

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

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

**Senate Committees on Government Operations and Labor and Technology**

Thursday, February 15, 2024

3:10 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

**With Comments**

**S.B. No. 2979, Relating to Lahaina Wildfire Recovery**

Chairs McKelvey and Aquino, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and members of the Senate Committees on Government Operations and Labor and Technology:

The Office of the Governor offers the following comments on S.B. No. 2979, Relating to Lahaina Wildfire Recovery.

The Maui wildfire resulted in loss of life, homes, property, infrastructure, businesses, and natural and cultural resources. This tragic incident compels the State of Hawai'i to plan effectively for recovery and expand our resiliency capacity and capability. Innovative solutions are essential to supporting these efforts.

This bill would establish the Lahaina Recovery Oversight Commission within the Department of Accounting and General Services to oversee and guide the recovery of Lahaina from the 2023 wildfires and appropriate funds.

The State of Hawai'i State Disaster Recovery Coordinator has the role of coordinating and planning for recovery and resiliency efforts for the Maui Wildfire impacts in support of the County of Maui. This contrasts with emergency response which is led by HI-EMA under Emergency Support Functions.

Last fall the Governor identified seven Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) and their corresponding State Leads. The RSFs include: Natural Resources & Cultural Resources RSF coordinated by Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources; Community Planning and Capacity Building RSF coordinated by Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Housing RSF coordinated by Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation; Infrastructure RSF coordinated by Hawai'i Department of Transportation; Economic RSF coordinated Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; Public Health & Healthcare Services RSF coordinated by Hawai'i State Department of Health; and Social

Testimony of Office of the Governor  
S.B. No. 2979  
February 15, 2024  
Page 2

Services RSF coordinated by Hawai'i Department of Human Services. These RSFs and their state leads have been working closely with County of Maui, federal partners, and private organizations.

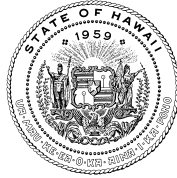
This approach—a State Coordinator coupled with RSFs—is consistent with the National Disaster Recovery Framework, a FEMA structure and process developed from the collective experience of disaster recovery managers nationwide. While the Office of the Governor is open to this concept identified in this potential legislation, we would ask the Chair to include the roles of the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator and RSFs in any new structure established to support the Maui Fires Recovery and Resiliency Efforts.

The potential legislation could be considered as long as there is no negative fiscal impact on the executive budget package.

If you have any questions on the role of State Disaster Recovery Coordinator or the State RSFs, we ask that you contact Luke Meyers, State Disaster Recovery Coordinator for further information and a dialog on this proposal during the legislative session.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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



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**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ**  
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE COMMITTEES ON  
  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY**

FEBRUARY 15, 2024, 3:10 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL  
S.B. 2979

RELATING TO LAHAINA WILDFIRE RECOVERY.

Chairs McKelvey and Aquino, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2979.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the intent and offers **comments** on S.B. 2979 which establishes the Lahaina Recovery Oversight Commission within DAGS to oversee and guide the recovery of Lahaina from the 2023 wildfires and requires the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to assist in establishing a website for the Commission.

DAGS is committed to assisting with the recovery of Lahaina and defers to testimony provided by the Office of the Governor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.