

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 26, 2025

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

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

RE: **SB 414 SD2 HD2 – RELATING TO RESTORING ACCESS TO DISASTER-AFFECTED AREAS.**

Hearing: March 27, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference, State Capitol

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

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

DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: This bill requires the Department of Transportation to institute proceedings to condemn certain lands in Lahaina to build a new access road from Keawe Street to the Kilohana and Kalaiola sites developed in the Villages of Leialii. Appropriates funds out of the Major Disaster Fund for the appraisals and other preparations for the condemnation proceedings. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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

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

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

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

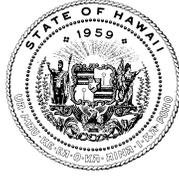
The Committee on Public Safety further amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Department of Transportation, rather than the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, to institute the condemnation proceedings; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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

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

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



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

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

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

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE
HEARING ON MARCH 27, 2025 AT 3:30PM IN CR 308

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

March 27, 2025

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

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

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
March 27, 2025
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For these reasons, DHHL respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB414 to support the development of critical infrastructure that will serve native Hawaiian families and the greater Lāhainā community.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308
Thursday, March 27, 2025 AT 3:30 P.M.**

To The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

SUPPORT SB414 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO HOUSING

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB414 SD2 HD2** which requires the Department of Transportation to institute proceedings to condemn certain lands in Lahaina to build a new access road from Keawe Street to the Kilohana and Kalaiola sites developed in the Villages of Leialii.

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

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

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

For these reasons we **SUPPORT SB414 SD2 HD2** and respectfully request its passage.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

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