 Maui wildfires devastated Lahaina's heritage, economy, and sense of place, severely impacting housing, businesses, jobs, and treasured resources. If the area is not rebuilt in a deliberate, coordinated, and expeditious manner, it may struggle in the long term, further harming the well-being of the land, its people, and the economy. The devastation caused by the wildfires has created an urgent need for reconstruction, yet these efforts face significant challenges due to the skyrocketing costs of construction, which have reached nearly \$1,000 per square foot within these disaster areas.

Moreover, Front Street played a pivotal role not only in the community but for the entire state. The contributions from this area helped fund essential infrastructure, including roads, schools, and other public services.

This bill represents a critical step toward rebuilding in accordance with the current regulatory challenges we face. However, we would request that the limit change from \$500,000 to \$750,000 be reinstated as it was in the original version of the bill.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB1296 SD2 HD1 with our suggested amendment.**

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.

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair Tarnas
Vice Chair Poepoe

DATE: March 20th, 2025
TIME: 2:00pm
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1296
Testimony of Jeffrey Ueoka

Chairs Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB1296. I am a land use attorney on Maui assisting Front Street Recovery (a coalition of business owners dedicated to rebuilding and revitalizing Front Street). SB1296 will support the expedient and efficient rebuilding of Front Street and other disaster-stricken areas. While there will be many more challenges and hurdles to overcome while rebuilding, SB1296 provides some desperately needed relief from a very complicated regulatory process.

I humbly ask that you support Front Street Recovery's efforts to rebuild and pass this bill.

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

Jeffrey Ueoka
2145 Wells Street, Suite 406, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
(808) 481-4210
jeff@wslmaui.com

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 3:46:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tambara Garrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB1296. I encourage the committee to amend the language to include all impacted properties in the fire impacted area. We need to support and expedite small businesses getting reopened and residents back to work. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Tambara Garrick

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 4:34:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc D Godt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: SUPPORT SB1296 and INCLUDE SHORELINE PARCEL Exemptions

Aloha

Mahalo for taking your time to read my support testimony. As our elected leaders, we count on you to guide our State in the direction desired by the people. As a resident of Lahaina, the life of my family has been altered forever. Thankfully, our home was not destroyed. However, many of our friends lost everything.. And many have lost their jobs. We have all lost our town.

Rebuilding Lahaina is our responsibility. However, with the myriad of governmental layers these days, the task is nearly impossible. ANY Legislation that can simplify and improve the process to rebuilding is critical. It is the right thing to do. It is what the people of Lahaina demand and deserve.

We can and we will rebuild our historic town to retain the charm, the character, the economic might, the tax genrating benefits, and be a beacon in honoring our heritage.

PLEASE SUPPORT SB1296 (and the various versions) to ensure properties can be rebuilt just as they were. Modern design, engineering, and construction methods will ensure the buildings are much safer. **IT IS ALSO IMPERATIVE TO INCLUDE SHORELINE PARCELS in the exemption.** If the building was built makai side and had structures over the water - then let them be rebuilt. No one is asking for more coastal development. We simply want to return to what existed before the fire.

PLEASE SUPPORT SHORELINE PARCEL EXEMPTIONS AND PLEASE SUPPORT ANY BILL THAT furthers Lahaina Town's recovery and rebuild.

Mahalo Nui

M. Godt & Family

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 10:59:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I SUPPORT this bill.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:07:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Peterson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to you today regarding SB 1296 and the urgent need to include shoreline properties in the recovery process.

My family has owned shoreline property in Lahaina for over 40 years. The devastation of the Lahaina fires is horrible but we now ALL need the opportunity to move forward. We are so ready to rebuild what we had prior to the fire. That's all we have ever wanted to do. Rebuild what was there pre fire.

I am writing to you to ask for your support for the inclusion of shoreline properties in the recovery process in the proposed legislation addressing rebuilding efforts - SB 1296 SD2 HD1 and the incorporation of SB 830 SD2 language:

The time to rebuild is now and it is a painful comparison watching how aggressively the state of California is working to rebuild the neighborhoods lost in the Malibu fires.

My family stands ready to build if there is no SMA process, and I truly believe the time has come for the State of Hawai'i and the Legislature to assist in expediting this rebuilding. Your leadership can accelerate the process of rebuilding Lahaina.

We absolutely need a Comprehensive Recovery Approach that includes all structures in Lahaina, including shoreline parcels. We are part of the community in Lahaina and we can't leave a bunch of burned out lots in our Community. In Puamana, There are 4 buildings (with 4 units each) and the Clubhouse in the shoreline area.

I am asking Hawai'i to follow DLNR's recommendation for specific relief for shoreline properties from SMA if they rebuild in the same footprint.

For me this means rebuilding in the setback for many Lahaina residents and request that specific language amends 205(a) - 44 in line with DLNR's intent.

1. is the time to rebuild Lahaina and the lack of any real progress can no longer be acceptable. My family stands ready to rebuild as quickly as possible and this rebuilding effort will also have a direct impact on the Lahaina/Maui economy with jobs and investment in rebuilding.

2. you for your leadership and support of your committee in this important process and leaving nobody behind in this rebuilding process.

All I want to do is rebuild what I had pre fire. We all need to be treated the same, especially to rebuild prefire.

1. thanks for your leadership and all that you do.

Sincerely

John Peterson and The Peterson/McCandless Family

38-4 Pualoke Place, Lahaina

38-3 Pualoke Place, Lahaina

38-2 Pualoke Place, Lahaina

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:46:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Our family built and owned our home for 44 years at 35 Kai Pali Place in Lahaina. Our home was destroyed by the Lahaina fires.

We have started the permit process and have applied for SMA permits to build the exact same home on the same lot location. We have not had any ocean activity or erosion, yet we are being excluded. Predictions of drastic erosion and sea level rise are obviously not happening.

Our family is part of the Lahaina community our home helped make Lahaina the special place it was and should be again.

ALL shoreline properties including those within the setback must be included in SB1296

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Stevens

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:45:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenni Bishop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We lost not only our home with the Lahaina Fire, we lost our dream. Our dream of retiring and filling our home with memories with our friends and family. This Bill will help us get our dreams back. We did not loose our home to the ocean, yet we are being forced to adhere to new set backs that will drastically reduce our buildable site. We will loose 900 square feet of our pre-existing home, which was only 2,000 square feet before the fire. Our lot was small, but it was ours. Please consider those of us that do NOT have the lot space to rebuild with these new set backs and regulations. This not only affects the size of our home, this effects the value of our home and the resale value. We lived on the ocean in Front street and we just want to go home back to what we had, what we purchased with the SMA's prior to the fire. It should be our choice to take the risk of loosing our home to the ocean, not Maui county. Our home was NOT taken by the ocean. It was taken in a horrific event that has traumatized so many of us. Please pass this bill so we can rebuild, come home and be a family again.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:09:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Rusconi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While we support the path to rebuild Lahaina in SB1296 it is critically important that this Bill also include the shoreline properties on the makai side of Front Street and the 4 buildings and clubhouse in Puamana.

We are the owners of one of the units in the excluded four buildings in Puamana (Building 20) that was destroyed by the fire. My grandparents, Bill and Margaret Boland, purchased their home in Puamana in 1969. They would travel the long distance from Louisville, Kentucky to spend many months in their Maui paradise. My grandfather was even informally called “the mayor” of Puamana as his voice and input was important to the community. The friends he made in Maui over the many years became part of our family. With Naoto and Faye (Naoto was a former bookkeeper for the Pioneer Sugar Mill and they met at the Kaanapali golf course one day in the 1970’s) visiting us in Kentucky and entertaining us when we visited in Maui - we still point out their former (oh so tiny) home along Front Street when we are there. And there were my grandparents’ friends from Alaska (Max and Joanne Hodel), California (Olan Loomis), Chicago (Hal & Karla Gillette) and many more. But it wasn’t just the Maui “visitors” that were the family friends - folks like Andy and Eunice and Rusty and Robert - longtime full time Puamana residents - were also part of our Puamana family. Every return trip to Puamana was like a homecoming as these friends welcomed generations of my family back.

My siblings and I grew up also spending summers in Puamana, usually renting the unit next door to my grandparents. Growing up in the Midwest we were the odd family that never vacationed in Florida (to this day at age 61, I have only been to Florida two times!) but had the wonderful opportunity to spend time in Maui - riding our bikes throughout Puamana and along Front Street, playing tennis and swimming and in awe of the sunsets sitting on the lanai of the Puamana Clubhouse.

The community in Puamana was amazing to me as a child but that community has continued to inspire me as an adult. Every time I would return to Puamana I would meet new people and make connections - sunsets on the clubhouse lanai seem to inspire those relationships.

My grandfather passed away years ago and the stewardship of our home in Puamana passed to my mother and now to me. The August 2023 fire devastated the Lahaina and Puamana community. I have been a bit reluctant to share our family’s response to that fire because it feels a bit selfish to “complain” about losing a vacation home (albeit a place very close to our collective hearts) when so many others lost so much more. But it has been a difficult time for us

too - emotionally and financially. My sister passed away from breast cancer at age 55 (a few months before the fire). Her dying wish was that her ashes be spread in the ocean near Puamana. Literally two days before the fire I had finalized arrangements with the Trilogy for our family to have a private sunset cruise to spread her ashes. We had plans for the whole extended family to return to Puamana at Christmas time in December 2023 to honor my sister Leah's wishes. Her ashes are still at my mother's house in Louisville waiting.

We urge you to include ALL shoreline properties including those within the setback in SB 1296. Please let my family rebuild in Puamana and continue the legacy started by my grandparents over 55 years ago. Let us bring my sister's ashes back to our rebuilt home in Puamana and fulfill her wishes. Let us bring back the special community of Puamana by rebuilding the Clubhouse and fostering the relationships and connections that flourish in Puamana. Let Lahaina rebuild fully - with ALL the buildings impacted by the fire being included in SB 1296!

Mahalo,

Carla Rusconi on behalf of The Rusconi Family, the Haunz Family and the Boland Family

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:16:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Lowson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB1269, as a 48 year resident of West Maui who was highly impacted by the Lahaina Wildfires and continues to be because of the extreme difficulty with rebuilding our properties. Friends and family are leaving the state for greener pastures. Lahaina is loved by everyone and we need to be able to rebuild as it was prior to the fire.

I support SB1269.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:24:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Houston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 19, 2025

Dear Committee,

I am writing regarding SB1296 as well as HRS 205A-44 as they apply to the permitting process in the efforts to rebuild Lahaina and the homes that residents lost two years ago in the fire.

Our residence was spared while our neighbors all around us lost their homes. Several of our friends and neighbors lost homes that fall within the shoreline setback area. One of our most treasured, historic common buildings was also burned to the ground.

I implore you to do everything possible to help ALL of Lahaina begin to rebuild as soon as possible so we can return this unique town to the flourishing, prosperous community it once was and is so well known for.

Residents need to have homes to return to, business owners need to continue to thrive and support the town of Lahaina. People all over the world are still talking about the memories they hold dear from visiting or living in Lahaina and share their memories frequently on social media.

Please vote to allow ALL properties including those within the setback to be included in SB1296, it's simply the right thing to do, and the most constructive decision.

With gratitude for your hard work and part in this very critical decision-making process.

Cheryl Houston

30-1 Pualoke Place

Lahaina, Maui

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:45:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Boland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our family has owned a one bedroom in Puamana since 1968-69 (66 years) when my grandparents (William & Margaret Boland) bought one of the first units sold (possibly the first sold). Now we are on our third and fourth generations with this same unit. We are right next to the clubhouse and are in one of the 4 buildings effected by the set back (unit 20-2 known as Puailima Place). We just want to rebuild the unit. So many great family memories here and we would love to have many more. We truly love both the neighborhood of Puamana and our town of Lahaina.

Bart Boland

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:13:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am in favor of SB 1296 SD2. We need to get our town rebuilt without a lot of government red tape. As a resident who lost three family homes in the fire, we just want to get out of our temporary rental and into our homes again.

Kim Ball, Lahaina

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:18:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pritchett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please include all shoreline properties in the (W) section!

We're paying a mortgage on an empty lot. Our house stood for more than 90 years before we lost it in the fire.

We miss dinner with our neighbors and being part of that community and the unique waterfront setting of Lahaina, including the restaurants and shops along Front Street.

A new town would not be built so close to the water, but that just makes restoring Lahaina all the more important: the infrastructure, the roads, the whole town embraced the water. It was unique, and it was not lost to the sea, but to a fire. Please let us restore it and enjoy its unique and irreplaceable setting for generations more.

The shoreline parcels are part of what make Lahaina special. The rules and paperwork processes in place today are designed to constrain and slow new development -- but unadjusted they strangle us with red tape and paperwork and financial struggles for years to come.

Insurance won't recover rebuilding for many of us, and we can't afford the years of delay and costs while we seek permits and permission and hire consultants and engineers and surveyors to file huge amounts of redundant paperwork. And the agencies are already overwhelmed with so many permits and so much rebuilding that needs to happen at once.

We have lost homes and businesses and community, and we're being drained of resources each month. The wheels of government are slow, and our lives are passing by. Maybe that deliberate pace makes sense when considering an occasional new project in a sensitive location, but that slow pace (five SMA permits processed a year?) is strangling our finances and wasting precious years in which we could be rebuilding.

You can grant relief. Please do!

Please allow us to rebuild all of Lahaina, especially its shoreline location -- its unique distinction.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:22:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Skipper	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I bought a condo in Puamana almost three years ago. Sadly we did not get to enjoy it very long before it entirely burned down.

We chose Puamana for two reasons - one was the easy walkability into Lahainatown. We loved going into town to eat and shop and enjoy the atmosphere. It truly was a unique place in Maui. The buildings on the water were picturesque and amazing spots to eat and shop.

The other reason we bought in Puamana was for the community. Every evening at sunset, people would gather by the clubhouse on the shore to watch the sunset. It was a time of connection and relaxation. It was an amazing ritual.

I'm writing to support this bill and to strongly request that all shoreline properties be included in it. **All shoreline properties, including those within the setback, should be allowed to rebuild right away.** There's no other way to get our Lahainatown and Puamana back. Please make sure the bill includes this.

Thank you,

Colleen Skipper

Testimony in Support of Inclusion in SB1296

Aloha Chair and Members of the JHA Committee,

My name is Shannon Guernsey, and I am a homeowner in Puamana, Lahaina.

Although my home was spared in the devastating August 2023 fire, many of our friends and neighbours were not as fortunate. We lost more than buildings, we lost our community's heart. The historic Puamana clubhouse, which has stood for generations as a gathering place filled with history, connection, and aloha, was among the structures destroyed.

Puamana is an essential part of the Lahaina community. We are not just a set of shoreline properties, we are families, keiki, and longtime members of the Lahaina 'ohana. Our presence helped make Lahaina the special place it was, and we are committed to helping rebuild it with deep respect for its history and soul.

I am writing to urge you to include *all* shoreline properties in SB1296, including those within the current setback. Without this amendment, four Puamana buildings and our beloved clubhouse will face years of unnecessary delays and bureaucratic obstacles, delays that will only prolong the pain and slow the healing of this community.

We understand the need to plan carefully and responsibly for the future. But the reality is, predictions of extreme erosion

and sea level rise are not currently playing out in the way some policies assume. Now is the time for balanced and compassionate legislation that reflects both science and the human impact of these laws.

Please support DLNR's proposed amendments to HRS 205A-44 and include shoreline properties within the setback in SB1296. We stand with all of Lahaina in the recovery effort, and we cannot truly rebuild if entire parts of the community are excluded.

Mahalo for your time, your service, and your commitment to helping Lahaina rise again.

With gratitude,
Shannon and Trevor Guernsey
Puamana Homeowner

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:52:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Houston	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Senators: It is gratifying to know that you are attempting to expedite the Lahaina fire rebuilding effort. I am a homeowner, 30-1 Pualoke Pl., in the fire zone at Puamana near Front St. who's building was spared from the wildfire. I have resided part time in Lahaina for 18 years and many of my neighbors and friends lost their homes. Many live on the mountain side of Front St. and many in the area designated as Shoreline. Please grant ALL private property owners, residential or businesses, the expedited permit to rebuild their properties as they stood before the fire. Shoreline erosion is not evident on most of the properties, and any future sea rise may not materialize. Give every owner the choice to determine what may be in their best interest regardless of the location of their property! Let Front St. thrive again!

Dave Houston

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: SD1296

Dear Committee Members and Chair:

I support 1296 because it gives regulatory relief to some Lahaina fire victims. Unfortunately, it also cruelly breaks the hearts of coastal Lahaina fire victims for no good reason. There is no public safety risk from Sea Level Rise and erosion in Lahaina that would prevent shoreline parcels from being rebuilt. We are protected by the same sea wall that protects Front Street – a sea wall that we pay to maintain and that Maui County is committed to preserving.

UH Climate extremism is destroying Lahaina and traumatizing Lahaina fire victims. The predictions made by UH scientists and Dr. Chip Fletcher have simply not come true (see below). Their predictive SLR-XA model, used for the new erosion hazard line setback in Maui, absolutely failed to predict reality in Lahaina. Everyone who lives in Lahaina knows that there is minimal (one tenth inch per year) sea level rise and no erosion in Lahaina town over the last 50 years, yet the UH model predicts we would already have a highly visible 6-11 inches of sea level rise in the last 25 years. The model also incorrectly predicts that many sea walls failed and many lots have suffered serious erosion, which also hasn't happened. Policy makers need to stop pretending that the predictive SLR-XA model is working and look at what is really happening with their own eyes. Land is being devalued for no logical reason. Setbacks are set in Maui on deeply flawed assumptions that are flat out wrong. As a result, coastal fire victims are being treated horribly, losing their land and their rights and living in ongoing trauma.

If we don't rebuild, billions of dollars will be lost to Maui from lost business revenue, lost insurance payments, lost property taxes, lost employment, lost charitable giving and the loss of an important part of the fabric and diversity of our community. We already have a multi-billion-dollar shortfall to rebuild Lahaina that doesn't take those losses into consideration. The exclusion of shoreline homeowners from being able to rebuild what we had is the cruelest possible treatment for people who have already lost so much. It is also terrible for Maui and will severely delay the rebuild of Lahaina. Please amend the bill to allow shoreline properties to be able to rebuild what they had where they had it, including within the setback. There truly is no public good preventing us from rebuilding our homes and the public harm is immense.

Mahalo,
Lynn Barr

Front Street Homeowner and Fire Victim

Status: Unable to rebuild my home due to predicted erosion that did not happen (see below)

The 100-year SLR-XA Model Has Failed to Predict Sea Level Rise and Erosion in Lahaina

There is only one test of a predictive model, and that is the test of time. The SLR-XA model, used to create the Maui Island setback, has failed that test in Lahaina. We are 25 years into the 100-year forecast and its catastrophic sea level rise and erosion predictions were wrong.

Sea Level Rise in Maui has Been 2.5 inches in the last 25 years, not the 9.6 to 11.7 inches predicted by the model.

In 2017, the SLR-XA model assumed 3.2 feet of sea level rise between the year 2000 and 2100. In 2022 that forecast was increased to 3.9 feet of sea level rise over 100 years. Sea level rise varies widely locally, however, so NOAA monitors its official tide gauges to predict both local effects and to calculate global numbers. The [official NOAA tidal gauge in Kahalui](#) shows that Maui sea level has only risen 2.5 inches since 2000 in Maui. **There is no question that the sea level rise projected in the SLR-XA model did not materialize and does not exist in Lahaina.**

Figure 1: NOAA Tidal Gauge Data – Kahalui
(NOTE: 2.21 millimeters=0.1 inches)

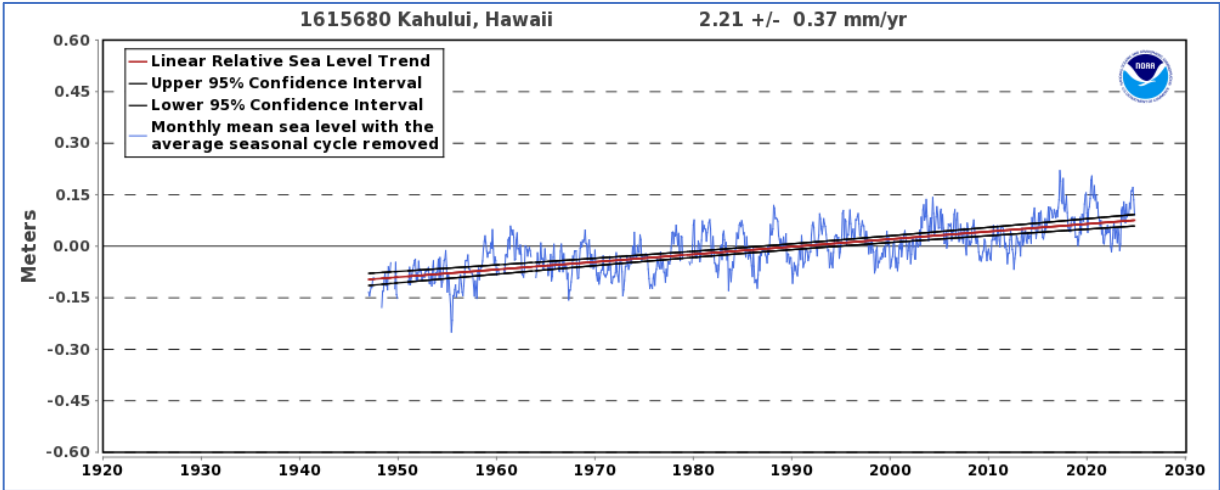


Figure 2: Maui Sea Level Rise: SLR-XA Forecast Vs. Actual, 2000-2025

	<i>Actual</i> Based on NOAA Tide Gauge	2017 SLR-XA Forecast (3.2 ft)	2022 SLR-XA Forecast (3.9 ft)
Inches Per Year	0.1 inches	0.4 inches	0.5 inches
Inches by 2025	2.5 inches	9.6 inches	11.7 inches

The Projected Collapse of Sea Walls and Subsequent Erosion of Lots in Lahaina Simply Has Not Happened

The erosion predicted by the SLR-XA model has not occurred in Lahaina, which is protected by a sea wall. For example, the properties between Kai Pali Place and Baker Street, as seen in Figure 3, show a sharp increase in erosion hazard, extending well beyond Front Street. This is based on the SLR-XA model's erosion forecast, as seen in Figure 4. The beaches in front of these homes disappeared some time before 1975 and a sea wall was built. There has been no erosion in at least the last 50 years on these properties, as seen in the photos in Figure 5, yet the model assumes the sea wall has failed and 120 feet of erosion has happened in the last 25 years.

Figure 3 – North Lahaina: Red=Erosion Hazard Line, Blue = 200 Foot Setback

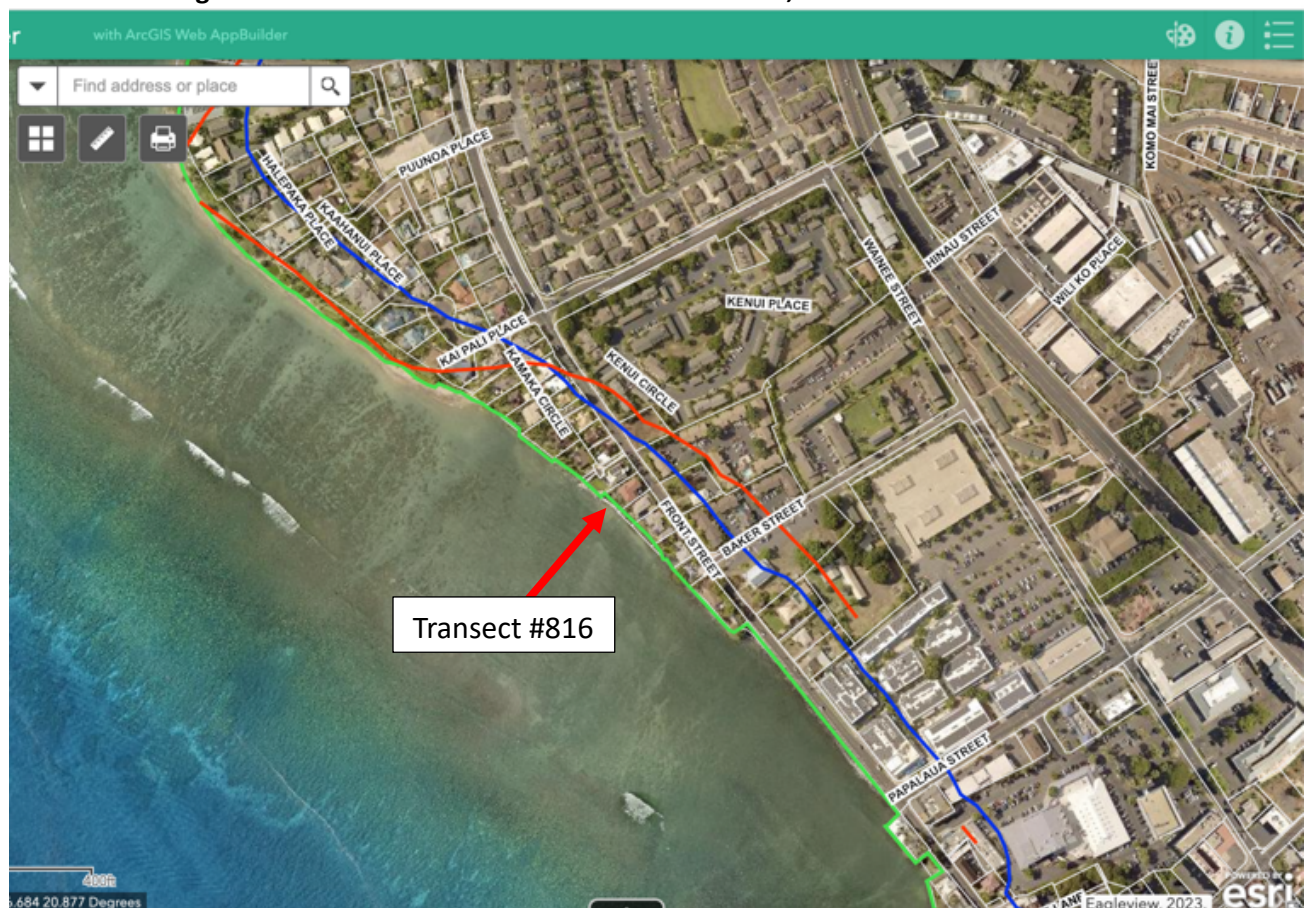


Figure 4 shows the lot specific data used in the SLR-XA model to calculate the erosion hazard line. The model erroneously assumes the sea wall has already failed and projects 120 feet of erosion on Transect #816 by 2020 (red extrapolation line mine). This data was used to calculate the erosion hazard line above. Figure 5 shows photos of the seawall and lot on Transect #816, taken at the peak of a king tide. The sea wall is intact and it has continued to arrest further

erosion for 50 years. The SLR-XA model failed to predict reality yet has rendered this lot to be virtually unbuildable according to a recent appraisal.

Figure 4 - Erosion Forecast for Transect #816 Projects 120 Feet of Erosion Today

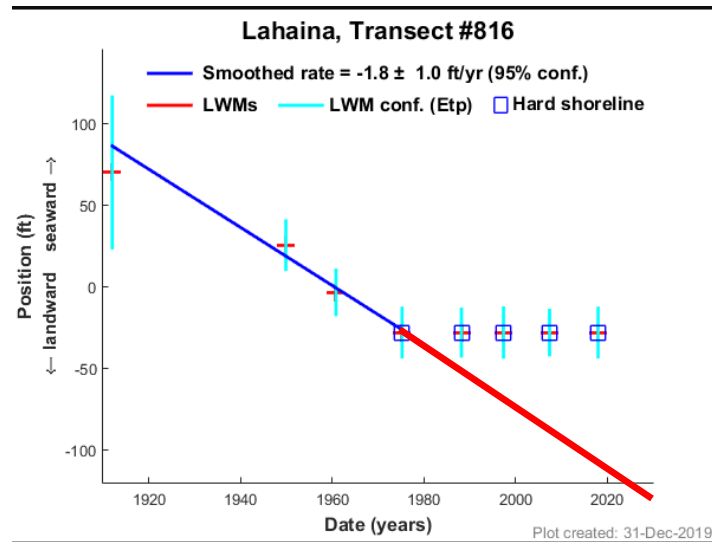
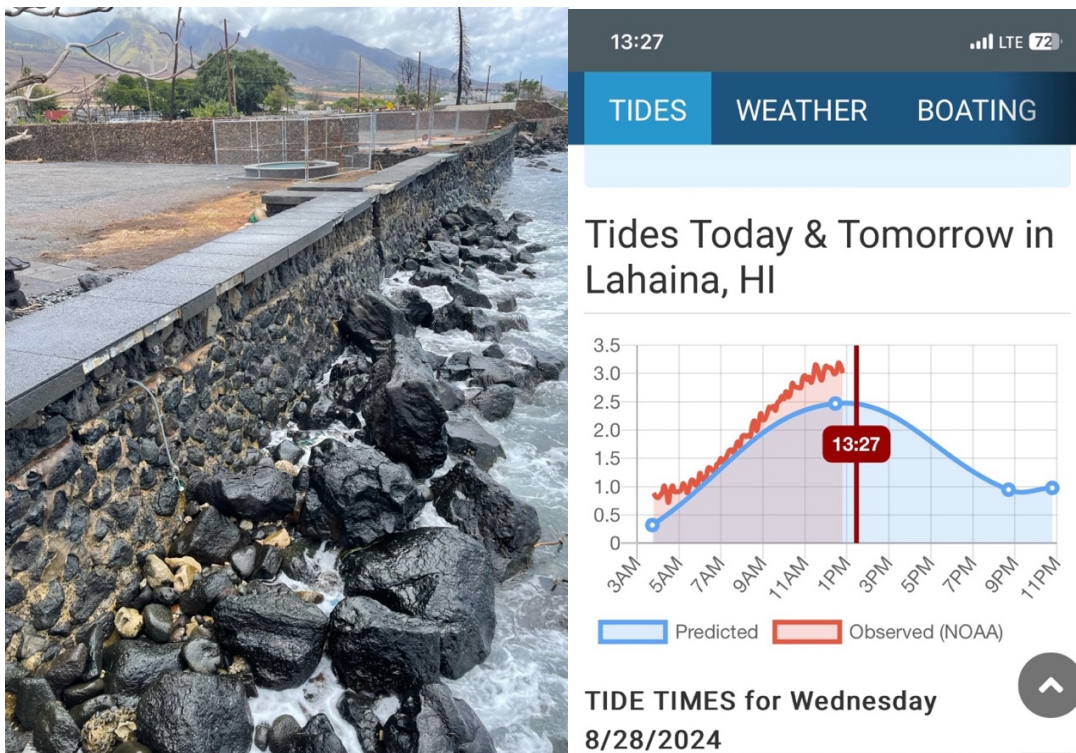


Figure 5- Transect #816 Seawall During King Tide (6 inches above normal)



According to Maui County at the February 5th community meeting, the central wastewater infrastructure under Front Street is intact, is not going to be moved or removed in the foreseeable future, and the county is committed to protecting the sea wall to protect that infrastructure. That means the Lahaina sea wall, which has lasted 50 to 100 years, will be maintained, and the predicted erosion will continue to not occur over at least the next 50 years.

The “eroded” lots in figure 5 are level with Front Street. If their sea wall fails, Front Street and its buried wastewater infrastructure will also fail. If Maui County does not seem concerned about the integrity of Front Street for the next 50 years, even though it is in the erosion hazard line, the homes behind the seawall should be allowed to rebuild where they were as well without onerous permitting requirements and delays.

Conclusion

There is no doubt the SLR-XA model has failed to accurately predict the erosion hazard line in Lahaina. The Lahaina sea wall will remain and be maintained to protect the infrastructure under Front Street. The erosion will continue to not occur until the sea wall is abandoned, and then Front Street will have to be abandoned as well.

SLR-XA overstates sea level rise. If Maui’s NOAA observed rate of sea level rise continues, it would take more than 400 years to achieve the global sea level rise projected in the SLR-XA model. Instead, a realistic expectation for Maui currently is about five inches over the next fifty years, which is a manageable amount. SLR-XA’s combination of errors has created a setback line that is dangerously misleading, is preventing Lahaina fire victims from building back what they had where they had it and is thwarting the rapid and fair rebuilding of the entire Lahaina community. SLR-XA should not be used to determine setbacks where seawalls exist and certainly should not be used to justify a 200-foot setback on Maui. SLR-XA would also be improved by replacing its global sea level rise estimates with the much lower island-specific data from official NOAA sea level rise gauges.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:03:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Becker	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 19, 2025

Hawai‘i State Legislature

Hawai‘i State Capitol

415 S Beretania St

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Urgent Support for SB 1296 – A Fair and Just Path to Rebuilding Lāhainā

Dear Members of the Maui Legislative Delegation,

I am writing on behalf of my family, which spans three generations and includes 23 members living in Maui. Our family owns two homes in Pumana—one at 12 Puailima Place, Apt 2, inherited from our parents and completely lost in the fire, and the other at 192 Pualei Drive, Apt 1, our family home that survived. Like so many in our community, we have suffered immense loss and heartbreak. Now, we are looking to rebuild—not just our homes, but our lives, our town, and our sense of community.

SB 1296 provides the necessary pathway to do this in the most expeditious and equitable way possible. This bill must include **all** shoreline properties, including

those within the setback. The families and business owners who lost everything in the fire are not developers looking to exploit the land—we are residents, generational stewards of Lahaina, members of congregations, workers, and victims of an unprecedented disaster. We should be allowed to restore our homes and businesses to their pre-fire state without unnecessary and unjust obstacles.

The opposition to rebuilding in shoreline areas based on predictions of drastic erosion and sea level rise are not materializing in a way that justifies blocking fire victims from returning to their properties. Using this disaster as a political opportunity to seize land from people who lost everything is not only unfair—it is morally wrong. The people of Lāhainā should not bear additional burdens when they have already suffered so much.

Lāhainā is more than a historical landmark; it is a living, breathing community, and its full restoration in an expedited fashion should be our shared goal. Our family, like so many others, is suffering. We need action, not bureaucratic delays. We urge you to support SB 1296 with the inclusion of all shoreline properties, in alignment with the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) testimony supporting amendments to HRS 205A-44.

Please stand with the families and businesses of Lāhainā. Please stand for fairness, for community, and for the future of our beloved town. Let us rebuild Lāhainā the right way—the way it was before the fire.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. We trust you will do what is right for the people of Lāhainā.

Sincerely,

Greg Becker and Marilyn Bautista

along with the Ross and Marchello Ohanas

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:16:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Sweetland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1296 and urge inclusion of the shoreline exemption previously approved in SB 830. As someone who has experienced the devastating loss of our family home and community in Lahaina, I know firsthand how important it is to rebuild—both for individuals, and for the cultural and historical fabric that defines our town.

The people of Lahaina need SB 1296 to provide shoreline property owners the same right to rebuild as others in our community.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) previously recommended allowing shoreline properties to be rebuilt with the same footprint and dimensions. SB 1296 should reflect this by explicitly confirming that the exemption also amends HRS 205A-44, ensuring that affected homeowners can rebuild their homes substantively as they were before.

The Lahaina fire was not caused by coastal hazards. Please don't complicate the solution with theories of what might happen!

I urge you to focus on what DID happen. It was a wildfire. PLEASE ALLOW ALL WILDFIRE VICTIMS TO REBUILD! COASTAL EROSION AND SEA-LEVEL RISE HASN'T MATERIALIZED!

Including ALL previously existing structures destroyed by wildfire is just and fair. Some shoreline homes in Lahaina were originally built within the setback, and without an explicit amendment, they will be left behind while the rest of Lahaina moves forward.

It would be an act of cruelty to exclude wildfire victims who once lived on or near the shoreline from the rebuilding of our Lahainatown.

My neighbor, a much needed critical care physician at Maui Memorial and his young family is one such household that will be eliminated to the detriment of all of us on the island unless a shoreline restoration exemption is added.

Please protect the rights of ALL people, including those with property ownership on or near the shoreline. We are losing too many doctors! Natives are leaving! People have mortgages! We are destroying any chance of families regaining financial stability when we pick and choose who can and cannot rebuild.

Without this correction, a significant portion of our community, people like my neighbors, will be permanently displaced.

I urge you to amend SB 1296 to include the shoreline exemption and give all of Lahaina an equal chance to rebuild. Our community deserves the opportunity to restore what was lost, together.

I appreciate your leadership in ensuring a just and equitable recovery for all of Lahaina. Please, let ALL of Lahaina rebuild!

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:34:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
G. Warren Freeland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB1296.

My family is the fee simple owner of the Pioneer Inn property adjacent to Lahaina Harbor. It was an integral part of Lahaina's history and community for 122 years until its destruction in the August 8, 2023 wildfire. The hotel, restaurant, and retail stores located at the Pioneer Inn provided hundreds of jobs. We hope that our property can be rebuilt to its former scale, appearance, and use.

The Special Management Area (SMA) permit requirement is a barrier to reconstructing historic Lahaina – it is a practical impossibility to process hundreds of SMA permits in a reasonable time frame. Governor Green's recent Emergency Proclamation granting SMA exemptions to qualifying properties is very helpful to the community, however the EP's are temporary. There are still regulatory hurdles to project design and permit applications on the County level. If County Bills 105 and 110 pass, it could potentially take a year or more to submit for a Historic District permit, design the project, and submit for building permit. We need to allow for the extended time it will take for hundreds of property owners in the SMA area to prepare and submit their building permit applications. Please make this permanent.

Please support the rebuilding of historic Lahaina by passing SB1296.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

G. Warren Freeland

gwarrenfreeland@gmail.com

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:57:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Johnston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The devastating loss of Lahaina has been a heart-wrenching experience for nearly every member of our community. The fire took everything — but it was not a water event. Many of the homes and businesses in Lahaina had stood for decades, contributing to the unique fabric of this historic town. My family’s home, a plantation-style house built in 1936, was recently remodeled, preserving the essence of Lahaina. Without rebuilding our shoreline properties, the town will not recover fully. It’s imperative that the County and State accelerate the rebuilding process. There is an urgent need for a Comprehensive Recovery Approach, one that encompasses all structures in Lahaina, including the shoreline parcels. Our community is deeply invested, and we should not be left with a series of burned-out lots on Front Street, a central part of Lahaina’s identity.

SB 1296 must be amended to restore the shoreline exemption that DLNR previously approved in SB 830. SB 1296 should explicitly confirm that this exemption also amends HRS 205A-44, ensuring that affected homeowners can “substantively rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions.” Without this correction, my neighbors who lived on the shoreline will be left behind, unable to rebuild along with the rest of our community. We all need neighbors. They are great neighbors. Please provide specific relief for shoreline properties that wish to rebuild in the same footprint, maintaining the normal building codes that are being applied across the rest of Lahaina. This includes rebuilding within the setback for many residents.

Cultural Significance: The shoreline properties are essential to Lahaina’s heritage. If not rebuilt, the waterfront will fall into long-term blight, and the cultural and historic essence of Lahaina will be irreversibly diminished.

Economic Importance: Without rebuilding the shoreline properties, Lahaina’s recovery will remain incomplete. I personally contribute to Maui’s economy in taxes, employment, charitable contributions, and personal spending. I have secured insurance funds and have the resources necessary to rebuild without financial assistance. This will not only revitalize Lahaina’s economy but also create much-needed jobs.

Lahaina residents, including myself, in our community, are ready to help rebuild. This fire has brought so many in our community together. We are closer than ever before. Those that lost loved ones, structures, all of their personal property, we are suffering emotionally, please I am begging you, let us move on with our lives and rebuild and begin to fully heal. Let us rebuild Lahaina. Our community is doing our part to get Lahaina back. I personally do not understand and cannot comprehend all of the push back from government. I have worked hard to provide for

my family and to raise young adults that give back to our community. We need swift action to halt the rising costs of construction and restore hope to those who have been waiting for far too long.

My neighbors and I were in the fire and came close to not making it out due to no police for direction and all roads baracaded. And now there is question whether all people can rebuild? Please do not leave us and our neighbors out of the recovery process. Lahaina needs to be rebuilt with the inclusion of all its residents, businesses, and cultural heritage. I want all Lahaina children to grow up in a neighborhood that will remain a vital part of Lahaina's legacy for generations to come. We are the survivors of a horrific fire. Please help us continue to heal by allowing all of us to rebuild our homes and have our Lahaina town back.

I appreciate your ongoing support for the committee's efforts, and I trust that you will take this into consideration as we move forward. Together, we can ensure that Lahaina's recovery is holistic, swift, and complete.

Sincerely,

Leah Johnston

Testimony SB1296

ALL shoreline properties including those within the setback must be included in SB1296

We lost our family home of more than 40 years in the Lahaina fire of 2023. I visit my lost home at 321 Front Street a few times a week. There are maybe 8 – 10 homes that survived and did not burn on my south end of Front Street, as well as the Lahaina Shores. These properties are occupied ocean front homes, some are new, and some were built 80 years ago. They have water, sewer and electricity. I see cars in the driveway, lights on and sometimes catch a fleeting glimmer of people through a window or walking the beach or tending to their gardens, going about their lives in our devastated and lonely town. Obviously, the utilities are working. And I wonder why I am forced to worry and visit my vacant lot with no idea when I can get back into my home. I wonder why there is still no clear plan to rebuild my house which burned one year and 8 months ago.

Even though we have a fire hydrant directly in front of our house, it was never used as firefighting ceased hours before the fire reached the south end of Front Street. Lahaina was neglected and misunderstood before the fires which led to the badly managed response to the emergency. Perhaps we can turn this around and attend to the real needs of the people of Lahaina to first rebuild what we had as fast as possible.

Fires are the immediate threat to Lahaina and all of Maui, and it was fires that caused the devastation. The Lahaina fire was not caused by coastal hazard and shoreline homeowners should have the same right to rebuild as the rest of the community.

As was requested of us in our first meeting with the SMA, I do not want to give my land to the SMA, county of Maui or State of Hawaii. Our family wants to rebuild what we had before the fire, although we know it can never be the same, the memories of the past will sustain us into the future and our newly rebuilt home at 321 Front Street.

We also lost our commercial building that housed the original Longhi's restaurant which opened in 1976. We were in the process of restoring the building with updates, new tenants, new restaurants and new dreams. We also lost a lease hold commercial building on Wainee street which we are obligated to pay monthly land rent for the next 23 years.

ALL shoreline properties including those within the setback must be included in SB1296, along with DLNR's testimony supporting amendments to HRS 205A-44. SB 1296 must be amended to restore the shoreline exemption that DLNR previously approved in SB 830.

Many shoreline homes in Lahaina were originally built within the setback. To align with DLNR's prior recommendation of allowing shoreline homeowners to rebuild substantively the same dimensions in the same footprint. **SB 1296 should explicitly confirm that this exemption also amends HRS 205A-44**, ensuring that affected homeowners can "substantively rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions." Without this correction, those of us who lived on the shoreline will be left behind, unable to rebuild along with the rest of our community.

Thank you
Gabrielle Longhi

We support SB1296 and the effort to help ease the restrictions to rebuild Lahaina.

After retiring my husband and I bought a home in Lahaina, fulfilling a longtime dream after honeymooning there in 1985 with annual vacations thereafter. In 2013 we became parttime residents in Maui. With elderly parents and family that still needed us California stayed our primary residence but we made plans to make Maui our primary down the road.

We made friends, joined local associations and became active in the community. We brought family and friends to Maui to share the beauty, Aloha spirit our our good fortune to be part of it. During the half-year we were in residence we remodeled our home, finishing in March 2023. Just months later we lost our home, car, motorcycle and most importantly our community, in the Lahaina fire.

Nineteen months later our biggest challenge continues to be the frustratingly slow permit process. Our home lies in a community that lost about a third of the homes, including those that fall within the new shoreline set-back zone. The same new coastal set-back zone implemented last year based upon questionable data and forecasts, with no proof of actual erosion or sea level rise. The result is that any homeowner, business or landowner affected by the new zone must endure time-consuming and expensive application processes which has brought recovery to a standstill for much of Lahaina. While our home is not impacted by the new coastal set-back issue, we are invested in our community which includes EVERYONE, homeowners, businesses and landowners.

We are all experiencing financial and emotional hardship that continues as the recovery process drags on. And while we support SB1296 as a step in the right direction to help rebuild Lahaina, we need to ease restrictions for ALL fire victims. Legally built shoreline properties within the set-back must be included in rebuilding exemptions.

We are focused on rebuilding our home, and also the economic recovery of our local businesses and our community in general. We want to again live in Lahaina, shopping and dining at our favorite places.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:06:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ann Arini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As full-time resident's of Lahaina, we lost our only home on 1055 Front Street in the Lahaina wildfires. We experienced first-handedly, the fear and terror of potentially losing our lives on August 8th, 2023. Our family has lived in Lahaina for the past 65 years. We are over 70 years old and are contributing members of the community, as are all of our neighbors. We are ready to rebuild. Please, we plead that you include in SB1296, ALL properties makai of Front Street, including shoreline properties and those within the setback. This is our only pathway. We depend on you to stand with us so we can move forward with our lives and once again be a part of this precious community. Maui needs Lahaina back with its beautiful energy, financial resources, businesses and residents. We need this now and only together we can make this happen. Please help us rebuild without the heartache and burden of a lengthy process.

We wholeheartedly thank you.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:11:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Sturgis	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1296 is the only bill that provides a path to allow our family to rebuild our homes without huge additional requirements that our neighbors right across from us on Front Street, a stones throw away, are exempt from!

Our family, who have cherished their Kamaka Circle shore front home for 55 years and have paid ever increasing property taxes year after year, are devastating by the unfair regulations such as SMA that are being considered before we can rebuild.

Our ohana requests that all shoreline properties, including those within the setback be included in SB1296.

mahalo

Judy Sturgis

11 Kamaka Circle, Lahaina

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:14:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kimo Falconer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 1296 HD2. As a lifetime community member whose family has resided in Lahaina for many generations, I humbly ask for your help in passing this bill out of committee.

This measure will ease the bureaucratic hurdles our residents and business owners are experiencing while trying to rebuild. The tragedy of the fire was a hard enough loss, but the reality of rebuilding costs and uncertain permitting issues has made the recovery process a continuous nightmare.

Lahaina would greatly appreciate your support in helping us move forward by passing this bill.

Mahalo for your time and the opportunity to testify.

David Volk and Sandy Volk
205-1 Front Street
Lahaina, Hawaii 96761

March 19, 2025

Re: Comments on SB 1296 to Include All Shoreline Properties Including Those With Set Backs.

Dear Legislators,

We are asking that you comment on Senate Bill 1296 with language that would definitively allow all shoreline properties, including those with setbacks, to be able to build in a timely manner.

We lost our home of 22 years, a Shoreline Property, in the August 8, 2023 Lahaina Wild Fire. In all those years we never experienced any erosion or any cause for concern from sea water even with several tsunamis, king tides and many storms.

We have a son, daughter-in-law and six grandchildren all born on Maui. We have attended all the births of all our grandchildren, Kapuna days at grandchildren's schools and graduations. We also attended church in Lahaina, supported the community as volunteers at many events, supported the schools in drug aversion programs, Rotary and Hui No'eau. We are anxious to resume our lives on Maui and ask for your help.

Since the fire we are living in California, we deeply miss our family. We know that the time without our son, daughter in law and grandchildren is precious and cannot be replaced. Please help us rebuild our lives on Maui.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Volk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David and Sandy Volk

We own three lots located at 545 Front St and lost all four of our structures on these lots in the Lahaina fire on August 8, 2023. These properties were a pride of ownership. One home was a historic plantation home. This home has appeared in numerous paintings done by local artists, calendars and professionally photographed and published often as the quintessential Hawaii plantation home. On July 1, 2023 my husband fell and sustained a brain injury. I never had the heart to tell him that we lost our properties in Lahaina, of which he was so very proud and fond. He subsequently passed away last year. I would like nothing more than to rebuild our properties exactly the way they were prior to the fire; if nothing else but to honor my husband's legacy.

Our home was not destroyed by ocean activity nor coastal hazards, and yet we are being excluded from rebuilding. Predictions of drastic erosion and sea level rise are obviously not happening. We are part of the Lahaina community and our presence and our home helped make Lahaina the special place it was and should be again. Shoreline owners should have the same right to rebuild as the rest of the community. Allowing shoreline owners to rebuild will prevent long term waterfront blight and will restore the cultural significance of Lahaina. All shoreline properties owners, including those within the setback, must be included in SB 1296.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:30:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Gay	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

Our family lost the home my parents built on Baby Beach, Lahaina, in 1980 to the horrible fires of August 2023. Thankfully, we were not at home at the time, but several generations of family memories and a place we all loved to gather were lost. My daughter-in-law said it was her favourite place in the whole world.

Of course, we hope to rebuild and have applied for a permit, but the permitting process is long, expensive, and complex.

My comments on the proposed bill SB1296 SD2 HD1 are simply as follows:

Our home was part of the Lahaina community. Everyone knew the place. All you had to do was to mention "the house with the blue tile roof on Baby Beach." If Lahaina is ever to recover fully, this must surely include the recovery of family homes like ours.

Ocean activity did not destroy our home, yet the proposed bill excludes properties like ours from consideration.

The dire predictions of drastic erosion and sea level rise are not occurring.

And so I would hope that all shoreline properties, including those within the setback, could be included in SB1296.

Submitted respectfully,

Craig Gay

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:47:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Koller	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a property owner in the Lahaina fire zone (Puamana), I believe that Lahaina needs a comprehensive approach to recovery for all structures, including those along the shoreline and within the setback. We are all part of this community, and we cannot afford to let burned-out lots define our home. In the shoreline area alone, Puamana has four buildings and the clubhouse that were destroyed by the fire. These building were originally built within the setback and should be allowed to rebuild in substantively the same dimensions in the same footprint. SB 1296 should explicitly confirm that this exemption also amends HRS 205A-44, ensuring that affected homeowners can “substantively rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions.” Without this correction, structures on the shoreline will be left behind, unable to rebuild along with the rest of our community.

The destruction of the shoreline properties was not caused by coastal hazards, but by the devastating fire. Predictions of drastic erosion and sea level rise have not materialized. In light of this, shoreline property owners should have the same right to rebuild as the rest of the community that was affected by the fire.

Without rebuilding the shoreline properties, Lahaina will not be whole. The economic impact is real – and it’s personal. I, along with other shoreline property owners, contribute to Maui’s economy through taxes, employment, charitable giving, and personal spending. What we need is the ability to quickly create jobs and income, which will help Lahaina, Maui and Hawaii thrive. Furthermore, Lahaina isn’t just a place – it’s our home, where we’ve developed deep friendships and ties to the community. If the shoreline properties aren’t rebuilt, we risk long-term blight that could strip away the essence of what makes Lahaina so special to us and to so many other people. We cannot allow this to happen. Rebuilding is crucial for preserving the spirit of our town.

The clock is ticking. Construction costs are rising, and with every passing day, my hope diminishes. Please, we can’t keep suffering like this. It’s incredibly painful to be excluded from the rebuild of Lahaina – a place that means everything to me and to my family.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:49:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill A Kleinheinz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to you to ask that you support SB 1296 so that Lahaina can rebuild and heal. I am also asking that you include ALL sholine properties within the setback into this bill.

We lost everything in the fires. Our home was destroyed. But our loss was due to the devastating fires, not by any water event (sea level rise, water activity). Yet shoreline properties are being excluded from SB1296.

The predictions of drastic erosion and sea level rise are not happening. Shoreline property owners are being greatly penalized. We are a big part of the Lahaina community. Our presence and our historic home helped make Lahaina the special place it was and should be again.

I am in support of SB 1296 because I know it is needed to help Lahaina recover. I am asking you to please include ALL Sholine properties in this bill so that we can all rebuild and heal.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:02:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Medina	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline properties in Lahaina are exempt from SMA permits. This will help streamline the rebuilding process for all affected homeowners, not just those away from the shoreline.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:02:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Medina	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Cathy Medina, and I am a Lahaina homeowner who lost everything in the fire. While SB1296 is a crucial step in our community's recovery, it currently excludes shoreline properties on the makai side of Front Street and those within the setback. This must change. I am choosing NOT to Oppose this bill because I don't want my neighbors to be treated the way us shoreline owners are being treated.

Our homes were not destroyed by ocean activity, yet we are being left out based on outdated predictions of erosion and sea level rise. The exclusion of shoreline properties denies many fire survivors the chance to rebuild and return to the community we helped create. Lahaina cannot fully heal until these properties are rebuilt. Imagine a shoreline full of gravel lots covered by weeds!

Furthermore, the County is losing millions of dollars every month while Lahaina remains in limbo. This delay is not only devastating for those of us trying to rebuild our lives but also a failure in economic decision-making. Lahaina's recovery is vital for the entire state, and we cannot afford to let it languish any longer.

I urge you to amend SB1296 to include ALL shoreline properties, along with the necessary changes to HRS 205A-44. This is our only legislative pathway to rebuilding—please ensure it is a path for all of us.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cathy Medina

355 Front Street

808-269-4438

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:04:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Barr	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am kindly requesting for you to fix SB1296, which gets rid of unnecessary SMA permits in order to facilitate the rebuilding process in Lahaina. This is a good bill, but needs to go further and allow properties on both sides of Front St. to rebuild. The urgency of the situation in Lahaina calls for immediate action and this fix will help speed things up for everyone.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:06:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

Please ensure that the county has the most control over any rebuild efforts. We need to protect our shoreline. Please make sure shoreline properties are EXCLUDED from an expedited rebuild efforts. We need to make sure the beaches remain not only accessible, but safe. No need to rush putting power and sewer beyond the established erosion hazard line. We have been searching for a time where man has defeated the ocean. We cannot find anything. The ocean remains undefeated. Why waste time, materials, effort and resources into a situation that in the next few decades will just wash away.

Keep the shoreline out, no leases for building back over our precious shoreline.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:09:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Bright	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I am reaching out in regards to SB1296. This bill will be helpful for some Lahaina residents, but others on the shoreline will still have to face delays. Please change it so that all properties in Lahaina are exempt from needing an SMA permit. Many of these homes are located in the setback area, and it is important that the bill include clear language confirming that shoreline homeowners should be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions, as previously recommended by DLNR.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:12:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rose Baagoe Cremona	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The special management area permitting process is holding back Lahaina's recovery. It is important to allow all properties to rebuild after the wildfires, even the ones on the shoreline. Please be sure to include those properties in SB1296 so that Lahaina can rebuild without unnecessary bureaucracy.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:14:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Medina	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am kindly requesting for you to fix SB1296, which gets rid of unnecessary SMA permits in order to facilitate the rebuilding process in Lahaina. This is a good bill, but needs to go further and allow properties on both sides of Front St. to rebuild. The urgency of the situation in Lahaina calls for immediate action and this fix will help speed things up for everyone.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:15:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Kleinheinz	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please address SB1296 to allow for the rebuilding of structures on the shoreline. Exceptions have already been made for those properties not on the shoreline. I also ask that you consider revising HRS Â§205A-44(b) to allow for permitted structures to be reconstructed without the need for a variance, as long as they remain within the same footprint. Please make these necessary changes before moving the bill forward.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:17:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Sturgis	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1296 is causing issues for structures being rebuilt near the shoreline in Lahaina. Both residential and commercial properties have been hit hard, and this bill would only add to their difficulties. While Maui County has made accommodations for buildings mauka of Front Street, those located along the ocean remain in a state of uncertainty.

I am also asking for the revision of HRS 205A-44 to allow for the reconstruction of permitted structures without a variance, as long as the original footprint is maintained. This simple change will help Lahaina be rebuilt as it once was.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:19:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Cremona	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 to allow all properties in Lahaina to rebuild without further delays. Shoreline properties should not be excluded from the exemption, especially since the fires were not caused by flooding or erosion. Let's ensure everyone can rebuild quickly.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:19:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Sturgis	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee:

I urge you to consider adding language to SB 1296 that would make it possible for all properties in Lahaina to be rebuilt within their original footprint, including those within the shoreline setback. My family lost our home in Lahaina and it has rocked us to our core. Now, the uncertainty of not knowing if we will be able to build back is beyond heartbreaking. A property, 50 feet across Front Street, will be exempt from the SMA process, a time consuming and uncertain path. There is zero elevation change between the exempt and the shoreline properties. Why can't the shoreline properties build back on their original footprint, especially when one considers that this tragedy wasn't caused by ocean events. Please allow all of Lahaina to build back so that we have a thriving community and not a strip of dirt on the makai side, a constant reminder of a wound that was never allowed to heal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Sturgis

1065 Front St.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:19:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audra Pritchett	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On August 9th 2023 I lost my home due to fire caused by nature, negligence, and lack of preventative upkeep in our area on Maui.

My home was NOT destroyed by ocean activity, yet I am being excluded from being able to rebuild.

The loss my house has caused great financial distress. I'm currently paying a mortgage for an empty burned out swatch of land that I haven't been permitted to rebuild for 18 months. This is stressful and psychologically traumatic and draining as well.

I haven't been able to be on Maui during this time. I miss being part of this community. I miss my neighbors on Front Street. The Front Street community is a vital, active, and supportive part of Lahaina.

Please let everyone rebuild including the shoreline properties.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:22:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Quaglino	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, however, I kindly request that you amend it to facilitate the reconstruction of buildings on the shoreline. Please remove the provision that prohibits reconstruction of structures situated on shoreline parcels or parcels impacted by waves, storm surges, high tide, or shoreline erosion.

In addition, I urge you to add an amendment to HRS §205A-44(b) to allow for the rebuilding of permitted structures without the need for a variance, as long as their original footprint is maintained. This will really help Lahaina be rebuilt as it once was.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:30:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrian Utsch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, I lost my home in Lahaina in the fire. I have neighbors and friends who also lost their homes in the fire. I understand that there are concerns about erosion for properties that are close to the shoreline however, we have not witnessed erosion at the shoreline properties near my home at 35-4 Pualoke Pl. I urge you to respect the property rights of my neighbors who lost their homes on the shoreline and to let them rebuild on their existing footprints. If the ocean were to erode or take their home then that would be the time to condemn the home as unsafe. Currently, all those homes and parcels are safe to rebuild on. I want Lahaina residents and businesses to be free to be allowed to return and to rebuild. I want to be able to rebuild my home. It doesn't seem right for the government to prevent people who have lost so much to rebuild their homes. I support the rights of all homeowners and business owners to rebuild what they had before the fires. I urge the committee to side with relief efforts and rebuilding efforts. Hawai'i (and Maui in particular) needs more homes and businesses. Please support growth, rebirth, commerce and a flourishing Maui and Lahaina. I want to to return to all the restaurants I used to eat at. I want people to be able to surf at the breakwall and eat a shave ice after in a flourishing town where people can walk up and down Front Street. Lahaina might be the only town in all of Maui with a vibrant pedestrian environment. Please let everyone rebuild and help people rebuild sooner and not later. I urge the committee and the legislature to be on the side of a Hawai'i that builds things instead of a government that obstructs.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:32:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Sturgis	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, but request that it be amended to permit reconstruction of shoreline structures. This was caused by a wildfire not floods, so I don't understand why we should treat these properties differently. Please also consider an amendment to HRS §205A-44(b) that would allow permitted structures to be rebuilt without needing a variance, as long as they maintain the same footprint. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:34:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrizia Boschetti	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that properties on the shoreline can also rebuild without needing an SMA permit. Properties not located on the shoreline have already been exempted by Maui County. I also urge you to reconsider HRS §205A-44(b) in order to permit the reconstruction of approved structures without requiring a variance, as long as they remain within the same boundaries. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:36:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Sweetland	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 to allow shoreline properties in Lahaina to be exempt from the SMA permit requirement. It's important that all properties are able to rebuild within the setbacks and without unnecessary obstacles.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:37:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
susan walczak-pol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1296 provides a **critical pathway for businesses and property owners to rebuild efficiently** by removing unnecessary permitting delays.

- **Allows reconstruction of fire-damaged properties mauka of Front Street** within their pre-fire footprint.
- **Provides a five-year window for rebuilding** to ensure property owners have sufficient time.
- **Supports the economic recovery of Lahaina** by helping small businesses return and create jobs.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:42:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Carolan	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please change SB1296 to make sure that properties on the shoreline in Lahaina are also exempt from SMA permits. These homes shouldn't have to jump through more hoops just because of their location. We need to let people reconstruct what they lost.

My house was destroyed by a natural fire disaster, not the ocean. We've owned our home on Baby Beach since 1990 and not once has the ocean harmed our land or our house. At this moment, I think I might have just enough money to reconstruct my modest 3 bedroom/2 bath home. That will not be true if I have to go through the SMA Major process and variance just to reproduce what I had the day before the fire. Thank you.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:44:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Green	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please revise SB1296 in order to allow structures to be reconstructed on the shoreline without a variance, as is already being done for properties not on the shoreline. Additionally, please consider amending HRS 205A-44 so that people don't need a variance to rebuild within their original footprint. We are in our 79s- our home burned in the Lahaina fire almost two years ago. Please - show some mercy and let us all rebuild what we had- we long to go home.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:44:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Carolan	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Although SB 1296 provides a pathway for Lahaina to rebuild, shoreline properties on the makai side of Front Street and those within the setback are not included. I feel strongly that ALL shoreline properties, including those within the setback, must be included in SB 1296.

My name is Carol Carolan and my family and I have had the privilege of owning a home on Baby Beach since 1990. We raised our son in our house and over the years enjoyed participating in various school events, government functions and neighborhood activities. These experiences have deeply connected us to the neighborhood and made us appreciate the sense of community that exists in Lahaina.

Our house was destroyed by a natural fire disaster; not the ocean it faced. In fact, over the past 35 years, neither our land nor our house were EVER damaged by the sea. The fire destroyed everything ... but our memories.

I want to make sure shoreline homeowners are not left behind in the rebuilding process. The years of 2023 and 2024 were disastrous for our family. Our house burned to the ground and my husband began experiencing numerous strokes and hospitalizations. He passed away in June 2024. All my son and I want at this point is to rebuild our modest three bedroom/2 bath home. We want to restore some normalcy in our lives and to be able to enjoy beautiful Baby Beach again.

Please make sure SB 1296 includes all shoreline properties, including those within the setback area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Carolan

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:58:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Long	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This is Michele Long. My husband Darin Long and I own the property at 21 Kai Pali Place in the burn zone in Lahaina. Our home was lost in the fires (not by ocean activity), yet we are being excluded because of our location on the ocean. Most of our neighbors have owned their properties for decades and have not seen any changes to sea levels in this time, despite predictions of drastic rises.

Our property is on the shoreline and we have gifted an easement to the county of Maui which provides public access to the Southern end of baby beach through our property. We love being part of the daily peace that our community feels being at the beach and are so happy to have the beach open and accessible again. We look forward to the rebuilding of the homes that make this beach space feel like a community rather than a disaster recovery zone.

I'm writing to request action regarding SB1296 including an **amendment of HRS 205A-44 to treat shoreline property owners the same as all property owners in the disaster zone. ALL shoreline properties including those within the setback must be included** in SB1296

A personal note: My husband and I have an insurance deadline that stipulates that we must begin rebuilding within 2 years of the event (fires on Aug 8, 2023) in order to qualify for all policy coverages. We have been feverishly working on ALL the permit applications required in order to hopefully rebuild. There were SEVEN separate applications required, including an SM MAJOR application. I can honestly say that, having never built a home, and never wanting/planning to build a home, that this process has been indescribably complex, laborious and time consuming. Because of our insurance deadline, I took the time, met with the county, did the research, and submitted all needed rebuilding applications as soon as it was possible/portals were available to submit them. Even so, it looks unlikely that we will get our permit in time to begin rebuilding within the 2 year insurance deadline. I worry about the timelines for ALL of the burn zone shoreline victims, both business and residential, who have insurance funds and want to rebuild the community, but are prevented from doing so because of the hurdles that are currently in place. Although I was willing and able to figure out all the various rebuild applications (with a lot of help from various people at the county - huge shout out to them!), I worry that this excessive SM MAJOR application process will essentially prohibit many shoreline property owners from rebuilding, not to mention the debilitating timelines for approval of these applications.

The Lahaina fire was not caused by coastal hazards, and shoreline homeowners should have the same right to rebuild as the rest of the community that suffered from the fires on August 8th, 2023.

My request:

- Please amend SB 1296 to restore the shoreline exemption.
- **SB 1296 should explicitly confirm that this exemption also amends HRS 205A-44,** ensuring that affected homeowners can “substantively rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions.” Without this correction, those of us who lived on the shoreline will be left behind, unable to rebuild along with the rest of our community.

Thank you so much for your careful attention to and support of these important next steps for the healing of Lahaina.

Mahalo and Warm Aloha,

Michele Long

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:58:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Skipper	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello - I am submitting testimony on SB1296 and would like to formally request that you change the bill so that shoreline properties in Lahaina are also exempt from SMA permits. This change will make it easier for all homeowners to rebuild and will help speed up Lahaina's recovery. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:00:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Vadgama	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please revise SB1296 in order to allow structures to be reconstructed on the shoreline without a variance, as is already being done for properties not on the shoreline. Additionally, please consider amending HRS 205A-44 so that people don't need a variance to rebuild within their original footprint.

We have vacationed for many years in Lahaina and eventually purchased a property in Puamana, which was destroyed in the fire. We love Maui and want to be able to rebuild SOON and see our friends and neighbors also rebuilding, so we can make our beloved Puamana community whole again. So much has already been lost...please help us regain what we once had, which was a little paradise.

Please revise SB1296 so that shoreline structures can be rebuilt without a variance, and amend HRS 205A-44 so that people don't need a variance to rebuild within their original footprint.

Mahalo for your sincere consideration of our plea.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:04:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claire Paishon	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to ask that you amend SB1296 so shoreline properties in Lahaina are exempt from SMA permits. The permitting process is delaying recovery, and this change will help get Lahaina back on track.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:06:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Melichar	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The SMA process is delaying Lahaina's recovery. Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline properties are also exempt from needing an SMA permit. This will help homeowners rebuild more quickly and get Lahaina back on its feet. We cannot handle any more delays. It has already been nearly 2 years.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:08:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Junior B	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello - I am submitting testimony on SB1296 and would like to formally request that you change the bill so that shoreline properties in Lahaina are also exempt from SMA permits. This change will make it easier for all homeowners to rebuild and will help speed up Lahaina's recovery. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:10:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Rusher	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- sadly the current SMA permitting process is a significant obstacle in the way of rebuilding our historic Lahaina. While there have been some reforms, I believe that anyone that lost their property due to the fire, should be able to rebuild. Please add in shoreline properties to this bill. Mahalo for your kokua. Stacy Rusher

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:13:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrian Utsch	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina needs to rebuild, but the SMA process is slowing things down. I am glad you are considering SB1296, but it is important to expand the exemptions so that every property can rebuild. Please ensure that shoreline properties are also exempt so they can rebuild within the setback.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:14:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Cia	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1296 is causing issues for structures being rebuilt near the shoreline in Lahaina. Both residential and commercial properties have been hit hard, and this bill would only add to their difficulties. While Maui County has made accommodations for buildings mauka of Front Street, those located along the ocean remain in a state of uncertainty.

I am also asking for the revision of HRS 205A-44 to allow for the reconstruction of permitted structures without a variance, as long as the original footprint is maintained. This simple change will help Lahaina be rebuilt as it once was.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:16:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Currier	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline homes in Lahaina to be exempt from needing an SMA permit. Many of these homes are built within the setback, and I hope you include language that still allows shoreline homeowners to be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:18:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Johnston	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of sb1296, but I think you all should exempt all properties in Lahaina from sma requirements, not just the properties mauka of front street. Please help - it has already taken way too long. Mahalo for reading my testimony.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:21:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Severson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline homes in Lahaina to be exempt from needing an SMA permit. Many of these homes are built within the setback, and I hope you include language that still allows shoreline homeowners to be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions. We are part of the Lahaina community we miss Lahaina and we want our town and neighbors back!

ALL shoreline properties including those within the setback must be included in SB1296.

Mahalo

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:23:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Meyer	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The current SMA permitting process is a significant obstacle in the way of rebuilding Lahaina. While there has been some reforms, I think anyone that lost their property should be able to rebuild. That just makes common sense. Please add in shoreline properties to this bill.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:26:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Boonstra-Barbier	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sherry Boonstra-Barbier I've called Lahaina home since 1995. For nearly three decades, my family lived and ran a business together in Lahaina's historic district a business that grew alongside this community, welcoming visitors and locals alike. On August 8, 2023, the wildfire took everything. My family's home, our livelihood and the life we built all reduced to ash in hours. We lost everything in that fire, a wound still raw as I stand here today.

My home wasn't destroyed by sea level rise, hurricane swells, big waves or coastal erosion. It was a raging, unstoppable fire that claimed it. Despite this, under current rules, I'm being excluded from rebuilding on my own land because it sits within a shoreline setback. My property's fate wasn't tied to the sea; it was tied to a disaster that had nothing to do with coastal forces. It feels like the State that we've called home for decades is punishing us because we survived the fire and the house didn't.

For years, we've heard predictions of drastic erosion and sea level rise, including dire warnings that have been repeatedly proven inaccurate. Study after study has overstated the immediate risks, yet these outdated projections are being used to lock families like mine out of rebuilding. Lahaina's shoreline has endured, just as its people have. The real devastation came from the fire, not the ocean, and policies should reflect that reality

I am part of this Lahaina community. My home, my business, and our community connections contributed to making Lahaina the special place it was. Front Street wasn't just a street; it was a living tapestry of families, stories, and traditions. I watched kids grow up here, celebrated milestones here, shared aloha here. My home was part of our special town and if the state is serious about bringing Lahaina back, it has to include all of us who made it what it was. We can't let unproven lines on a map erase that.

That's why SB1296 should include ALL properties, including those within the shoreline setback. Excluding us doesn't protect the coast it abandons the people who have already endured so much. We're not asking for a handout; we're asking for the chance to rebuild, to come home, and restore the town we love. This bill can make that possible, but only if it embraces every part of community, equally.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Please pass SB1296 with no exceptions. Let us rebuild Lahaina together.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:30:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wanda Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives Tarnas & Poepoe,

My family, business/property owners and community members of Lahaina for over 100 years, lost our commercial property (which was our parents' main source of income), in the 2023 wildfires.

Because SB1296 will help provide a clearer, more efficient path to rebuilding, ensuring that impacted property owners like us can restore their properties in a timely manner while maintaining compliance with necessary standards, I therefore submit this testimony in strong **SUPPORT of Bill SB1296.**

Mahalo for your kokua, time and consideration.

Aloha,

Wanda Parker

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:37:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Pope	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I'm writing to request that you amend SB1296 to allow shoreline properties in Lahaina to rebuild without needing an SMA permit. This will help ensure a quicker and more efficient recovery for all affected homeowners. Mahalo for considering this important change.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:38:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Mulvihill	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina needs to rebuild, but the SMA process is slowing things down. I am glad you are considering SB1296, but it is important to expand the exemptions so that every property can rebuild. Please ensure that shoreline properties are also exempt so they can rebuild within the setback.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:58:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Koller	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline properties in Lahaina are exempt from SMA permits. This will help streamline the rebuilding process for all affected homeowners, not just those away from the shoreline.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:59:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Long	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline homes in Lahaina to be exempt from needing an SMA permit. Many of these homes are built within the setback, and I hope you include language that still allows shoreline homeowners to be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:01:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Longhi	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALL shoreline properties including those within the setback must be included in SB1296
We lost our family home of more than 40 years in the Lahaina fire of 2023. I visit my lost home at 321 Front Street a few times a week. There are maybe 8 - 10 homes that survived and did not burn on my south end of Front Street, as well as the Lahaina Shores. These properties are occupied ocean front homes, some are new, and some were built 80 years ago. They have water, sewer and electricity. I see cars in the driveway, lights on and sometimes catch a fleeting glimmer of people through a window or walking the beach or tending to their gardens, going about their lives in our devastated and lonely town. Obviously, the utilities are working. And I wonder why I am forced to worry and visit my vacant lot with no idea when I can get back into my home. I wonder why there is still no clear plan to rebuild my house which burned one year and 8 months ago.

Even though we have a fire hydrant directly in front of our house, it was never used as fire fighting ceased hours before the fire reached the south end of Front Street. Lahaina was neglected and misunderstood before the fires which led to the badly managed response to the emergency. Perhaps we can turn this around and attend to the real needs of the people of Lahaina to first rebuild what we had as fast as possible. Fires are the immediate threat to Lahaina and all of Maui, and it was fires that caused the devastation. The Lahaina fire was not caused by coastal hazard and shoreline homeowners should have the same right to rebuild as the rest of the community.

As was requested of us in our first meeting with the SMA, I do not want to give my land to the SMA, county of Maui or State of Hawaii. Our family wants to rebuild what we had before the fire, although we know it can never be the same, the memories of the past will sustain us into the future and our newly rebuilt home at 321 Front Street.

We also lost our commercial building that housed the original Longhi's restaurant which opened in 1976. We were in the process of restoring the building with updates, new tenants, new restaurants and new dreams. We also lost a leasehold commercial building on Wainee street which we are obligated to pay monthly land rent for the next 23 years.

ALL shoreline properties including those within the setback must be included in SB1296.
Thank you - Gabrielle Longhi

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:03:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Strockbine	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please fix SB1296 to allow the reconstruction of structures on the shoreline. Many homes and businesses in Lahaina are already struggling to recover, and this bill would make it even harder. Maui County has made exceptions for properties mauka of Front Street, but those on the ocean side are left in limbo. Our neighbors who have lost their homes and in some cases, loved ones, do not need any additional challenges as they try to put their lives back together.

Please amend HRS 205A-44(b) to allow permitted structures to be rebuilt without requiring a variance, as long as they maintain the same footprint. This common-sense change will help Lahaina rebuild faster.

Common decency aside, from a purely financial standpoint, it behooves the legislature to adopt these amendments as it is estimated that the state of Hawaii is losing 30M in revenue each month without Lahaina.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:26:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Eady	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline homes in Lahaina to be exempt from needing an SMA permit. Many of these homes are built within the setback, and I hope you include language that still allows shoreline homeowners to be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:27:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Staubitser	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I'm writing to request that you amend SB1296 to allow shoreline properties in Lahaina to rebuild without needing an SMA permit. This will help ensure a quicker and more efficient recovery for all affected homeowners. Mahalo for considering this important change.

It has been more than one and a half years since the Lahaina Fire on August 8, 2023. My wife and I lost our home at 71-3 Puapake Pl. Lahaina, HI 96761. We purchased this property in 2021 so we could be closer to our son, daughter in law and their children who live in Haiku, Maui. To make this purchase we sold our home in New York. As of today the progress on our permit application, according to MAPPS, is at 14%. At this rate of processing the building permits it will be a long time before we have the ability to start the rebuild of our home, our community and the town of Lahaina.

As time passes the expenses of property ownership continue. The cost of materials and labor are rising. With the recent tragedy in California, Governor Newsom is supporting fire victims by issuing an executive order to streamline the rebuilding process in Los Angeles. The Lahaina Fire was over 18 months ago. With the delay of issuing permits is it possible that Los Angeles will start rebuilding before us? If so, what will this cost the residents, businesses and the city, county and state of Hawaii? Materials and manpower will be utilized in Los Angeles and the recovery of Lahaina will be overwhelmingly burdened.

Our son is an active firefighter assigned to The Lahaina Fire Station and our daughter in law, who was born and raised on Maui, is an active Medic, also stationed in Lahaina. Even though we can not be on Maui until we rebuild our home, our son and daughter in law tell us, although the residential construction through out Lahaina is showing progress, our community of Puamana and the properties along the shore line show little if any signs of rebuilding. They commute to work and drive through Lahaina while working and see this on a daily basis.

Please allow Lahaina and Maui to recover economically and emotionally and not have to follow Los Angeles as they start to recover from their loss.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas G Staubitser

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:29:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Haydu	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony today asking that you amend SB 1296 to allow structures along the shoreline to be reconstructed. The current version of the bill would not help everyone and I don't think that is right. Please also consider changing HRS 205A-44 so that structures can rebuild using the same dimensions no matter where they are located. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:31:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Nex	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline homes and businesses in Lahaina are also exempt from the requirement of obtaining an SMA permit.

THE REBUILDING OF HOMES AND BUSINESSES LOST TO THE FIRE ON AUGUST 8, 2023 IS NOT NEW DEVELOPMENT IT IS SIMPLY REBUILDING OF WHAT WAS EXISTING BEFORE THE FIRE DISASTER.
EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO REBUILD WHAT THEY LOST TO THE FIRE.

Many of these properties are located within the setback, and we believe the bill should include language confirming that shoreline homeowners be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:33:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Nex	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline homes and businesses in Lahaina are also exempt from the requirement of obtaining an SMA permit.

THE REBUILDING OF HOMES AND BUSINESSES LOST TO THE FIRE ON AUGUST 8, 2023 IS NOT NEW DEVELOPMENT IT IS SIMPLY REBUILDING OF WHAT WAS EXISTING BEFORE THE FIRE DISASTER.
EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO REBUILD WHAT THEY LOST TO THE FIRE.

Many of these properties are located within the setback, and we believe the bill should include language confirming that shoreline homeowners be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:35:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Laub	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please address SB1296 to allow for the rebuilding of structures on the shoreline. Exceptions have already been made for those properties not on the shoreline. I also ask that you consider revising HRS 205A-44(b) to allow for permitted structures to be reconstructed without the need for a variance, as long as they remain within the same footprint. Please make these necessary changes before moving the bill forward.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:36:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryce Barbier	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to testify on SB1296 and ask that you all amend the bill to allow for properties on the shoreline to also be exempt from an SMA permit. Lahaina really needs this bill to fully rebuild and your support would go a long way toward speeding up the process.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:38:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Boonstra-Barbier	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please fix SB 1296 to include shoreline properties in Lahaina. I think that every property in the burn zone should be exempt from SMA permits in order to rebuild as quickly as possible. Please do whatever you can to get this bill changed for the better.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:39:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Woodstock	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina's recovery is being slowed down by the SMA process, especially for shoreline properties. Please amend SB1296 to allow any property to rebuild if it was previously lost in the fires. This is a critical step to speed up the rebuilding process for everyone.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:39:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Regal	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Comments: SB1296 SD2 HD1***From: Homeowners 1055 Front Street******Derek Regal******Mary Ann Arini***

I am writing you today to respectfully implore your support in amending SB 1296 to include language contained in SB 830 that allows home owners on the makai side of Front Street to rebuild.

My wife and my permanent residence was located at 1055 Front Street and was completely destroyed by the Lahaina fire. Our home which we occupied full time was a 1400 sq.ft. home built in 1955 protected by a sea wall and was renovated in 2004 on the existing footprint. We wish to rebuild our home and garage on those same footprints but are encumbered by the newly instituted SMA requirements upon erroneous predictions of sea level rise.

My wife and I are both over 70. We have relocated at least 5 times since the fire and simply want to live the remainder of our lives along with those of our community on Front Street. It has already been over 1.5 years since the fire and we have been deeply discouraged by our inability to rebuild as a result of newly imposed standards related to sea level rise. We feel we should be exempt from these standards as has been afforded to the properties on Front Street on the Mauka side.

Please help us

Mahalo,

Mary Ann Arini
Derek Regal

Sent from my iPad

Attn: Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA) Committee
Representative Tarnas, Chair
Representative Poepoe, Vice- chair

SENATE BILL 1296 Hearing

DATE: March 20, 2025

TIME: 2pm

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of SB1296

Aloha, Representative Tarnas, Representative Poepoe, and Committee Members

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB1296.

I was born and raised in Lahaina and am proud of our historic town and its many people who have come before us through its many eras and “built” Lahaina to what it was up to the horrific wildfires of August 8th which destroyed its core. My parents worked in the heart of Lahaina, in structures which have now been destroyed by the fire. We lived in a rental home owned by Pioneer Mill Co. on the makai side of Front Street and we walked to and from King Kamehameha III School besides spending recess under the Banyan Tree with classmates and afterschool going across to the Pioneer Inn complex to buy cracked seed or we would walk further and shop/eat at the many other businesses located along this street. My father was a charter member of the Lahaina Restoration Foundation, which comprised then, as it does now, of many supportive business people and other professionals. Many years have passed since then but the drive has continued to keep Lahaina businesses thriving while sharing Lahaina’s rich history through cultural and historic sites/museums, educational outreach and events such as the Kamehameha Day parade, Chinese New Year’s festivities and more.

Many generations have been so very careful to protect Lahaina’s heritage and support its vitality and it is CRITICAL to provide HELP NOW AND FAST to ensure that Lahaina’s heart and soul be returned! Please support SB 1296 to aid property owners by removing permitting delays and to allow them to efficiently move forward with the physical rebuild. Please help make the return Lahaina’s sense of place a reality AND get Lahaina’s businesses and economy back on track while helping so many Lahaina families get back to their jobs!

I support SB1296 and ask that you please support and pass this bill – it’s the PONO thing to do.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Louisa Shelton
20 Alaeloa Place Apt 20, Lahaina, HI 96761
RLJKOhana@aol.com

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:47:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Rusher	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for your kokua-

We are asking that you please allow the people of Lahaina, Maui to rebuild their homes as they were pre fire. The fire was so devastating for many, and to not be able to build back all properties as they were prior to August 8, 2023, is a travesty.

You have the power to make things right. The people of Lahaina have lost so much. We will never see 100 year old trees again in our lifetime, but we can see our homes rebuilt. Please help the people of Lahaina by allowing all buildings lost in the fire to be rebuilt.

Mahalo for your time.

Scott, Stacy, David and Donna Rusher

111 Puelai Unit 2 Lahaina and 46 Pualoke Unit 2, Lahaina

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:05:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Honore Hillman	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to comment on sb1296. It's absolutely vital that this bill encompass all properties on the makai side of Front Street.

Lahaina has been an integral and precious part of our 'ohana since the 1980s. My own daughter grew up knowing and loving this community, as have my brothers and their own children. Immediately after the fire she and flew to Maui to volunteer as well as to donate essential goods to the organizations helping to provide assistance.

Our Puamana homes survived the fire and as of this writing one is providing accommodation to locals while they rebuild.

I repeat, please include all properties on the makai side of Front Street and those on the makai side of the Honoapi'ilani Highway.

Yours sincerely,

Honore Hillman

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:10:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Lee	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I kindly request that you make amendments to bill SB1296 to permit the reconstruction of shoreline structures. This should also include revising HRS 205A-44(b) to eliminate the need for a variance for permitted structures that stay within the same footprint. I hope you make these changes before it is too late.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:11:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Beaupre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and members of the committees. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB1296

Our family has so many cherished memories of Lahaina, and we treasure these properties. They not only provide critical financial income for our kupuna, but they have kept our ohana close as we have worked together over the years to maintain them. As a Kanaka Maoli family, we understand the history of this community and deeply respect the land and sea. We strongly believe we can rebuild in a way that honors our culture while being economically responsible. This bill allows us to rebuild Front Street with sensitivity to the cultural and historical significance of the area. It provides the opportunity to restore the character of Lahaina in a way that respects its heritage while also supporting economic growth. This balance is key to a sustainable future for our community.

I am in strong support of this bill because it will allow my family business to rebuild and serve our Lahaina community, it gives us hope that we will be able to return to the place we love so much, it gets us moving in the right direction to some sense of normalcy through all of this chaos we have endured.

I humbly ask for your support for our community and pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Kekoa Beaupre

1672 Ulupii Street, Kailua, HI 96734

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:11:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Wetsel	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please change SB1296 so that properties on the shoreline in Lahaina are also exempt from needing an SMA permit. Rebuilding is critical, and this change would help speed up the process. It's important that all properties have the same opportunity to rebuild without unnecessary bureaucracy.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:13:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Aiwohi	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am reaching out to ask for your support in making SB1296 more effective. Many shoreline properties in Lahaina are currently left out of the exemptions. These properties should be able to rebuild quickly without needing an SMA permit. Please amend the bill so that everyone can rebuild without additional delays.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:36:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Kim	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why are only the mauka properties exempt from the SMA permitting process?? The current SMA permitting process is a significant obstacle in the way of rebuilding Lahaina. While there has been some reforms, I think anyone that lost their property should be able to rebuild. That just makes common sense. Please add in shoreline properties to this bill. Makes me wonder if there is some unspoken reason why makai isn't being exempted!

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:38:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Schusser	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please correct SB1296 and allow for the reconstruction of shorefront properties. This would alleviate the additional burden being faced by those in Lahaina, where many homes and businesses are currently struggling to rebuild. While exceptions have been granted for properties located mauka of Front Street, those on the ocean side are still facing uncertainty.

In addition to this, I humbly request that HRS 205A-44 be revised to allow permitted structures to be reconstructed without the need for a variance, so long as their footprint remains the same. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:40:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Crosby	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do what you can to change SB1296 to also exempt shoreline properties in Lahaina from needing an SMA permit. This wasn't a result of flooding or shoreline erosion, so I don't understand why we are excluding properties on the shoreline from being able to rebuild their homes. I believe this amendment will help homeowners and preserve the unique character of Lahaina's shoreline. Please help.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:43:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Rogers	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina needs to rebuild, but the SMA process is slowing things down. I am glad you are considering SB1296, but it is important to expand the exemptions so that every property can rebuild. Please ensure that shoreline properties are also exempt so they can rebuild within the setback.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:44:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Handy Sr	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I'm writing to ask that you amend SB1296 so that all properties in Lahaina, including those on the shoreline, can rebuild quickly without needing an SMA permit. The permitting process is unnecessarily delaying the recovery. We need to let people restore what they lost almost two years ago.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:49:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy Voikos	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maui Housing: what should be done NOW not in a few months, but NOW, is to construct some barracks-type housing that can be built immediately, on State, Federal, or Local gov't. land, or on donated land. Land ownership problems would not be a problem. And code-compliance need not be difficult.

Barracks-type housing is nobody's idea of a dream home, but it's cheap, can be built quickly while more permanent housing is developed, and later can remain a suitable source of affordable housing for the indigent or homeless, after others have had the time and resource to build back their own housing. All it takes is the political will. Please recall the Manhattan Project, when, in one year, 1942, an entire city, housing 36,000 people, was built in Oak Ridge, TN. That can be done here, on a smaller scale, maybe scattered around at a variety of sites. And not much new infrastructure would be needed.

Design needs to be simple and enduring, like concrete block walls, pre-cast floors/ceilings, all done with good workmanship, prideful amenities, and within the trade skills of current and local construction industry. And the County could be the property manager, with board members selected from the affected and displaced populace, so that everyone feels that they have a hand in the solution.

But I have heard of no such or similar proposals from any media source. I wonder how Maui, Lahaina, the State, and the Federal gov't. expect to cure this desperate housing problem. It can be done. All it takes is the political will and a strong leader. But.NOW.

Malama pono.

Andy Voikos, president
Voikos Construction Management Co., Inc.
289 Salt Rock Road
Barnstable, MA 02630
508-362-8776
avoikos@voikoscm.com;
voikosconstructionmanagement.com

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:51:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pritchett	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write as a shoreline property owner who lost a home in the Lahaina fires. I strongly support SB 1296 with the critical amendment to include ALL shoreline properties, including those within the setback area. Our home was damaged by a fire, not ocean activity, yet we am being excluded from the only viable pathway to rebuilding. Shoreline properties helped make Lahaina the special, historic place it was and preserved the town's unique character. We desperately want to participate in rebuilding this community. Please amend SB 1296 to include ALL shoreline properties so we can return to our home and help restore Lahaina. The future of our community depends on your support.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:52:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Collins	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please fix SB1296 to allow the reconstruction of structures on the shoreline. Many homes and businesses in Lahaina are already struggling to recover, and this bill would make it even harder. Maui County has made exceptions for properties mauka of Front Street, but those on the ocean side are left in limbo.

I also ask that you amend HRS 205A-44(b) to allow permitted structures to be rebuilt without requiring a variance, as long as they maintain the same footprint. This common-sense change will help Lahaina rebuild faster.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:54:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Collins	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please fix SB1296 to allow the reconstruction of structures on the shoreline. Many homes and businesses in Lahaina are already struggling to recover, and this bill would make it even harder. Maui County has made exceptions for properties mauka of Front Street, but those on the ocean side are left in limbo.

I also ask that you amend HRS 205A-44(b) to allow permitted structures to be rebuilt without requiring a variance, as long as they maintain the same footprint. This common-sense change will help Lahaina rebuild faster.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:03:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmen Malunao	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please revise SB1296 in order to allow structures to be reconstructed on the shoreline without a variance, as is already being done for properties not on the shoreline. Additionally, please consider amending HRS 205A-44 so that people don't need a variance to rebuild within their original footprint.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:04:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Young	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please fix SB1296 to allow the reconstruction of structures on the shoreline. Many homes and businesses in Lahaina are already struggling to recover, and this bill would make it even harder. Maui County has made exceptions for properties mauka of Front Street, but those on the ocean side are left in limbo.

I also ask that you amend HRS 205A-44(b) to allow permitted structures to be rebuilt without requiring a variance, as long as they maintain the same footprint. This common-sense change will help Lahaina rebuild faster.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:06:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanne Riley	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am kindly requesting for you to fix SB1296, which gets rid of unnecessary SMA permits in order to facilitate the rebuilding process in Lahaina. This is a good bill, but needs to go further and allow properties on both sides of Front St. to rebuild. The urgency of the situation in Lahaina calls for immediate action and this fix will help speed things up for everyone.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:08:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Hastings	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, but request that it be amended to permit reconstruction of shoreline structures. This was caused by a wildfire not floods, so I don't understand why we should treat these properties differently. Please also consider an amendment to HRS 205 that would allow permitted structures to be rebuilt without needing a variance, as long as they maintain the same footprint. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:12:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holden Smith	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in regards to Senate Bill 1296 which currently does not allow for the reconstruction of shoreline structures. This needs to be changed so that everyone can rebuild what they lost in the fires without jumping through hoops. Additionally, you should amend HRS 205A-44(b) to allow for permitted structures to be rebuilt without the need for a variance, as long as they maintain their original footprint.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:10:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Warring	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I'm writing to request that you amend SB1296 to allow shoreline properties in Lahaina to rebuild without needing an SMA permit. This will help ensure a quicker and more efficient recovery for all affected homeowners. Mahalo for considering this important change.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:12:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Wendt	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina's recovery is being slowed down by the SMA process, especially for shoreline properties. Please amend SB1296 to allow any property to rebuild if it was previously lost in the fires. This is a critical step to speed up the rebuilding process for everyone.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:14:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosanne Mastrangioli	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to submit testimony on SB1296. The SMA permitting process is a major barrier to rebuilding Lahaina. Please change this bill so that people mauka and makai of Front Street can rebuild faster. We can't afford more delays - it has already been almost 2 years.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:16:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Weeks	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello - I am submitting testimony on SB1296 and would like to formally request that you change the bill so that shoreline properties in Lahaina are also exempt from SMA permits. This change will make it easier for all homeowners to rebuild and will help speed up Lahaina's recovery. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:17:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Clausen	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The process of obtaining a SMA permit is a huge obstacle in the efforts to rebuild Lahaina. That is why I think all properties that were lost in the fires should be able to rebuild without jumping through a bunch of hoops. SB1296 is a good start, but I hope you will expand the scope to include properties on the water.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:19:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjie Tamamoto	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina needs to rebuild, but the SMA process is slowing things down. I am glad you are considering SB1296, but it is important to expand the exemptions so that every property can rebuild. Please ensure that shoreline properties are also exempt so they can rebuild within the setback.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:20:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Young	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please change SB1296 to make sure that properties on the shoreline in Lahaina are also exempt from SMA permits. These homes shouldn't have to jump through more hoops just because of their location. We need to let people reconstruct what they lost.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:21:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Campbell	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am reaching out to ask for your support in making SB1296 more effective. Many shoreline properties in Lahaina are currently left out of the exemptions. These properties should be able to rebuild quickly without needing an SMA permit. Please amend the bill so that everyone can rebuild without additional delays.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:22:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Braden Sakai	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina needs to rebuild, but the SMA process is slowing things down. I am glad you are considering SB1296, but it is important to expand the exemptions so that every single property can rebuild. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:23:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Manglona	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to request that SB 1296 be altered to allow for the reconstruction of shoreline structures. Current exceptions have been made for non-shoreline properties, but I urge you to consider revising HRS 205A-44 as well. This will permit authorized structures to be rebuilt within the existing footprint, without requiring a variance. I kindly ask that these changes are made before advancing the bill.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:25:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lance Nash	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The special management area (SMA) permitting process is holding back Lahaina's recovery. It's crucial that we allow all properties to rebuild after the wildfires, including those on the shoreline. Please make sure shoreline properties are included in SB1296 so Lahaina can rebuild without unnecessary bureaucracy.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:28:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Fritz	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline homes and businesses in Lahaina are also exempt from the requirement of obtaining an SMA permit. Many of these properties are located within the setback, and we believe the bill should include language confirming that shoreline homeowners be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:45:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Monoscalco	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The special management area (SMA) permitting process is holding back Lahaina's recovery. It's crucial that we allow all properties to rebuild after the wildfires, including those on the shoreline. Please make sure shoreline properties are included in SB1296 so Lahaina can rebuild without unnecessary bureaucracy.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:12:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Kulia Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DATE: March 11, 2025

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1296

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair

Our family has so many cherished memories of Lahaina, and we treasure these properties. They not only provide critical financial income for our kupuna, but they have kept our ohana close as we have worked together over the years to maintain them. As a Kanaka Maoli family, we understand the history of this community and deeply respect the land and sea. We strongly believe we can rebuild in a way that honors our culture while being economically responsible. This bill allows us to rebuild Front Street with sensitivity to the cultural and historical significance of the area. It provides the opportunity to restore the character of Lahaina in a way that respects its heritage while also supporting economic growth. This balance is key to a sustainable future for our community.

I am in strong support of this bill because it will allow my family business to rebuild and serve our Lahaina community, it gives us hope that we will be able to return to the place we love so much, it gets us moving in the right direction to some sense of normalcy through all of this chaos we have endured.

I humbly ask for your support for our community and pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Kelly Kulia Furtado

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 4:02:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Williams	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband Tracy and I were honored to have purchased the historical property of 455 Front Street. We were blessed to have the opportunity to be the guardians of part of the Harden Family history and and felt like we were living a dream. When we closed on our purchase in March of 2023, we emptied the contents of our 7 year storage at Aloha Self Storage into the U-Haul and moved it into our home, it was a full-circle moment...we were home....

We first visited Lahaina in 1999 and have returned nearly every year for extended visits. We walked past 455 Front for most of those years as it stood strong and protected by the sea wall surrounding it...unscathed by the ocean. The fires brought complete devastation to Lahaina town, its locals and residents....the loss of life.....our losses can't begin to compare to those who have lived full-time and made their living in Lahaina...but our home and all contents are gone...

We were property owners only a few brief months prior to the fire destroying our home...a home that we purchased knowing it wouldn't be allowed to be a vacation rental...but something to share with friends, family, strangers...and we had begun to do that in the few short months our home stood. That was our dream...that still IS our dream....that Lahaina be restored...return stronger than ever....

Thankfully, our neighbors on either side of us - neighbors who have become friends - were mostly unscathed by the fires. Our dream is that we can soon return to talking story and sharing shots over our wall as we enjoy the sunset in the town we all love so dearly. Our dream is to continue to share our home with people...sending new families to fall in love with Maui and specifically Lahaina....as we have been able to do over the years in rentals...but this time in OUR home....

We are asking you to please include ALL shoreline properties including those within the setback in SB1296. Without it, the hopes, dreams and plans of not just our family, but so many others, are at a standstill.

My parents, who have been a huge part of our time spent on Maui also love Maui, Lahaina and the people there. We were blessed to bring them over to see our home and see our dream of homeownership come to fruition. When I handed them the keys to the ohana...symbolically sharing in the ownership of OUR dream...it was so meaningful. Knowing that - without some

traction from government in passing the necessary bills to restore what was there - my parents could never see the reality of “their” ohana again breaks my heart.

I implore you to include ALL shoreline properties in SB1296....so we can ALL help build back Lahaina...

Mahalo,

The Williams

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:17:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maryann Arini	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline homes and businesses in Lahaina are also exempt from the requirement of obtaining an SMA permit. Many of these properties are located within the setback, and we believe the bill should include language confirming that shoreline homeowners be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:20:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Stoddard	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The current version of SB1296 leaves shoreline properties in Lahaina out of the exemption. I urge you to amend it so that all properties can rebuild without the need for an SMA permit. Lahaina's recovery depends on this change. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:21:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sondra Haley	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly urge you to amend SB1296 to remove the prohibition on reconstructing structures on shoreline parcels. It is unreasonable to strip property owners of the ability to repair or rebuild structures that have long existed in these areas. I support responsible coastal management, but this bill should be changed.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:24:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastasia Yamauchi	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I'm writing to ask that you amend SB1296 so that all properties in Lahaina, including those on the shoreline, can rebuild quickly without needing an SMA permit. The permitting process is unnecessarily delaying the recovery. We need to let people restore what they lost almost two years ago.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:32:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brigitte Otto	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I'm writing to ask that you please amend SB 1296 to allow shoreline properties in Lahaina to rebuild without an SMA permit. This will help ensure a faster recovery for all homeowners affected. Mahalo for considering this important change.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:34:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catharine Esson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing today in hopes that you will change sb 1296. I hope you and your colleagues expand SMA exemptions for all properties in Lahaina regardless of if they are on the shoreline or not. It was a wildfire, not a flood, so I don't understand why we would exclude those properties in the absence of clear evidence that it would be unsafe to rebuild. The extraordinary delay associated with making owners obtain SMA approvals hurts both those owners and the recovery of Lahaina generally.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:36:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Hartmann	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do what you can to change SB1296 to also exempt shoreline properties in Lahaina from needing an SMA permit. This wasn't a result of flooding or shoreline erosion, so I don't understand why we are excluding properties on the shoreline from being able to rebuild their homes. I believe this amendment will help homeowners and preserve the unique character of Lahaina's shoreline. Please help.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:40:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Atkinson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I am reaching out in regards to SB1296. This bill will be helpful for some Lahaina residents, but others on the shoreline will still have to face delays. Please change it so that all properties in Lahaina are exempt from needing an SMA permit. Many of these homes are located in the setback area, and it is important that the bill include clear language confirming that shoreline homeowners should be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions, as previously recommended by DLNR.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:42:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mont Echols	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As you know, Lahaina needs help. The SMA process is a major obstacle for rebuilding. SB1296 would create an exemption, but I don't think it goes far enough. Please consider allowing all properties to be exempt from the SMA process regardless of where the property was located on Front Street.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:43:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donovan Lynn	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to amend SB1296 to ensure that shoreline properties in Lahaina are also exempt from SMA permits. Rebuilding should not be delayed for any reason, and this amendment would help everyone get back to their homes faster. It is time for the legislature to take action - it has already been almost 2 years since the fires.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:45:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Marion Ceruti	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony requesting that you modify SB1296 to permit the reconstruction of shorefront structures. If you get rid of that provision, you should also look to change HRS 205A-44 so that people can rebuild in the same footprint without jumping through any hoops. These amendments are necessary if you really want to help Lahaina rebuild all of what it lost.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:46:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Santos	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I respectfully ask you to amend SB1296 to include shoreline properties in Lahaina. That they would also exempt from SMA permits.

The majority of Lahaina residents want our town rebuilt as close to our old Lahaina town, the town we loved, as possible.

Rebuilding should not be delayed for any reason, and this amendment would help everyone get back to their homes and their businesses faster.

I ask for our legislature take action now - it has been almost 2 years since the fires. Show Lahaina residents that you, our lawmakers truly care.

Words with Action, showing a heart that cares for the vast majority of Lahaina looooong time residents.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:48:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Adam	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please change SB1296 to make sure that properties on the shoreline in Lahaina are also exempt from SMA permits. These homes shouldn't have to jump through more hoops just because of their location. We need to let people reconstruct what they lost.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:52:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Hernandez-ing	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina's recovery is being slowed down by the SMA process, especially for shoreline properties. Please amend SB1296 to allow any property to rebuild if it was previously lost in the fires. This is a critical step to speed up the rebuilding process for everyone.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:57:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamar Goodfellow	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello - I am submitting testimony on SB1296 and would like to formally request that you change the bill so that shoreline properties in Lahaina are also exempt from SMA permits. This change will make it easier for all homeowners to rebuild and will help speed up Lahaina's recovery. Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:58:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bartholomew	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina's recovery depends on a fast rebuilding process, which is being delayed by SMA permit requirements. I'm glad you all are hearing this bill, but I think ALL properties should be exempt from an SMA permit, including shoreline properties. Please make this necessary change before it is too late.

Lahiana had its own charm which attracted many. Don't try to change the character of the land. Allow it to rebuild as it once was. By trying to change this or that your forcing ohana to comply or move and we all know they are moving instead of submitting to another rule. You want to destroy the people here or do you want its charm and special ties to its land and people or you going to cave to tourist and their money while your workforce moves away businesses close due to lack of workers. It is not too late but stupid bills will make the exit of its people more severe and become a stampede for the exit!!!

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:00:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Salvador Paragas Jr	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am requesting that SB1296 be amended to allow for shoreline structures to be rebuilt. While exceptions have been made for non-shoreline properties, I urge you to also consider revising HRS 205A-44(b) to allow for permitted structures to be reconstructed without a variance, as long as they remain within the original footprint. These changes are crucial before the bill is moved forward.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:02:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Brookes	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The SMA process is delaying Lahaina's recovery. Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline properties are also exempt from needing an SMA permit. This will help homeowners rebuild more quickly and get Lahaina back on its feet. We cannot handle any more delays. It has already been nearly 2 years.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:04:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Rabideau	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The bill SB1296 needs to be amended in order to allow for the reconstruction of shoreline structures. The current exceptions for properties mauka of Front Street should also be extended to those on the ocean side. Additionally, I hope you add an amendment to HRS 205A-44 to allow for permitted structures to be rebuilt without the need for a variance, as long as they keep the same dimensions as before the fires.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:05:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolynn Lave	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 to include shoreline properties in Lahaina, so they too can rebuild without needing an SMA permit. This will help streamline the process for all homeowners and allow for a faster recovery. Mahalo!

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:07:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Jackson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please change SB1296 to make sure that properties on the shoreline in Lahaina are also exempt from SMA permits. These homes shouldn't have to jump through more hoops just because of their location. We need to let people reconstruct what they lost.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:08:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Mitchell	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina needs to rebuild, but the SMA process is slowing things down. I am glad you are considering SB1296, but it is important to expand the exemptions so that every property can rebuild. Please ensure that shoreline properties are also exempt so they can rebuild within the setback.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:10:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The special management area permitting process is holding back Lahaina's recovery. It is important to allow all properties to rebuild after the wildfires, even the ones on the shoreline. Please be sure to include those properties in SB1296 so that Lahaina can rebuild without unnecessary bureaucracy.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:12:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosenary Alles	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do what you can to change SB1296 to also exempt shoreline properties in Lahaina from needing an SMA permit. This wasn't a result of flooding or shoreline erosion, so I don't understand why we are excluding properties on the shoreline from being able to rebuild their homes. I believe this amendment will help homeowners and preserve the unique character of Lahaina's shoreline. Please help.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:14:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Ochsenbein	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to submit testimony on SB1296. The SMA permitting process is a major barrier to rebuilding Lahaina. Please change this bill so that people mauka and makai of Front Street can rebuild faster. We can't afford more delays - it has already been almost 2 years.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:16:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Crees	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The SMA process is delaying Lahaina's recovery. Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline properties are also exempt from needing an SMA permit. This will help homeowners rebuild more quickly and get Lahaina back on its feet. We cannot handle any more delays. It has already been nearly 2 years.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:17:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Longo	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline homes in Lahaina to be exempt from needing an SMA permit. Many of these homes are built within the setback, and I hope you include language that still allows shoreline homeowners to be able to rebuild with the same footprint and dimensions.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:19:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl Oliver	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please address SB1296 to allow for the rebuilding of structures on the shoreline. Exceptions have already been made for those properties not on the shoreline. I also ask that you consider revising HRS 205A-44(b) to allow for permitted structures to be reconstructed without the need for a variance, as long as they remain within the same footprint. Please make these necessary changes before moving the bill forward.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:20:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel De Costa	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of sb1296, but I think you all should exempt all properties in Lahaina from sma requirements, not just the properties mauka of front street. Please help - it has already taken way too long. Mahalo for reading my testimony.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:22:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Becker	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I request that SB1296 be changed in order to allow for the reconstruction of structures on the shoreline. Did we forget that this was all caused by a fire, not erosion or sea level rise? If you make this change, it is also important to amend HRS 205A-44 so that buildings can be reconstructed to remain within the same footprint without requiring a variance. Please don't wait to make these amendments.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:24:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Orloff	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please revise SB1296 in order to allow structures to be reconstructed on the shoreline without a variance, as is already being done for properties not on the shoreline. Additionally, please consider amending HRS 205A-44 so that people don't need a variance to rebuild within their original footprint.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:25:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rob McWilliams	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lahaina needs to rebuild, but the SMA process is slowing things down. I am glad you are considering SB1296, but it is important to expand the exemptions so that every single property can rebuild. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:27:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Laidlaw	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I kindly request that you make amendments to bill SB1296 to permit the reconstruction of shoreline structures. This should also include revising HRS 205A-44(b) to eliminate the need for a variance for permitted structures that stay within the same footprint. I hope you make these changes before it is too late.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:33:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Melendez	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 to allow shoreline properties in Lahaina to be exempt from the SMA permit requirement. It's important that all properties are able to rebuild within the setbacks and without unnecessary obstacles.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:34:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Kerstulovich	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The current SMA permitting process is a significant obstacle in the way of rebuilding Lahaina. While there has been some reforms, I think anyone that lost their property should be able to rebuild. That just makes common sense. Please add in shoreline properties to this bill.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:36:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Kualii-Neal	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am kindly requesting for you to fix SB1296, which gets rid of unnecessary SMA permits in order to facilitate the rebuilding process in Lahaina. This is a good bill, but needs to go further and allow properties on both sides of Front St. to rebuild. The urgency of the situation in Lahaina calls for immediate action and this fix will help speed things up for everyone.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:37:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB1296 to ensure that properties on the shoreline in Lahaina are also exempt from the SMA permitting process. These properties should be able to rebuild quickly, just like those mauka of Front Street. Let's help Lahaina recover faster.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:39:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Powers	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am requesting that SB1296 be amended to allow for shoreline structures to be rebuilt. While exceptions have been made for non-shoreline properties, I urge you to also consider revising HRS 205A-44(b) to allow for permitted structures to be reconstructed without a variance, as long as they remain within the original footprint. These changes are crucial before the bill is moved forward.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:40:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Winter	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The current version of SB1296 leaves shoreline properties in Lahaina out of the exemption. I urge you to amend it so that all properties can rebuild without the need for an SMA permit. Lahaina's recovery depends on this change. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:46:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin McKeirnan	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The bill SB1296 needs to be amended in order to allow for the reconstruction of shoreline structures. The current exceptions for properties mauka of Front Street should also be extended to those on the ocean side. Additionally, I hope you add an amendment to HRS 205A-44 to allow for permitted structures to be rebuilt without the need for a variance, as long as they keep the same dimensions as before the fires.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:47:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelly Glass	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The bill SB1296 needs to be amended in order to allow for the reconstruction of shoreline structures. The current exceptions for properties mauka of Front Street should also be extended to those on the ocean side. Additionally, I hope you add an amendment to HRS 205A-44 to allow for permitted structures to be rebuilt without the need for a variance, as long as they keep the same dimensions as before the fires.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:23:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Didi Leong	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, however, I kindly request that you amend it to facilitate the reconstruction of buildings on the shoreline. Please remove the provision that prohibits reconstruction of structures situated on shoreline parcels or parcels impacted by waves, storm surges, high tide, or shoreline erosion.

In addition, I urge you to add an amendment to HRS 205A-44(b) to allow for the rebuilding of permitted structures without the need for a variance, as long as their original footprint is maintained. This will really help Lahaina be rebuilt as it once was.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:33:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Doty	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Government - I am born and raised on Oahu. I have enjoyed traveling to Maui and specifically Lahaina for many years. Lahaina's demise is an inconceivable loss to the State. It had a charm and historic significance that few places in the world have. As the former Capital of the State and an old center for whaling, the way it was built had a charm that cannot be duplicated. I am writing to you to allow the waterfront to be built again similar to what is was. Yes, that means allowing store fronts and restaurants to be built ON the water. This CAN be done in an environmentally safe way. Please streamline the permitting process like you are proposing for the rest of Lahaina.

Sincerely -
John Doty

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 11:06:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Andrade	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The SMA process is delaying Lahaina's recovery. Please amend SB1296 so that shoreline properties are also exempt from needing an SMA permit. This will help homeowners rebuild more quickly and get Lahaina back on its feet. We cannot handle any more delays. It has already been nearly 2 years.

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 11:08:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Clarke	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. As you know, Lahaina needs help. The SMA process is a major obstacle for rebuilding. SB1296 would create an exemption, but I don't think it goes far enough. Please consider allowing all properties, including those on the shoreline, to be exempt from the SMA process. THIS IS CRITICAL TO RESTORE LAHAINA. DON'T LET LAHAINA BE PENALIZED!

SB-1296-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 12:28:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/20/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angie Stephenson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to request that SB 1296 be altered to allow for the reconstruction of shoreline structures. Current exceptions have been made for non-shoreline properties, but I urge you to consider revising HRS 205A-44 as well. This will permit authorized structures to be rebuilt within the existing footprint, without requiring a variance. I kindly ask that these changes are made before advancing the bill.