



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
March 15, 2023  
Re: HB 159 HD1 RELATING TO LIQUOR LICENSES**

Good morning, Chair Keohokalole and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

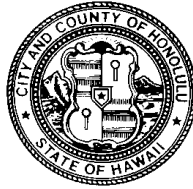
We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 159 HD1. This measure exempts the notarization requirement for renewals of liquor licenses. Effective 6/30/3000.

It is our understanding that in the initial process to apply for a license, notary is required. Once the license is approved, we question why it would need to be notarized again for renewal purposes? Notary is not free and there is also a cost with the time a person spends to have to obtain a notarized document. This measure would help to streamline the process, especially when it comes to the renewal of licenses.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**LIQUOR COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

711 KAPIOLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 600, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5249  
PHONE (808) 768-7300 • FAX (808) 768-7311  
INTERNET ADDRESS: [www.honolulu.gov/liq](http://www.honolulu.gov/liq) • E-MAIL: [liquor@honolulu.gov](mailto:liquor@honolulu.gov)



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DILLON HULLINGER  
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ADMINISTRATOR

ANNA C. HIRAI  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Commerce and  
Consumer Protection  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 229  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 159 HD1  
Relating to Liquor Licenses

The Liquor Commission, City and County of Honolulu (Commission), appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of the above-referenced measure.

License applications must be notarized when they are first submitted. Once a licensee has been approved, it seems unnecessary to require notarization on a license renewal application when the licensee is already licensed, in the system, and known to the particular liquor commission. The notarization of renewal applications was added as part of last year's Act 76 (SLH 2022), and we believe that was in error. In addition to being unnecessary, the notarization requirement will hinder the counties' efforts to switch to digital/electronic renewal of licenses. It is reasonable to get the assurances represented by a notarized signature when an individual or entity is making an initial license application or seeks to transfer the license to an applicant – it makes less sense once the individual or entity is already a licensee and simply seeks to renew the license.

We **support** the clarification of the notarization requirement as the HD1 currently reads, which appropriately retains the requirement for new and transfer applications but eliminates the requirement from renewal applications.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 159 HD1.

Sincerely,

Anna C. Hirai  
Assistant Administrator

ACH:

# DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL

LEO SANDOVAL-REYES., DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## Testimony of Leo Sandoval-Reyes Director of Liquor Control, County of Kaua'i

Before the  
**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**  
March 15, 2023, at 10:00 am  
Room 229 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HB 159 HD1**  
**Relating to Liquor Licenses**

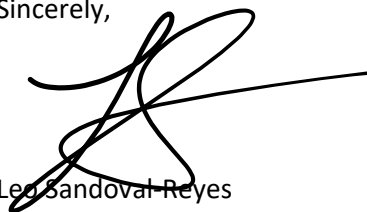
Honorable Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Fukunaga, and Committee Members:

The County of Kaua'i would like to **strongly support** HB159 HD1 which exempts the notarization requirement for renewals of liquor licenses.

Currently, the County of Kaua'i Department of Liquor Control is transitioning to a digital format to process renewals of existing license. Allowing the notarization to remain as currently written as a requirement for renewals would considerably hinder our efforts in expediting processing of renewal application. The requirement is appropriate for new license applications and for transfers, however it would be unnecessary for any renewals.

Thank you for your consideration to provide comments in **strong support** of HB159 HD1.

Sincerely,



Leo Sandoval-Reyes

Director

**HB-159-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 9:29:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/15/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justin Guerber	Testifying for Kauai Beer Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support HB 159 HD1 which would remove the requirement for notarization of liquor license renewals. We feel the requirement of a notary for annual license renewals is onerous, and unnecessary, since licensees are already in the liquor control system.

**HB-159-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:03:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/15/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Kerns	Testifying for Big Island Brewhaus LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We feel this is a wise administrative choice in simplifying the process while still maintaining integrity on all applications.

**HB-159-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 3:10:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/15/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jim Guerber	Testifying for Kauai Beer Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it eliminates notary.

**HB-159-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:05:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/15/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Geoffrey Seideman	Testifying for Honolulu BeerWorks	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

# CRAFT *Ohana*

March 14, 2023

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
HB159 HD1 Relating to Liquor Licenses

Re: **IN SUPPORT OF HB159 HD1**

Aloha Chair Senator Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Fukunaga, and members of the Committee,

My name is Garrett W. Marrero, I live in Kihei, HI. Maui Brewing Co. has locations on Maui in Lahaina and Kihei, and on Oahu in Waikiki and Kailua. We distribute across the Hawaii, 23 other States, and 4 countries. We began in 2005 with 26 team members and have added more than 400 team members across Hawaii. I was selected as the National Small Business-Person of the year in 2017 for my work at Maui Brewing Co.

I am writing on behalf of myself and our local family-operated business in support of **HB159 HD1** which eliminates the need to notarize liquor department documents thereby streamlining the process for local business owners to apply for and maintain their licenses.

I can tell you countless stories personally of issues with errors made on documents whether due to our own mistake but many due to liquor department errors where documents had to be wet signed and notarized several times before acceptance by the department, some for as little as missing a comma, or including one, on an application. At \$10-\$20 per notary signature this can add up for a small business. Add to this the delays and extra costs when a signer is off-island and must use next day shipping to receive and send back notarized documents. Recently we had this same situation occur and the single document cost us nearly \$200 by the time it was finalized.

Generally, a Notary Public's role is to prevent fraud and make sure that a person who executes a document does it out of their own free will and voluntarily. Given the arduous process of receiving a liquor license in Hawai'i, I believe this should not be a concern. The amount of personal identification and history of applicants including fingerprints and background checks ensures that the person(s) applying indeed are aware of the application and are submitting it of their own free will. Please help make Hawai'i more pro-business and support small businesses by eliminating this useless extra step.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support of the passage of **HB159 HD1**.

Sincerely,



Garrett W. Marrero  
CEO/Founder

**MAUI**  
HARD SELTZER

*Modern  
Times*  
BEER

**MAUI**  
BREWING CO

*Modern  
Times*  
COFFEE

**KUPU**  
— SPIRITS —



**HB-159-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:30:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/15/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pat Korn	Testifying for Waikiki Brewing	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Waikiki Brewing supports this bill to help employ Hawaiians and support our local economy.  
Thank you for your time.

Pat Korn

Brewmaster

**HB-159-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:21:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/15/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support HB159\_HD1 to no longer require notarization for renewal of a liquor license. The holder of a liquor license has already gone through the many steps required to apply for and receive approval for the license. Once issued, the renewal process should be less difficult and and less onerous, and not have a burdensome additional requirement of notarization.