

**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 HOUSE BILL 315 HD1  
RELATING TO FLOODING

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

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and members of the committee:

I am James Barros, Administrator of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

HI-EMA provides written testimony to **OFFER COMMENTS** on HB315 HD1.

This measure would appropriate moneys as grants-in-aid to the counties for flood risk mitigation on privately owned roads which are used by the public.

Flooding can cause damages and disrupt the lives and livelihoods of Hawai'i's residents. As an all-hazard agency, HI-EMA encourages efforts that help mitigate the effects of hazards faced by Hawai'i and its residents, which would include the risk of flooding to private roads used by the public. We broadly support initiatives to mitigate risk, improve the state's resiliency and better protect its people.

The agency notes that the stated purpose of the appropriation to mitigate flood risk is closely aligned with the existing hazard mitigation activities by the State and Counties. HI-EMA respectfully requests that the committee consider adding language to encourage that spending from this appropriation should be aligned with the framework of hazard mitigation activity.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the administration's executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee



Director of Council Services  
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

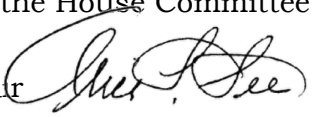
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Deputy Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 13, 2023

TO: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB 315, HD1, RELATING TO FLOODING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to provide money to counties for flood-risk mitigation on privately owned roads.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Money from the grant-in-aid would support the maintenance and upkeep of private roads that are frequently used by first responders for emergencies and school buses that transport students.
2. Recent storms and heavy floods to Maui County have caused roads to flood, further resulting in economic damages to residences and businesses.
3. It is in the public's interest to ensure the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists by improving these roads.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

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**HB-315-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 3:46:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/14/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support