

SCR-74

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 9:13:38 AM

Testimony for PBS on 4/15/2026 10:30:00 AM

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Date & Time
Apr 15, 2026, 9:53 am

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elle Cochran	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Water and Land Committee,

I am in Strong Support of SCR74. I am testifying as a Lahaina Fire Survivor who continues to struggle with the the Governments decisions made under Emergency Proclamations after August 8,2023.

My focus is on the Ka la'i Ola (KLO) State project. Procurements Codes were waived which per Department of Human Services (DHS) it allowed the State to hire unlicensed and unqualified contractors to manage and build out the project.

One example of many, due to incompetency or lack of professional expertise, are the detention Basins for the project during the latest Kona Storms which failed resulting in the evacuation of downstream residents. This could have resulted in loss of life and property. Just the idea of such a situation is scary and triggering to those of us who continue to live the day to day trauma and PTSD of surviving the worst fire in our Nations History. I have asked for a follow up on mitigation efforts that have gone unanswered.

KLO has had four deaths and a fire occur to best of my knowledge thus far. As residents of the project are afraid of speaking up about things for fear of retaliation like eviction. A close friend and fellow church member lived there who asked questions and had ligimate complaints was sent an official Letter from the Governors office stating that he was at risk for eviction due to unsubstantiated reasons. This gentleman who barely escaped the fire in downtown Lahaina and was on the waitlist for DHHL has since passed from lung cancer which myself and ohana believe was exacerbated by the fire and stress he was put under during his final days.

I haven't gotten any confirmation that there are Police Reports on the four deaths . Due to units installed backwards, sewer has backd up into uints and tenants have had to cover drains with towels to keep sewer and smells out of their units that have no venting systems. My request for Department of Health (DOH) to do an Air Quality testing for possibly methane which can kill when inhaled and water quality testing since I was told of complaints that a strong chemical smell not cholrine comes out of the tap have also been ignored. The fire that occurred has been described by Maui Fire Department as Cause undetermined. We who went through the worst fire want to know that another fire wont happen again! Knowing the cause is important in order to avoid another. The fire department claims that they don't have oversight on private developments yet KLO isn't private it's a State project.

The unlicensed, unqualified company NanoNest Hawaii Forest Dell I believe hired the subcontractors like the plumbers, electricians, masons, etc. Till today there many of these sub contractors who have gone unpaid for their work and are stuck in litigation. These are mom and pop style companies that can't afford to deal with this.

My reason for speculating is this entire project has not been open to divulging specifics of the contracts of the projects and forthcoming with information. I am told this is the reason why an audit of DHS and the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing (SOHHS) which was due beginning of this Session (Jan 2026) hasn't been done yet. There needs to be more teeth put into that a Report slated for a Date Certain Has to happen because in this case the entity SOHHS is asking for blank amounts of money during this Session without a final report by the Auditors on them. It's wrong to give them more money without a clean audit.

Bottomline is emergency decisions were made to cut costs and expedite housing only to prove that taxpayer dollars were not saved, people who came to do good work were fired and the end results have been detrimental in many ways to the community.