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Thomas Kerns  
President / Brewmaster  
Big Island Brewhaus

SB 2835  
Position: **Support**

My name is Thomas Kerns and I am the owner and brewmaster of Big Island Brewhaus. We are an independent craft brewery and restaurant producing 100% of our beer in Hawaii. We are united with other members of the Hawaii Craft Brewery Community in our pursuit to promote economic activity and growth for Hawaii's beer manufacturers and enhance opportunities in our communities.

Our brewery along with the other member breweries of the Hawaiian Craft Brewers Guild embrace the responsible consumption of alcohol.

We support and are in favor of this legislation and feel the simplification of acquiring a temporary liquor license for special events helps organizations comply with the requirements needed and necessary to stage worthy events that are allowed by law. Simplification and streamlining will also save the County labor cost in trying to comply with unnecessary requirements.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Kerns*  
President / Brewmaster  
Big Island Brewhaus



2 February 2026

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony in Support w/Comments of SB2835

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

My name is Garrett W. Marrero, and I live in Kihei, Hawai'i. I am the CEO and Co-Founder of Maui Brewing Co., operating locations in Kaanapali, and Kihei on Maui, and Waikiki and Kailua on Oahu. Now sold in 6 States and 2 Countries, employing more than 500 teammates across Hawai'i. I am submitting this testimony in **SUPPORT** on **SB2835**, which strengthens penalties for driving under the influence.

Apologies that I cannot be there in person today as I'm testifying at another hearing on HB1911 that would have extremely negative impacts to our State.

This bill makes sensible improvements to the liquor licensing process for counties with populations between 100,000 and 200,000. Allowing Class 10 special licenses for fundraising events to move forward without additional fire clearances, permitting electronic application submissions, and allowing one application to cover events across multiple parcels owned by the same organization are all practical changes that reduce unnecessary red tape while keeping public safety intact.

More broadly, SB2835 reminds us that Hawai'i's liquor system could benefit from a larger modernization effort. Streamlining processes and speeding up license and permit reviews would be a big win for nonprofits, small businesses, and county staff alike. I would also encourage the Legislature to directly involve the Liquor Directors from the impacted counties in these conversations, as they are closest to the day-to-day realities and are generally aligned with these improvements.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this testimony.

Sincerely,

Garrett W. Marrero  
CEO/Founder

**Handcrafted Ales & Lagers Brewed with Aloha**  
605 Lipoa Parkway, Kihei, HI 96753  
808.213.3002

**LATE**

**SB-2835**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:45:29 PM  
Testimony for EIG on 2/3/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Haumschild	Testifying for Lanikai Brewing Company LLC DBA Lanikai Spirits	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and member of the committee,

We are in SUPPORT of this bill and the changes and simplifications it will drive to the Class 10 special license category. This will remove un-necessary red tape and allow a smoother process.

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LATE

**SB-2835**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:47:41 PM  
Testimony for EIG on 2/3/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
snehal Patel	Testifying for LahainaTown Action Committee	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2835**  
Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
February 3, 2026 | 3:01 PM

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sne Patel, and I'm testifying in support of SB2835.

Before serving on the Maui County Liquor Commission, I worked for many years in restaurants and bars. I know firsthand how liquor licensing affects daily operations — not just on paper, but in real life. Today, serving on the Commission, I also see the other side of the counter: a department doing its best with limited staff, outdated rules, and processes that haven't kept up with how businesses and nonprofits actually operate.

I also serve as President of the LahainaTown Action Committee, and through that role I see, up close, how burdensome the application and renewal process can be for licensees — especially small businesses and nonprofits that are already stretched thin. Many applicants are doing everything right, yet still get stuck navigating duplicative requirements, unclear timelines, and paperwork that hasn't changed in decades. Any modernization that can be done at the state level to streamline these processes, I am fully supportive of.

SB2835 moves us in the right direction.

The bill's provisions allowing electronic filing, removing fire-related clearances where they don't add value, and allowing one application for multi-parcel fundraising events reflect how these events actually function. For nonprofits in particular, many events are the same year after year — same location, same setup, same purpose — yet they're required to start from scratch every time. That doesn't improve safety; it just creates delays and frustration for volunteers and staff.

I also want to highlight the importance of increasing the portion of fine revenue that can be used for education and enforcement. If we want better compliance, we need to invest in training, clearer guidance, and outreach — both for department staff and for licensees. Modernizing the

rules only works if the people administering them and the people subject to them are supported and informed.

From both my professional background and my role on the Liquor Commission, I strongly believe that modernizing our liquor laws and administrative processes should be a priority. SB2835 is a practical step in that direction, and I appreciate the Legislature's willingness to take a common-sense, real-world look at how these systems actually work.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Sne Patel  
President, LahainaTown Action Committee

**LATE**

**SB-2835**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:18:28 PM  
Testimony for EIG on 2/3/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tambara Garrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Stanley Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2835.

Nonprofit organizations across Hawai‘i are working harder than ever to meet growing community needs. Fundraising events are essential tools that allow nonprofits to continue providing services, programs, and direct community support. This bill recognizes that reality and removes barriers that can make hosting these events unnecessarily difficult.

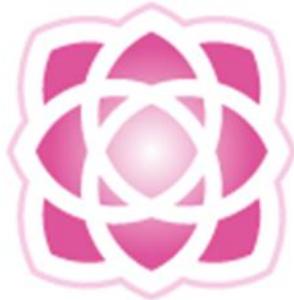
Exempting 3-day temporary Class 10 fundraising liquor licenses from fire-related clearance requirements in applicable counties helps eliminate duplicative steps that can delay or discourage small community events. Allowing applications to be submitted electronically is a long overdue modernization that improves access, especially for neighbor island organizations, and reduces administrative strain on both applicants and county staff. Permitting a single application to cover events that span multiple parcels under the same ownership also reflects how many community venues actually operate.

Increasing the portion of liquor commission fines that may be used for public liquor education and enforcement programs further strengthens responsible practices while ensuring resources are reinvested into public safety.

SB2835 strikes a thoughtful balance between oversight and practicality. Most importantly, it helps nonprofits focus less on paperwork and more on serving Hawai‘i’s communities, which is especially important at this time.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Tambara Garrick  
Resident of Lahaina, Maui



**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026 AT 3:01 P.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs

**SUPPORT SB2835 RELATING TO LIQUOR**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of policies that enable small businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations to operate efficiently and contribute to Hawai'i's social and economic fabric.

The proposed exemption from fire-related clearance requirements for 3-day temporary liquor licenses (class 10 special licenses) in certain counties streamlines the permitting process for fundraising events. This change reduces administrative burdens and costs for organizations hosting these events, many of which are small nonprofits or local businesses. By allowing electronic submission of applications and enabling a single application to cover events across multiple parcels, the bill further modernizes and simplifies compliance, making it more accessible for community stakeholders to participate in fundraising and hospitality activities.

We believe these measures will strengthen the economic and social contributions of fundraising and hospitality events. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide support of SB2835.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.