

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on  
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325, and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1064, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION

House Bill 1064, House Draft 1 proposes amending the laws concerning the Office of the State Fire Marshal to best implement the recommendations of the "Phase 3" Forward-Looking Report prepared by the Fire Safety Research Institute regarding the August 2023 Maui wildfires. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources provides the following comments on this measure.**

The Department appreciates the intent of this measure, which defines and expands the roles of the State Fire Marshal and redefines the roles of the State Fire Council. By combining the Fire Marshal's enforcement power with the State Fire Council's advisory expertise, Hawai'i will establish a more proactive and effective fire safety framework that aligns with national best practices.

The Department suggests that language be inserted in the measure stating the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) reports directly to the Governor. The OSFM must function as a centralized authority, independent of local jurisdictions but in close collaboration with county and state fire and emergency management departments. Centralized oversight is essential to address systemic risks and ensure consistency across all islands. Reporting directly to the Governor's Office will provide the OSFM with the executive support needed to fulfill its statewide mandate, oversight, and coordination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and comment on this measure.

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



STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

**STEPHEN F. LOGAN**  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA  
  
**PHILLIP L. MALLORY**  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1064 HD1  
RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee:

I am Major General Stephen Logan, Adjutant General and Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense provides written testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1064 HD1**.

This measure adds twenty-nine new sections to chapter 132, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS); adds a new section to part IV of chapter 193, HRS; and amends sections 26-21, 76-16(b), 107-26, 132-1, 132-2, 132-3, 132-4, 132-4.5, 132-5, 132-6, 132-9, 132-10, 132-11, 132-12, 132-13, 132-16, 132-18(c), 170-28, 185-4(a), 291C-1, HRS, and section 2 of Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024. The purpose of this bill is to amend the laws concerning the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to best effectuate the recommendations of the "Phase 3" Forward-Looking Report by Fire Safety Research Institution on the August 2023 Maui wildfires.

In the aftermath of the August 2023 Lahaina wildfires, the Department of the Attorney General initiated an investigation and retained the independent, third-party Fire Safety Research Institute, part of UL Research Institutes, to assess the performance of state and county agencies in preparing for and responding to the August 2023 Maui wildfires.

The investigation led to three reports — a "Phase 1" Comprehensive Timeline report, a "Phase 2" Incident Analysis Report, and a "Phase 3" Forward-Looking Report.

The "Phase 3" Forward-Looking Report organized these findings and provided a prioritized list of action items for the State and all counties for changes to be made to improve Hawaii's response to wildfires. The report calls for changes and improvements to the OSFM, which was established by Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024. Changes included bolstering the statutory authority of the OSFM to address the wide spectrum of fire safety issues and delineating responsibilities and reporting structures between the State Fire Marshal and the State Fire Council; creating an organizational structure to immediately address the State's fire-safety priorities effectively; and substantially increasing the budget for the staffing of the OSFM.

This bill will align the OSFM's mission and responsibilities under the Department of Defense. The State Fire Marshal is currently located in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). DLIR's focus on labor related issues is distinctly different from disaster preparedness and emergency response. The Department of Defense mission aligns with disaster readiness, response coordination and public safety making it a more appropriate location for fire protection and emergency management functions. It further co-locates the State Fire Council (SFC) and the OSFM.

This bill seeks to improve consistency with National Best Practices, such as those of California, Florida and New York, which all house their oversight of fire safety under their emergency management or emergency services divisions. Additionally, it will enhance resource allocation and administrative synergy. The Department of Defense already provides logistical and administrative support for emergency response entities, allowing the SFC and OSFM to leverage existing infrastructure.

The one concern the department has at this time is relative lack of experience and technical expertise in fire management until the OSFM organizational structure is established.

Wildfires are a growing threat and Hawaii's vulnerability to wildfires, as seen in recent events, necessitates a change. Passage of this bill would clarify the role of the State Fire Marshal and facilitate unity of effort with the State Fire Council thereby increasing the readiness and resilience of the State against fire related disasters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MG Stephen F. Logan, [Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov](mailto:Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov); 808-672-1001



# Hawai'i Climate Advisory Team

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

From: The Climate Advisory Team

RE: **HB1064, H.D. 1 - Relating to Fire Protection - In Support**  
Tuesday, February 11, 2:00 p.m.; Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify **in support** of HB1064, H.D. 1 relating to fire protection. The Climate Advisory Team (CAT) believes it is critical to support the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in fulfilling its mission of protecting Hawai'i's residents and improving how the state responds to wildfires.

The CAT is a volunteer group, convened by Governor Green to develop community-informed policy recommendations to help make Hawai'i more resilient to natural disasters. The CAT published its findings and recommendations in a [policy paper](#) in January 2025, which provides detailed context for the measures we are supporting this legislative session.

The devastating 2023 Maui wildfires exposed significant vulnerabilities and inadequacies in our state's ability to prepare for and respond to wildfires. One of our greatest vulnerabilities is that the state does not have a State Fire Marshal. While the Legislature created a fire marshal position in 2024, as of this writing, that person has not yet been hired and does not have any staff, budget, or an office. Establishing a fully functional Hawai'i State Fire Marshal Office was named the second highest priority in the Fire Safety Research Institute's (FSRI) "Phase 3" forward-looking report of actions to improve Hawai'i's response to wildfires.

We are encouraged that this bill was drafted with consideration of the successful models of best practice from other states. The CAT encourages the committee to ensure that, just as these other states have done, our Office of the Fire Marshal is equipped with the ability to maintain oversight and authority on a statewide level. This will provide the consistency of standards and support across all counties which is essential to effective fire protection.

We also agree with the recommendations to strengthen this bill provided by the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization in its testimony to the Committee on Public Safety on January 29, 2025. These recommended changes include, but are not limited to:



## Hawai'i Climate Advisory Team

- **Authority Structure & Departmental Positioning:** Ensure the OSFM has the independence and authority to lead a statewide fire management and safety system. Additionally, it should be housed in a department with expertise in fire management, land stewardship, and community resilience to support integrated, system-wide solutions.
- **Require Fire Data Collection & Management:** Without a structured fire data system, risk assessment, strategic resource allocation, and federal funding eligibility will be significantly hindered.

The magnitude of work required by the Office of the State Fire Marshal cannot be overstated. This office must be supported, expanded, and appropriately resourced to ensure its stability and efficacy. This bill would appropriately clarify the role of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, bolster its ability to address fire safety issues across the state, and improve the organizational structure of the Office of the State Fire Marshal by situating it within the Department of Defense.

The CAT underscores the urgent need for more funding for the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The amount currently allocated for the office is \$172,000 as of the 2024 legislative session; the CAT recommends annual funding of at least \$2 million for the office. The annual funding for the state fire marshal position and the staffed office should be increased substantially in the 2025 legislative session with appropriate long-term funding commitments made. These steps are necessary to fully execute the recommendations made by FSRI and the attorney general and to ensure our state is better equipped to respond to wildfires. Please see [Section 3.2.3 of our Policy Recommendation on Climate Disaster Resilience, Recovery and Funding](#) for more information.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee in support of HB1064 H.D 1.

With aloha,

The Climate Advisory Team



STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

February 10, 2025

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

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2025  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: H.B. 1064 HD1 RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION.**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

The **DLIR strongly supports** this proposal to effectuate the recommendations of the "Phase 3" forward-looking report, including the transfer of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the State Fire Council from the DLIR to the Department of Defense.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

Act 209 (SLH, 2024) established the Office State Fire Marshal within the DLIR. The State Fire Council has been administratively attached to the DLIR since Act 241 (SLH, 1978).

**III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL**

The DLIR believes the public safety of Hawaii's people will be better served and protected by the permanent placement of the State Fire Council and State Fire Marshal to the Department of Defense (DOD). The DLIR focuses on labor-related issues, such as worker well-being and labor-management relations, which are distinct from disaster preparedness and emergency response. The DOD has a mission centered on disaster readiness, response coordination, and public safety, making it a more appropriate home for fire protection and emergency management functions. Moreover, housing fire protection efforts in the DoD aligns fire safety responsibilities with the state's broader emergency response framework.

## **TESTIMONY OF LESLIE DOOR**

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### **COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

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

Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
2:00 p.m.

### **HB 1064, HD1**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, my name is Leslie Door, Director of Product, Risk & Regulatory Compliance for Zephyr Insurance Company and Property Chair for Hawaii Insurers Council. The Hawaii Insurers Council is a non-profit trade association of property and casualty insurance companies licensed to do business in Hawaii. Member companies underwrite approximately forty percent of all property and casualty insurance premiums in the state.

Hawaii Insurers Council (HIC) **supports** this bill with one friendly amendment. HB 1064, HD1 implements Phase 3, a forward-looking report, from the Fire Safety Research Institute, which conducted a study after the Lahaina Wildfires in 2023. We believe this bill adopts measures that will reduce fire risk to our community. Defensible space, assistance for vulnerable persons, and a statewide building code all contribute to a community that is safer from fire.

HIC respectfully requests the language contained in proposed section 132-D(8)(A) on page 7, lines 3-7, be amended to read as follows, so that coordination with the insurance industry is done through the State Insurance Commissioner. The language we suggest would read as follows:

“(8)(A) The insurance commissioner, as defined in Section 431:2-102, regarding insurance policy coverage provisions, underwriting standards, insurance rates, and any other insurance-related topic relevant to enhancing the protection of property from wildfire at a reasonable cost; ...”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**HB 1064 HD1  
Relating to Fire Protection**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

James Abraham  
Associate General Counsel  
Hawaiian Electric

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

My name is James Abraham and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric in support of HB 1064 HD1, Relating to Fire Protection.

Hawaiian Electric supports this bill, which aims to implement safety priorities from the Fire Safety Research Institute Phase 3 Forward-Looking Report. Wildfires and other climate change impacts are whole-of-society issues that must be addressed collectively with a holistic approach by the State, counties, and private sector.

Hawaiian Electric recently submitted its 2025-2027 Wildfire Safety Strategy to the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission, which details Hawaiian Electric's plans to deploy new technology, fortify infrastructure, minimize fire hazards and expand community partnerships to significantly reduce the risk of a wildfire started by its equipment. One aspect of this comprehensive bill is that it would give the State Fire Marshal's office discretionary power to explore additional opportunities to reduce wildfire risk, including engaging with electric utilities regarding further actions to protect public safety, reduce risk to electric company customers, and promote electrical system resilience to wildfire damage. Hawaiian Electric would welcome the opportunity to work



with the State Fire Marshal's office as we continue our work with many State, county, and local stakeholders to create a safer and more resilient Hawai'i.

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric supports HB 1064 HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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

In Consideration of House Bill No. 1064 HD1  
RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION

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

We are writing on behalf of Lahaina Strong, an organization deeply rooted in our community's resilience and advocacy. Originally formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and revitalized after the devastating fires of August 8, 2023, Lahaina Strong has become the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 35,000 supporters. Our mission is to amplify local voices and champion community-driven solutions, which are more critical than ever as we continue rebuilding and recovering.

Lahaina Strong, stands in **full support of House Bill 1064 HD1**, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is essential for outlining the duties and staff responsibilities necessary to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastation of the August 8, 2023, Lahaina wildfires made it painfully clear that our state must take proactive and thorough action to prevent such a tragedy from happening again. Strengthening the Fire Marshal's authority and ensuring proper oversight, enforcement, and mitigation efforts are critical to reducing fire risks across Hawai'i. From land management to fire code enforcement, the Fire Marshal's role is essential in ensuring our communities are protected before disasters strike. We cannot afford to delay—this bill is a necessary step toward a safer, more fire-resilient Hawai'i.

This measure addresses critical gaps in fire protection and coordination. It reflects many of the concerns raised since the tragedy and represents a meaningful step toward ensuring that communities across Hawai'i are better protected. We fully **support House**

**Bill 1064 HD1** and are committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Lahaina Strong



# Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: February 11, 2025

Where: Conference Room 325

## TESTIMONY

By: Kā'eo Duarte

Vice President, 'Āina Pauahi

### **RE: HB1064, HD1, Relating to Fire Protection**

Aloha e nā Luna Ho'omalū Tarnas, nā Hope Luna Ho'omalū Poepoe, a me nā Lālā o nā Kōmike.

Kamehameha Schools appreciates this opportunity to **support** HB1064, HD1.

We are in support of this bill which aims to implement the recommendations in Phase 3 of the Fire Safety Research Institute. As stewards of our 'Āina Pauahi, we mālama this 'āina for the education of Native Hawaiian children in perpetuity. An essential part of this vision is to work with local governments, and the community to ensure the safety of our keiki and kaiāulu.

Founded in 1887 by the legacy of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, Kamehameha Schools (KS) is a private, educational, charitable trust committed to improving the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian people through education. KS envisions a thriving lāhui where learners, grounded in Christian and Hawaiian values, grow into 'ōiwi leaders who inspire and contribute to their communities, both locally and globally.

## Testimony on House Bill 1064 HD1

Feb.10, 2025

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Pickett, and I am the Co-Executive Director of the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **HB1064 HD1, Relating to Fire Protection**. We are pleased to see that this revised version is significantly more aligned with best practices, lessons learned from other states, and the Hawai'i-specific findings and recommendations of the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) in its in-depth analysis of the 2023 Lahaina fires. This version represents a major improvement over the original bill, which had authorities and scope that were counter to both FSRI's analysis and established best practices.

As the last state to establish an Office of the State Fire Marshal, HWMO has engaged extensively with fire marshals from other states to learn from their successes and challenges. Many continue to offer support to ensure we start off effectively. The fire community is highly collaborative, and those partnerships extend to you as you refine this bill.

Our goal is to build on lessons learned, avoid pitfalls, and develop an office that truly meets Hawai'i's needs. We have worked closely with FSRI and state fire marshals from Oregon and Colorado—two states with similar fire risks and home-rule governance. Through these collaborations, we have continuously reviewed this bill against best practices to align with national standards and ensure it sets Hawai'i up for success.

A well-structured Office of the State Fire Marshal can mean the difference between protecting lives, property, resources, and economic stability—or facing further devastating events. Thank you for your consideration.

Key improvements in **HB1064 HD1** include:

- **Fire Marshal Authority & Oversight:** This version establishes clearer, stronger leadership under the State Fire Marshal, in line with FSRI recommendations and other states' models.
- **Fire Code Adoption & Enforcement:** The bill now gives the OSFM a more active role in setting and enforcing fire codes, ensuring consistency and effectiveness across jurisdictions.
- **Fire Investigation & Defensible Space:** With added powers for fire investigation and defensible space enforcement, the OSFM can more effectively mitigate risks and enhance community safety.
- **Wildfire Risk & Community Protection:** This version places greater emphasis on wildfire risk reduction, a critical need in Hawai'i given the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires.
- **State-County Coordination:** It strengthens collaboration between state and county agencies while maintaining necessary oversight and accountability.

While **HB1064 HD1** is a major step forward, we remain committed to refining this bill further to ensure it fully leverages lessons learned from other states. Two key areas that should be strengthened include:

- **Proximity to the Governor:** To be most effective, the OSFM should be positioned closer to the Governor's office, ensuring it has the necessary authority and prioritization within the state's fire management system.
- **Expanded Data Tracking & Mapping:** A structured fire data system, including mapping and trend analysis, is essential for risk assessment, strategic resource allocation, and securing federal funding. Strengthening this aspect will enhance the OSFM's ability to address fire risks comprehensively.

We are providing HWMO's briefing on best practices for Offices of State Fire Marshal, to assist with fine-tuning the bill, as an attachment to this testimony.

For 25 years, HWMO has been working to protect Hawaii's people and places from wildfire through community-based activities, research, mitigation projects, and planning, but the bottleneck has always been a shortage of policy and funding that prioritizes fire safety. We are committed to ensuring we don't lose another town or another life to systemic under-preparedness for wildfire.

**We appreciate the committee's dedication to ensuring the Office of the State Fire Marshal is built for long-term success.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Pickett  
Co-Executive Director  
Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization

# Office of State Fire Marshal

## Getting it Right in Hawai'i: Lessons from Oregon and Colorado State Fire Marshals

A briefing developed by Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization – January 2024

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### Background and Purpose

The Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) recently met with State Fire Marshals (SFM) from Oregon and Colorado to learn from their experiences, successes, and challenges in building and operating effective SFM offices. These states were chosen for their similarities to Hawai'i, particularly in balancing state-level approaches with county home-rule, as well as their proven ability to develop an OSFM that addresses high fire risk across states of complex environmental, economic, and social composition. Discussions included the State Fire Marshals, members of their leadership personnel, attorneys from the Hawai'i Office of the Attorney General, and experts from the Fire Safety Research Institute. These conversations yielded invaluable insights into establishing a functional and impactful Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), including laws and statutes from their states that could serve as models for Hawai'i.

HWMO often conducts background research to support our partners by providing additional resources that enhance their capacity and inform their roles. This briefing document represents one such effort. It summarizes the key recommendations and findings from those discussions, highlighting critical factors to ensure Hawai'i's OSFM is built for success. We share these insights to support decision-makers in laying the foundation for a safer, more resilient state.

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### The Risk is Real, Urgent, and Escalating

#### Why We Need to Get This Right This Legislative Session

- **Rising Risks and Urgency:** Wildfire and fire risks in Hawaii are escalating due to climate change, land-use patterns, and systemic underpreparedness. The devastating fires we've seen are not anomalies—they are a warning that we need to act now to prevent future disasters. Delaying action will only exacerbate these challenges.
  - **Building on Momentum:** The devastating impacts of recent fires- from fireworks to wildfires, have heightened public and political awareness. This is a critical moment to capitalize on that momentum and drive meaningful change.
  - **Safeguarding Communities and Resources:** Immediate legislative action is essential to establish the OSFM, providing the authority and structure needed to protect lives, homes, infrastructure, and natural resources statewide.
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### Overall Strategic Build-Out: Core Elements for Success and Sustainability

- **Clear Vision and Authority:** Align the OSFM's purpose and mandates with the Governor's and public expectations for statewide safety, supported by statutory authority and direct reporting to the Governor.
- **Sustainable Funding and Staffing:** Secure dedicated funding sources (e.g., tourism taxes) and assemble a leadership team, including a State Fire Marshal, regional deputies, and specialists in investigation, wildfire, codes, training, and education.
- **Statewide Programs and Consistency:** Implement initiatives like standardized training, Hawaii-specific wildfire mitigation programs, and mutual aid systems to ensure consistency and effectiveness.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Establish an advisory board of fire chiefs, state agencies, experts, and community representatives to unify efforts and guide priorities.

- **Technology and Standards:** Develop a centralized system for incident reporting and enforce statewide fire codes, integrating land-use planning with prevention, mitigation, and recovery efforts, supported by legislation and incentives.
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## **Key Component 1: Statutory Authority**

### ***Statewide Authority and Oversight by the Governor***

**Statewide Authority:** The OSFM must function as a centralized authority, independent of local jurisdictions but in close collaboration with county and state fire and emergency departments. Centralized oversight is essential to address systemic risks and ensure consistency across all islands.

**Governor's Oversight:** Reporting directly to the Governor's Office provides the OSFM with the executive support needed to fulfill its statewide mandate, oversight, and coordination.

### ***Why Statewide Authority Matters***

- **Consistency in Standards:** Ensures uniform application of fire and building codes, wildfire mitigation standards, and coordination among government and private sectors.
  - **Enhanced Accountability and Coordination:** Aligns the OSFM with statewide safety goals and ensures transparent tracking of progress. Acts as a unifying body to link and coordinate efforts across public and private sectors, state and county agencies, and diverse stakeholders that will be involved or impacted by OSFM initiatives.
  - **Diplomatic Collaboration:** Works closely with county fire departments, leveraging their expertise while maintaining statewide cohesion and a unified approach to fire safety and wildfire mitigation.
- 

## **Key Component 2: Advisory Board Formation**

- **Immediate Action:** Establish a State Fire Marshal Advisory Board as a low-cost, high-impact step to guide the OSFM's vision and strategic priorities over the next 3-5 years. Collaborate carefully with counties and agencies to define roles, avoid conflicts, and ensure seamless implementation, without unduly threatening the authority and efficacy of the OSFM.
  - **Unified Collaboration:** Include county fire chiefs, local governments, policymakers, subject matter experts, and industry representatives to align statewide efforts and priorities, reduce litigation and resistance.
  - **Supportive Role:** The board will pre-vet OSFM initiatives, ensuring smoother implementation and stronger stakeholder backing.
  - **Proactive Outreach:** Focus on educating the public and aligning legislative expectations to build understanding and support for OSFM initiatives.
- 

## **Key Component 3: Comprehensive Fire Safety System (Integrated Systems Approach)**

- **Integrated Solutions Across Systems:** The OSFM's divisions are designed to address the interconnected challenges of wildfire and fire safety, from land-use planning and building standards to climate adaptation and resource management, ensuring all components work together to meet statewide safety needs.
- **Targeted Programs for Specific Needs:** The OSFM implements direct programs like statewide training, wildfire mitigation, defensible space initiatives, and WUI codes, combining technical expertise and enforcement to address specific safety gaps effectively.



**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:47:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

State Fire Marshall will provide insight and actions to educate and keep the public safe

mahalo

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:06:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:14:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie Nogaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for House Bill 1064 HD1

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Jessie Nogaro

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:20:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ananda Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in **full support of House Bill 1064 HD1**, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

I urge your **support for HB1064 HD1** and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Ananda Stone

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:32:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:03:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT for House Bill 1064 HD1

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:26:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT for House Bill 1064 HD1

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Aviva Libitsky

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:16:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SUPPORT for House Bill 1064 HD1**

The fire that tore through Lahaina was not just a tragedy—it was a failure of preparedness, coordination, and response. **House Bill 1064 HD1 is a necessary step toward making sure Hawai‘i never repeats that failure.**

Last year’s creation of the **State Fire Marshal position** was an important move, but a title alone does not protect communities. **HB1064 HD1 ensures that this position has clearly defined duties and responsibilities, giving it the authority and structure needed to make a real impact.** Without this bill, we risk having another empty office instead of a functional system that can **prevent, mitigate, and respond** to wildfires before they become catastrophes.

Hawai‘i cannot afford another disaster like the one in Lahaina. **This bill addresses critical gaps in coordination and preparedness—gaps that cost lives, homes, and an entire town.** We must commit to proactive fire prevention, not just reactive responses when it’s too late.

I urge you to pass **HB1064 HD1** because wildfire prevention is not a matter of if—it’s a matter of when. The people of Hawai‘i deserve better protection, and this bill is a step toward that reality.

Mahalo for your time and your commitment to ensuring that Lahaina’s loss is not in vain.

**De Andre Makakoa**



**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:47:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Support for House Bill 1064 HD1**

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

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds upon the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year by clearly defining the duties and responsibilities necessary to ensure the office's effectiveness in preventing and mitigating wildfires across Hawai'i.

The tragic fire in Lahaina underscored the urgent need for enhanced fire prevention and response efforts statewide. HB1064 HD1 addresses critical gaps in coordination and preparedness, aligning with many concerns raised since the incident. This measure is a vital step toward better protecting communities throughout the state.

I respectfully urge your support for HB1064 HD1 to ensure that tragedies like the one in Lahaina are not repeated elsewhere in Hawai'i.

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

Kara Kiernan

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:35:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.**

**The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.**

**We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.**

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

**Me ke aloha ‘āina,**

**Kristy**

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:49:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SUPPORT for House Bill 1064 HD1**

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

I am writing in **full support of House Bill 1064 HD1**, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your **support for HB1064 HD1** and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Pahnelopi McKenzie

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 5:00:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai'i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai'i.

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

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:07:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazuo Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm in full support of Bill HB1064 HD1

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:34:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai'i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai'i.

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

Paul Carter

201 River Rd.

Wailuku, Hawaii

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:43:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas (Cards) Pintor

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:44:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Surace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for House Bill 1064 HD1

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Sincerely

Deborah Surace



**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:53:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

I urge you to support HB1064 HD1 to ensure that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Elizabeth Winternitz, Kula, Maui

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:56:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Sierra Mcveigh

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:59:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hi'ilani Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year.

This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities required in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fires in Kula and Lahaina made it clear that Hawai'i must take critical and urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts.

This bill addresses the gaps in fire mitigation and preparedness.

This bill is a step towards ensuring communities across the state are well protected.

Mahalo for your time,

Hi'ilani Luke

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:08:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Kelcy Durbin

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:18:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

**I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.**

**The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai'i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.**

**We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai'i.**

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

**HB-1064-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:29:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for House Bill 1064 HD1

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

I am writing in full support of House Bill 1064 HD1, which builds on the progress made with the establishment of the State Fire Marshal position last year. This bill is critical in defining the duties and responsibilities needed to ensure the office is effective in preventing and mitigating wildfires statewide.

The devastating fire in Lahaina made it clear that Hawai‘i must take urgent steps to strengthen fire prevention and response efforts. HB1064 HD1 addresses key gaps in coordination and preparedness, reflecting many of the concerns raised since the tragedy. This measure is a necessary step toward ensuring communities across the state are better protected.

We urge your support for HB1064 HD1 and remain committed to ensuring that what happened in Lahaina never happens elsewhere in Hawai‘i.

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

Noelani Ahia