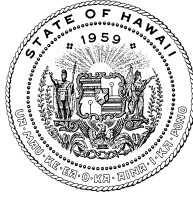


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of

DEAN MINAKAMI

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

April 07, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 411

In consideration of

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 140, HOUSE DRAFT 1 / HOUSE RESOLUTION 132, HOUSE DRAFT 1

URGING STATE AGENCIES THAT OWN OR CONTROL LAND IN WEST MAUI TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE AGGRESSIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FUEL REDUCTION, DEFENSIBLE SPACE, AND EMERGENCY ACCESS MEASURES TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK TO LAHAINA AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC **supports with comments** HCR140, HD1 / HR132, HD1, which urges state agencies that own or control land in West Maui to implement and enforce aggressive vegetation management, fuel reduction, defensible space, and emergency access measures to reduce wildfire risk to Lahaina and surrounding communities.

As noted in the measure, HHFDC controls substantial lands in the Lahaina area, including the Villages of Leialii, which encompass roughly 1,128 acres of state-owned land mauka of the Lahaina Civic Center.

Public safety is of utmost importance to HHFDC. We recognize the urgency of reducing hazardous vegetation and strengthening defensible space around residential communities, temporary housing areas for wildfire survivors, schools, and major evacuation routes. We are committed to working closely with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, DLNR, DHHL, DOE, DAGS, County of Maui, and other partners to meet the expectations set forth in this resolution. Also, this effort will align with the recommendations of the Hawaii Wildlife Management Organization and the Fire Safety Research Institute.

Since the 2023 wildfires, HHFDC has expanded firebreaks on our lands in Lahaina that border developed lands. We note, however, that maintenance of the firebreaks comes at additional cost, and implementing additional measures such as ground clearing and wide-scale vegetation

management would require substantial dedicated funding and possibly additional field personnel and contract management staff.

With appropriate resources, HHFDC is prepared to support the full scope of the directives of this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.