

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



**KENNETH S. HARA**  
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
**HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420



STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2908,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
**PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

JANUARY 31, 2024

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **SUPPORT SB2908**.

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is expressing its support for Senate Bill 2908, which aims to provide better guidance and protection for individuals impacted by emergencies such as wildfires. HI-EMA acknowledges that many people who still have housing available to them are facing predatory rental rate increases, while those who have lost necessities of life may also face unfair pricing for essential goods and services.

Under this legislation, predatory pricing in any form, including the sale of commodities at retail or wholesale levels, will not be tolerated during emergencies. Landlords will also not be allowed to terminate rental agreements unless there is a breach of a material term of the agreement or if the unit is unfit for occupancy. Additionally, landlords are prohibited from increasing rent for residential units in the affected area unless the increase was agreed upon in writing prior to the declaration of the emergency.

HI-EMA supports this legislation as it aims to reduce stress for individuals facing unforeseen emergencies and ensures that predatory pricing is not allowed. It also helps property owners and suppliers understand that unfair pricing practices will not be tolerated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2908.

James Barros: [james.barros@hawaii.gov](mailto:james.barros@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300

January 31, 2024

**The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair**

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

**The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair**

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**RE: Senate Bill 2908, Relating to Emergency Management**

**HEARING: Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 9:40 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Joint Committees:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR provides **comments** on Senate Bill 2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §127A-30, whenever the Governor or a Mayor for their respective county declares a state of emergency, it automatically triggers a prohibition on "any increase in the selling price of any commodity, whether at the retail or wholesale level, in the area that is the subject of the proclamation or the severe weather warning." This provision also applies to rental housing.

However, the use of Emergency Proclamations has expanded in recent years and there is almost always an active Emergency Proclamation at any given time. Both consumers and businesses are often confused on whether price freezing needs to happen in a given situation and on what products.

HAR appreciates the intent of this measure to help address this issue with regard to rental housing; however, we prefer the language in SB 2843 as it would help to address the wider business community's concerns surrounding the need to update the Emergency Powers statutes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on this measure.



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**  
Before the Committee on  
**Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,  
Commerce and Consumer Protection  
And Judiciary**

In Consideration of Senate Bill No. 2908  
**Disasters; Residential Rental; Price Increases; Prohibition**

To Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and the members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs

We are writing on behalf of Lahaina Strong, an organization that was initially formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and re-energized last year after the devastating Lahaina fires on August 8. Our organization is the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 20,000 supporters, engaged in providing support and assistance to the victims of these disasters. **Lahaina Strong stands in support of SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation.**

Lahaina Strong has been at the forefront of relief and advocacy efforts, including the initiation of the "Fishing for Housing" camp, which has been in operation for over eleven weeks along Kaanapali Beach, highlighting the need for dignified housing for Lahaina fire victims. We commend the legislature for considering measures that address the pressing issues faced by our community.

One of the primary goals of Lahaina Strong, as outlined in our ongoing efforts and collaboration with the affected community, is housing for the people of Maui. While our primary focus is on the displaced fire victims of Lahaina, we firmly believe that stronger protections are needed for all tenants, as we have borne witness to the secondary wave of evictions, rent increases, and instability the recent disasters have caused island-wide.

We strongly support the inclusion of a prohibition preventing landlords from increasing or notifying tenants of an increase in rent for a residential dwelling unit in a proclaimed disaster area if the increase was not agreed to in writing before the declaration or severe weather warning. This aligns with Lahaina Strong's advocacy for comprehensive and immediate protections for tenants in this housing crisis.

In summary, we believe that SB2908 presents a crucial step forward in addressing the wave of evictions and rent increases faced by our community in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires. We urge the legislature to pass this bill to provide much-needed relief and support to the Lahaina community and beyond.

Mahalo for your attention and commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Jordan Ruidas, Pa'ele Kiakona & Courtney Lazo  
Lahaina Strong

# Hawaii Financial Services

Est. 2003

The Senate  
Ka'aha Kenekoa

January 30, 2024

The Thirty-Second Legislature

Members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and  
Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony in Support of SB2908**

Aloha Vice Chairs Keohokalole, Vice Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the  
Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental Affairs,

I am a resident of the Lāhainā community and small business owner who lost her 24  
year mortgage brokerage in the Lāhainā Fire on August 8, 2023. I am writing to express  
my support for SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated  
Lāhainā, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which  
prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning  
or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to  
tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-  
disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just  
those directly impacted by the Lāhainā fires. The inclusion of measures preventing  
landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent  
advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the  
Lāhainā community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention and commitment to the well-being of our community.

'O au iho nō me ka 'oia'i'o,

*Tera Lyn Ha'ahedehonua Paleka*



**Tera L.H. Paleka, CMPS**  
Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist™  
Principle Broker In Charge

Proud Member Of:



Office (808) 667-LOAN | Cellular (808) 870-3653 | eFax (808) 442-1217

727 Waine'e Street, Suite 107, Lāhainā Maui Hawaii 96761

eMail: [Tera@Paleka.com](mailto:Tera@Paleka.com)

Website: [www.HawaiiFinancialServices.com](http://www.HawaiiFinancialServices.com)

Company NMLS#:1566069 | Individual NMLS#: 357949



**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 6:52:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Estigoy-Kahoonei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support that there be a freeze on rent increases for communities impacted by any disaster. Greed should never be allowed when people are trying to recover and heal from disasters.

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:17:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB 2188,

Mahalo,

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:17:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
'Alihilani Katoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is 'Alihilani and I am a constituent of Oahu that has ancestral ties to Maui. I am in support of SB2908 because it provides security to the community in that they can rest assured that their rent will not increase. In this situation the rent should in fact be lowered tremendously to give the community time and capacity to heal from this tragedy, however before addressing that issue, the issue of rental increases should be completely off the table.

Let the community grieve, heal and have the kuleana to auamo this kuleana of moving forward in whatever way they see fit.

Mahalo,

'Alihilani



**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:20:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kitch Richie Jackson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We all need to feel secure and safe, we need to know our homes will remain affordable so we can plan accordingly and focus on our families and community friends. Rent needs to be affordable and not raised

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:05:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
dale chappell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Dale Ann Chappell

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:08:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jody Mountain	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Maui community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Jody Mountain

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:18:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alli Toledo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Alli Toledo



**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:37:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashlie McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill



**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:48:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelley Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Mahalo, Kelley Lehua Porter

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:52:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
De Andre Makakoa	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**Subject: Emphatic Endorsement of SB2908 – A Stance for Tenant Security**

**Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and the Honored Members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,**

**As a steadfast guardian of my family and fellow Lahaina citizens, I write with a fervent plea for your support of SB2908. The bill's prohibition of rental increases within disaster-affected zones is a beacon amidst the turmoil we have weathered since that fateful August 8th, when the wildfires reduced our homes to ash.**

**From the vantage point of a father who has seen his dwelling place succumb to flames—yet refuses to be cast as a casualty—I implore you to consider this legislation as an anchor for those tossed by the storm of post-calamity recovery. Evictions and rent surges loom, threatening to compound the anguish of those already grappling with loss.**

**SB2908 is more than just policy; it is a shield for the vulnerable, a commitment to stability. It ensures that no written agreement is neglected, no tenant is unfairly thrust into the maelstrom of housing insecurity.**

**I stand resolute in advocating for SB2908, not only as a measure to protect my community but as a testament to the resolve that binds us. Let this bill pass with the urgency it so rightly deserves, and let it echo our collective conviction — that in the face of adversity, we shall not waver in our pursuit of compassion and justice for all tenants.**

**Mahalo for considering this testimony as a reflection of our shared endeavor to uphold the dignity and welfare of each soul in Lahaina and across our beloved Maui.**

**Sincerely,**

**De Andre Makakoa**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:05:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

## Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong support of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

We have been seeing a surge of evictions around the island, so that owners can hike rent sometimes double what their current tenant was paying. As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. Unfortunately, the fire has caused a fall out in everything related to housing island wide, and it is having detrimental effects across the board.

The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island. Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,  
Katie Austin

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:46:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Ching Harbin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

mahalo,

susan N. Ching Harbin

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:13:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Madison Furlong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think it is extremely important to protect residents and renters during this recovery time after many people have lost everything



**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:25:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peter Webster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Peter Webster

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:25:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas Pintor

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:43:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara C Griffiths	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it is another critical step in protecting Hawaii's hard working residents. Give us a fair chance already. LISTEN to real needs, especially of west Maui citizens--not of special interests. We've been taken advantage of for too long.

Respectfully,

Tamara Griffiths

Lahaina, HI

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:52:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carlos Lamas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Carlos Lamas, a resident of Lahaina and I strongly support SB2908. This bill is vital as it protects tenants from rent hikes during emergencies or severe weather, ensuring housing stability and preventing exploitation during vulnerable times. It's a crucial step towards fair housing practices, especially in areas frequently impacted by natural disasters.

Mahalo for considering my support for SB2908.

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:54:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Annie Franzenburg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help the residents of West Maui as we are at the mercy of a monopoly of power over housing and food. Everything has increased in West Maui except for the salaries. Many longtime residents have been forced to leave the area or the state due to the high cost of living. Please use the emergency powers to protect the those of us who remain from price gouging. These are unprecedented times and we need swift legislation to save West Maui from disappearing altogether.

This situation existed long before the Lahaina fire, however it has been exacerbated by the lack of basic services available on West Maui. I see a humanitarian crisis playing out before my eyes. There are many tents in the parks along the highway now between Lahaina and Ka'anapali. There are hundreds of other homeless people living in the bushes south of Lahaina. It is a comfort to me to know our residents can stay close to their homes, but at what cost? Without regulation, the plague homelessness will define Maui as well as Hawaii for many years to come. Please help us before it is too late.

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:26:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2908. All over Maui, but especially in west Maui, we have seen the devastating effects of rental gouging. Before the fire it was already bad, but after the fire the greed elevated to a whole new level. Obviously people who would do that within our own community during such a tragic time cannot be trusted to self-regulate, so you must do it for them. I trust you will all make the right decision and support this crucial bill. Mahalo

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:07:09 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Keala Fung



**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:34:31 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon K. I'i	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

my name is Shannon I'i kupa of Lahaina for generations directly affected by the August 8th "wildfire " and a concerned member of the Lahaina community. I am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 "wildfires" that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Me ke aloha for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Mahalo nui,

Shannon K. I'i

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:31:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lelaine Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is unconscionable, what has been allowed to happen in these islands. In the biggest picture - how those in power, mostly foreigners, have engaged in or supported or furthered activities which have racial impacts, and are pushing Kanaka Oiwi into diaspora.

If ever there was a time to enact legislation that offers some measure of protection to tenants, ESPECIALLY those displaced by the fire, which is, or should be, your moral duty, it is NOW.

For too long, colonizers have been allowed free reign, and are never held accountable for the damage they have done here to the community.

Let them see and feel some TEETH if they insist on greeding out.

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:56:25 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Virginia Kamohalii-Dew	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing today to express my strong support for bill SB2908, which aims to protect tenants, consumers, and residents from evictions and rental increases during times of signed proclamation or severe weather emergencies. I firmly believe that this bill is an essential step towards ensuring the well-being and stability of our communities and Hawaii as a whole during times of crisis.

It is undeniable that emergencies, whether caused by natural disasters or other unforeseen circumstances, can have devastating impacts on individuals and families. During these vulnerable times, it is crucial that we prioritize the welfare of our fellow citizens over any potential financial gains. By implementing measures to cap greed and prevent unjust evictions and exorbitant rental increases, bill SB2908 will provide much-needed relief and security to those who are most affected.

This legislation demonstrates a clear commitment to upholding moral responsibility and social justice. It recognizes that when faced with emergencies, our focus should be on supporting and protecting our most vulnerable populations, rather than allowing exploitation and profit-driven practices. By enacting this bill, we send a powerful message that our government values commitment, fairness, and the overall well-being of our residents.

Furthermore, bill SB2908 is not only a measure of protection but also a way to foster long-term community resilience. By ensuring that individuals can maintain stable housing and avoid unjust evictions, we create an environment that promotes social cohesion and fosters a sense of belonging. This, in turn, strengthens our communities and enables us to face future emergencies with greater unity and resilience.

In conclusion, I urge you, esteemed members of the Legislature, to support and pass bill SB2908 without delay. By protecting tenants, consumers, and residents from evictions and rental increases during times of emergency we foster a solid foundation of support to our local community. Let us stand together and ensure that greed does not prevail over compassion in times of crisis.

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:05:17 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leonard Nakoa III	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in support of this bill

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:23:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
robin knox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a small business owner I can testify that the lives of my employees and the function of my business was immediately destabilized after the August 8 fires when two of my employees immediately lost their home when landlords required them to leave, in conflict with the Governor's prohibition and tenant landlord code. That and other factors such as no child care available after the fire have had severe economic impact on my business even though we are not reliant on tourism

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:34:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorena Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,  
Lorena Martinez  
Resident of West Maui

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:38:53 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB2908. It is absurd that a bill like this needs to be written and passed, thinking that the humanity in people (landlords) would ensure that they would care for people over profit, keeping the pricing of renting at status quo, or even lowering the cost, following a disaster like the one we have all witnessed. However, we've seen that the humanity of property owners does not exist in the times we are going through, as we are seeing rents prices shooting up to unattainable amounts, simply because the demand for housing is very high.

It is sad that we do need rent control/limits following a disaster, but we do. People affected by a disaster are very vulnerable, losing some, if not all, of their belongings due to the disaster that is totally out of their control. This bill will protect those affected by a disaster from the greed of landlords who are putting profit over people.

While I do support this bill, one suggested amendment I'd like to offer is to Section 2 - 3, to include the following bold addition "...in the area that is the subject of the proclamation or the severe weather warning **and its surrounding areas** if the increase...". I suggest this amendment because while Lahaina was devastated by the wildfire, prohibiting rent increases should apply to the island of Maui, not only the area subject to the proclamation (Lahaina). This way, regardless of how the governor declares the proclamation, the prohibition of rent increases will apply to the areas where victims may be searching for housing.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:41:38 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Patton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a concerned member of the Maui community, writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.



**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:52:48 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:54:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
michelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in agreement with bill SB2908

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:59:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eric Balinbin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Eric Balinbin

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:06:44 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brittany Fleck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Maui community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Brittany Fleck

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:18:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charles Fleck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Maui community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Charles Fleck

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:25:20 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tarsis Rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support bill SB2908.

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:25:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Airabella Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,



Airabella Molina

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:34:41 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nani Dapitan-Haake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2908, a crucial piece of legislation that seeks to protect tenants and residence in our state from undo financial burdens, following severe weather, events, or issuance of an emergency proclamation.

As a concerned, member of our community, I firmly believe that it is essential for our laws to provide stability and security for individuals and families during these times of crisis as we seen with the Lahaina fire. SB 2908, by prohibiting residential rent increases for an unspecified amount of time after a severe storm warning, or the issuance of an emergency proclamation, represents a significant step towards shielding vulnerable populations from potential exploitation and economic hardships in the week of disasters.

The proposed bill acknowledges the need to ensure that tenants and residence are not subjected to sudden and unaffordable rent hikes in the aftermath of a severe weather, event or emergencies. By establishing temporary protections against rent increases, SB2908 aims to alleviate the financial strain on those affected and contribute to the preservation of stable and secure, housing conditions during challenging times.

I firmly believe that supporting SB 2908, is not only a matter of fairness and compassion, but it is also an important step in building, a resilient and equitable society. I urge you to consider the significant positive impact that this Bill can have on our community and to let your support in its passage. Thank you .

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:36:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Yvonne L Alvarado is in support of Bill 2908

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:39:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is needed to prevent the price gouging that we are seeing in rents as a result of the wildfire disaster - something needs to be done

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:47:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Delyon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned resident of Maui, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely, Elizabeth DeLyon

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:52:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kai nishiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:54:03 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mele Balbaugh-Fifita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2908 and I propose to include and revise all "severe weather warning" to the exact terms "all natural disasters".

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:58:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jordan Hocker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Hocker



**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:58:53 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Blossom Jean FLORES	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2908

I am in full support of this bill.

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:01:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support SB2908 -

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:23:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Me ke aloha ‘āina ‘oia‘i‘o,  
Kehau Lucas

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:41:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Nani Be

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:58:35 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alana Reis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I am strongly in support of this bill and others like it that keep unfair price increases from affecting those who survived severe storm and natural disaster events. They would be bolstered and guided to renewal with kindness and patience, and demanding more money from those who have lost more than just property is excessive and unattractively capitalist. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Alana Reis, Aliamanu resident, O'ahu

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:08:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the O'ahu community, am writing to inform you that I am very much endorsing SB2908. Housing has become increasingly urgent in the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step toward providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. Including measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without a prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo, thank you for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Ezgi Green

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:29:05 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kerestin Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2908, a crucial piece of legislation that seeks to protect residents in Hawaii, particularly in areas affected by severe storms or emergency proclamations, from unjust residential rent increases.

The devastating fires that swept through Lahaina serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need to provide safeguards for residents in times of crisis. In the aftermath of such disasters, communities are left reeling, and individuals and families are often left grappling with the dual burdens of property damage and financial strain.

SB2908 is a timely and necessary response to the vulnerabilities exposed by events such as the Lahaina fires. By prohibiting residential rent increases in affected areas for an unspecified period after a severe storm warning or issuance of an emergency proclamation, this legislation offers much-needed protection to residents who may otherwise face exploitation and displacement.

The fires in Lahaina not only caused widespread destruction but also underscored the importance of ensuring that residents are not unfairly burdened with sudden and exorbitant rent hikes in the wake of such emergencies. SB2908 provides a vital safety net for individuals and families who are already grappling with the aftermath of disaster and need stability and security as they work to rebuild their lives.

In light of the devastation witnessed in Lahaina and the ongoing threat posed by natural disasters, SB2908 is a critical measure for protecting the rights and livelihoods of residents across Hawaii. By enacting this legislation, we demonstrate our commitment to supporting our communities and ensuring that no one is left behind in the face of adversity.

I urge you to support SB2908 and take a stand against unjust rent increases in affected areas following severe storms or emergency proclamations. Thank you for considering my testimony in support of this important bill.

Sincerely,  
Kerestin Walker

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:58:42 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jodi Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to provide much needed relief, protection, and support for our Lahaina community.



**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:54:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Allison Daniel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Allison Daniel

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:31:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alisa Hamasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2908 as it will support Lahaina in the current housing crisis and hopefully help improve those who are impacted currently and any other natural events in the future. Residential rent should not be increased after a disaster or an issuance of an emergency proclamation.

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:01:43 PM  
Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicki Tedesco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Nicki Tedesco

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:59:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2908 to protect those of Maui and prohibit residential rent increases for those impacted by the recent events and crisis.

Mahalo

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:58:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Pahnelopi McKenzie



**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:29:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
LISA ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Isoda  
Lahaina, Maui

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:05:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
M. Llanes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Hawai'i community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

MeleLani Llanes

**LATE**

30 January 2024

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned Citizen, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Me ka aloha pumehana,  
Tristen Daniel

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:05:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kiley Adolpho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB2908

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

Sincerely, Kiley Adolpho

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:27:18 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
susan walczak-pol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, a concerned member of the Lahaina community, am writing to express my strong endorsement of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

As a witness to the secondary wave of evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters, I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our community.

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:24:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.



**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:35:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and esteemed members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs,

I am writing to express my strong support of SB2908. In the aftermath of the August 8 wildfires that devastated Lahaina, the need for housing has become increasingly urgent. SB2908, which prohibits residential rent increases in affected areas following a severe storm warning or emergency proclamation, is a crucial step towards providing immediate relief to tenants facing potential eviction and rent hikes.

I have learned of the evictions and instability across Maui post-disasters and I firmly believe that these protections are essential for all tenants, not just those directly impacted by the Lahaina fires. The inclusion of measures preventing landlords from increasing rent without prior written agreement aligns with the urgent advocacy for comprehensive tenant protections.

In supporting SB2908, I urge the legislature to pass this bill swiftly to safeguard the Lahaina community and extend critical protections to tenants throughout the island.

Mahalo for your attention to this pressing matter and your commitment to the well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Young  
Honolulu resident

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:57:09 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosalina Maders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Prohibiting rental increase after disaster protects our interest as tenant and Kānaka Maoli. I support this bill. Mahalo nui loa

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:06:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Taijeron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support and vote yes on SB 2908. We will not forget that Lahaina used to be a wetland and it wasn't until greedy colonizers took and redirected the water that it was vulnerable to fires such as the ones that displaced and killed hundreds of people. We must ensure and it all of our responsibilities to ensure that Lahaina stays Lahaina and its residents remain! Again, please support SB 2908.



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

January 31, 2024

Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**LATE**

Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair

### **Testimony in Support of SB2908**

Chairs Keohokalole and Wakai, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Elefante, and Members of the Committees,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii.

Hundreds of our union members and their family lost their homes in the Lahaina wildfires. Our union has worked to provide what support we can to these working-class families in this impossibly difficult situation. Affordable housing and getting back to work are two key steps needed for Maui families to begin to rebuild their lives.

We are in support of SB2908. The bill will address one of those key building blocks needed for long term recovery. Rental costs were a serious problem for Maui residents even *before* the fire destroyed a significant number of homes in West Maui. It's hard to imagine a scenario where families can rebuild their lives if our government allows predatory rental prices to drain their financial resources. In order to support our 'ohana in their efforts to recover from this disaster, keeping rents from spiraling out of control, as they already have, is of utmost importance. We urge the committees to consider a timeline for these restrictions that allows the community a chance to start building longer-term solutions, because otherwise the problem of inflated rents will come up again before long. Securing fair and reasonable rents will give our Maui ohana the stability and foundation they need to rebuild.

We urge you to pass SB2908.

Thank you for your consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-2908**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:39:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 1/31/2024 9:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Apo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will help longtime local Lahaina residents stay in Lahaina.