

CRAFT *Ohana*

February 26, 2023

House Committee on Finance
HB1458 HD1 Relating to Liquor Licenses
Monday, February 27th, 2023 at 11:30am, Conference Room 308

Re: **IN SUPPORT OF HB1458 HD1**

Aloha Chair Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair Representative Kitagawa, 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 **HB1458 HD1** which expands the barrelage limitation on production of beer. In fact, if any amendments would be considered I would recommend that no limits would be placed on the amount a producer could make. Instead of raising the limits, we should REMOVE the limits!

As I write this testimony I continue to ask myself "Why in the world does a limit exist on how much beer a local brewer can brew?". This is a question no legislator, lawmaker, or industry member has ever been able to answer effectively. The one answer I've ever gotten 'because that's the way it's always been that way'. I propose that this is not a good reason.

When I first began fighting for change in beer back in 2005 I spoke about creating an industry here in Hawai'i that had never existed. There we 6 breweries then, 2 failed shortly after and as we were able to amend laws (growlers, barrelage limits, license classes, abilities, etc) breweries began to open. Currently Hawai'i boasts 30 breweries with more in planning, we've collectively been able to put Hawai'i on the map of "craft beer" and a vibrant "beer tourism" exists within our State that supports local agriculture endlessly.

Supporting this bill does nothing more than allows us all to continue to grow, hire, support, and ultimately pay more in taxes as we produce more beverages. Keeping in mind for anyone in opposition that limiting our growth does nothing to limit alcohol sales but instead forces the consumer to pick mainland and foreign produced beverages rather than locally made ones.

Mahalo in advance for passing **HB1458 HD1**.

Sincerely,


Garrett W. Marrero
CEO/Founder

MAUI
HARD SELTZER

*Modern
Times*
BEER

MAUI
BREWING CO

*Modern
Times*
COFFEE

KUPU
— SPIRITS —

HB-1458-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 9:03:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Haumschild	Lanikai brewing Company	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We fully support HB1458 as it lifts the production cap on output of Class 18 licensees, This allows more made in Hawaii products, and allows those licensees to grow therefore paying more in taxes as a per unit bases, hire more local people and strengthen our economy. Since nearly 95% of all alcohol is imported to Hawaii, this helps our local manufacturing sector grow!

HB-1458-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 10:13:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Geoffrey Seideman	Honolulu BeerWorks	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!