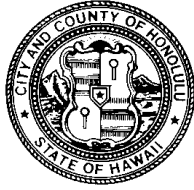


**LIQUOR COMMISSION**  
**KOMIKINA KĀKA‘AHI WAI ‘ONA**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

711 KAPI‘OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 600, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5249  
PHONE (808) 768-7300 • FAX (808) 768-7311  
WEBSITE: [honolulu.gov/liq](http://honolulu.gov/liq) • E-MAIL: [liquor@honolulu.gov](mailto:liquor@honolulu.gov)



RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

JEFFREY HONG  
CHAIRPERSON  
LĀLĀ

DILLON HULLINGER  
VICE CHAIRPERSON  
HOPE LĀLĀ

KEVIN SAKAMOTO  
VICE CHAIRPERSON  
HOPE LĀLĀ

EDMUND K.B. HYUN  
COMMISSIONER  
KOMIKINA

ROBERT CUNDIFF  
COMMISSIONER  
KOMIKINA

-----  
ADMINISTRATOR  
LUNA

ANNA C. HIRAI  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
HOPE LUNA

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 329  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi and Vice Chair Grandinetti:

**SUBJECT: Strong Support** for SB2835 SD1 HD1 Relating to Liquor

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony of the Liquor Commission, City and County of Honolulu (HLC), in **strong support** for Senate Bill 2835 SD1 HD1 Relating to Liquor.

In the 2026 session HLC was prepared to testify in strong support for House Bill 1901 Relating to Liquor Licenses. Briefly, HLC has supported a proposed amendment that would extend the use of the Class 10 Special license for off-premises consumption sales for the past three sessions, with House Bill 2209 in 2024, House Bill 1364 in 2025, and House Bill 1901 this year. At the March 20, 2026 hearing of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, the Committee Chair determined that this off-premises function should be subject to further discussion and consideration in the future so was not included in the HD1.

House Bill 1901 proposed a second important change. For at least the past 40 years, HLC has approved the use of the Class 10 Special license to provide alcohol sales and service for sporadic and non-permanent use, which included both for profit entities (mainly event planners) and non-profit entities (fundraising of various types). This dual use was authorized by the "on any occasion" language contained in the license class description. The changes introduced in [Act 168 \(SLH 2008\)](#) were intended to reduce procedural requirements for non-profit use but was not intended to eliminate the use of the Class 10 Special by for profit entities.

Recently, the use of the Class 10 Special license by for profit entities has been questioned. The clarification provided by the HD1 confirmed that many well-known and respected event planning entities would not lose the ability to offer alcohol service at the events they are hired to produce. The subtle revision in the HD1 confirms the dual use of the Class 10 Special license, without any impediment to use by non-profit organizations, political candidates, and political parties for fundraising purposes.

Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
March 30, 2026  
Page 2

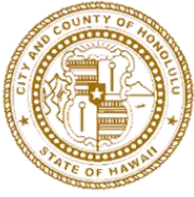
Additionally, HLC has a highly publicized license application backlog that prevents a license being approved for issuance or transfer faster than an approximate 12-month wait. We have found that some of these applicants have found a new use for the Class 10 Special license by applying for extended use of the Special license in order to open for business far sooner than a 12-month or longer wait. While this use of the Special license is very expensive, the ability to open for business at the earliest opportunity outweighs the increased expense for these users.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our **strong support** for Senate Bill 2835 SD1 HD1. Fortunately, the placement of the HD1 language in no way negatively impacted the law changes also contained in Senate Bill 2835, as we would not want to impede the relief sought for neighbor island non-profits.

Sincerely,

Anna C. Hirai  
Assistant Administrator

ACH:



**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**  
**KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU**  
530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

**TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM**  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 6  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5006  
FAX: (808) 768-1176  
EMAIL: [tdossantos-tam@honolulu.gov](mailto:tdossantos-tam@honolulu.gov)

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 2:00 PM  
**SB2835 SD1 HD1** Testimony in Support

Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Grandinetti & Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

I write in support of **SB2835, SD1, HD1**, and the Honolulu Liquor Commission's recommended amendments specifically those clarifying statutory authority for the issuance of for-profit Class 10 Special Licenses. These licenses play a vital role in supporting Hawai'i's local service industry.

The Honolulu Liquor Commission has exercised authority to issue for-profit Special Licenses since 1969 and has done so consistently since 2008, granting more than 500 licenses covering over 11,000 days of continuous service. These licenses have supported a wide range of businesses, from restaurants and bars to major events such as the Sony Open.

With the average processing time for a new or transferred liquor license now exceeding 12 months, Special Licenses serve as an essential bridge, ensuring businesses are not forced to suspend alcohol service while awaiting permanent licensure. Clarifying statutory authority for for-profit Class 10 licenses eliminates legal ambiguity that could otherwise expose both the Commission and local businesses to adverse judicial outcomes.

As a Councilmember, I support the Commission's requested amendments to this measure. These changes are particularly important for businesses in my district—including Chinatown, Downtown, and Kaka'ako—where restaurants, bars, and hospitality establishments are central to the economic vitality of these neighborhoods.

The Commission also proposed an amendment regarding the allowance of off-premise alcohol consumption at temporary events. While there are potential benefits—including additional revenue opportunities for nonprofits and event organizers, increased convenience for attendees, and broader economic support for local distributors and producers—this proposal warrants further discussion. Considerations related to public safety, impacts on existing off-premise license holders, and the appropriate regulatory framework deserve careful evaluation by all stakeholders. I look forward to revisiting this issue in a future legislative session.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2835.

Aloha,

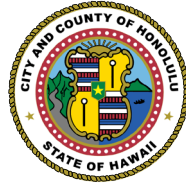
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Dos Santos-Tam".

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam  
Councilmember, District 6  
Honolulu City Council

**LIQUOR COMMISSION**  
**KOMIKINA KĀKA‘AHI WAI ‘ONA**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
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DILLON HULLINGER  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
EDMUND K.B. HYUN  
COMMISSIONER  
ROBERK CUNDIFF  
COMMISSIONER

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
State House of Representatives, Room 423  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813  
**SUBJECT: Strong Support SB2835\_SD1\_HD1**

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee,

The Commissioners of the Honolulu Liquor Commission are in unanimous support of SB2835-SD1\_HD1. We strive to support our For-Profit and Non-Profit organizations with Class 10 licenses.

Since the 1969 Liquor Policy study, County Liquor Commissions have had general authority to issue special licenses (formerly Class 8). Honolulu is the only county that actively grants Class 10 licenses to for-profit businesses. In [Act 168 of 2008](#), a “cleanup” bill, language was added to provide for free Class 10 Licenses to non-profits and to allow them to distribute for off-premise consumption.

**Pre-2008 Class 10**

*(j) Class 10. Special license. A special license may be granted for the sale of liquor for a period not to exceed three days on any occasion and under any conditions as may be approved by the commission.*

**Present Class 10**

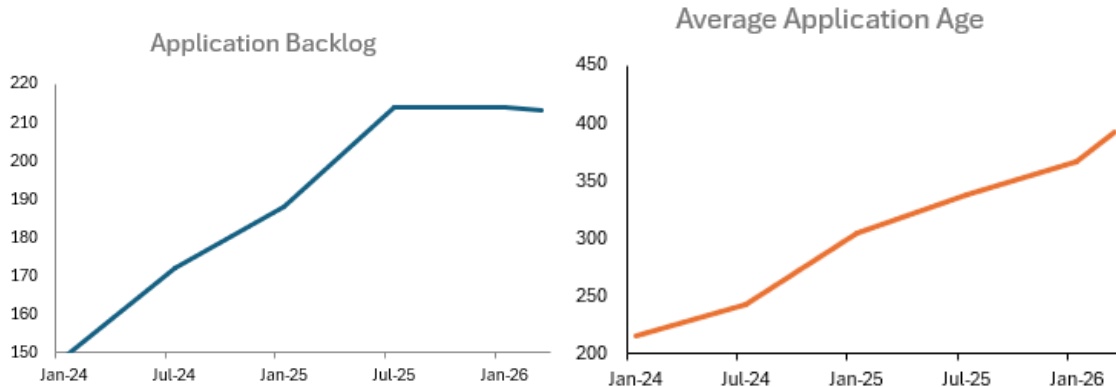
*(j) Class 10. Special license. A special license may be granted for the sale of liquor for a period not to exceed three days and pursuant to commission rule may be approved by the administrator for fundraising events by nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and political parties: provided that any registered educational or charitable nonprofit organization may sell liquors in their original packages for off-premises consumption.*

This “exception that proved the rule” has clouded the authority to issue for-profit Class 10 licenses. The Honolulu Liquor Commission has granted for-profit licenses continuously both before and after the 2008 statutory change. For-profit Class 10 administrative rules remain part of the “Rules of the Liquor Commission”.

The Commission has recently been questioned on our extensive use of Class 10 Licenses with for-profit businesses. An adverse judicial decision denying the Commission's authority to issue

for-profit special licenses would cause significant damage to our hospitality industry. SB2835\_SD1\_HD1 will remove any ambiguity.

It takes an average of over 12 months to transfer or process a new liquor license. This is costly and frustrating to our business community. Unfortunately, the number of pending applications (from 149-213) and processing time (215 to 392 days) is growing each year.



By statute, County Liquor Commissions are only allowed to issue two 120-day temporary licenses. We grant Special Licenses to for-profit entities for events like the Sony Open, and to cover the gap after a second temporary license expires. **In my two years as Chair, we have granted over 500 special licenses for liquor service across 11,000 days. If not for these Special Licenses, businesses would be unable to serve alcohol.** Attached is a list of businesses granted Class 10 licenses since 2024. They include a range of businesses, from bars and restaurants to hotels and wedding and event planners.

The Honolulu Liquor Commission has established a Permitted Interaction Group to make recommendations on rules, processes, and statutes to address this backlog. We look forward to returning next year to work with the legislature to streamline the licensing process.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

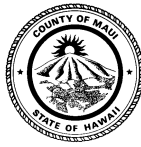
Jeffrey Hong  
Chairperson

<b>FOR-PROFIT SPECIAL LICENSES FROM 2024</b>		
AC HOTEL HONOLULU/AC HOTELS- MARRIOTT	KUNI RESTAURANT AND CATERING LLC	NATIONAL GUARD CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF HAWAII, INC.
ALPHA VIDEO	HARUMI LLC	YOHEI SUSHI KAHALA
Christmas Lodge (Pop-Up)	(Hawaiian Airlines) APT 1929	QUEENS WAIKIKI LUAU
COSMIC RECORDS(Pop-Up)	CUCINA MOON	RED BAR
Ghost Bar(Pop-Up)	WAIKIKI HOUSE BY ROMER	RED BAR LLP
NIGHTMARE(Pop-Up)	THE TWIN FIN HOTEL	RED ZONE SPORTS BAR & GRILL INC.
Winter Wonderland(Pop-Up)	TEMPURA ICHIKA	REGAL KAPOLEI COMMONS STADIUM
RB SPORTS BAR AND GRILL	KALE'S HALE	LADY ELAINE
THE BENUE BY ARTISTRY	THE LOUNGE AT ISLAND SOUND	RICHARD C. NAKASHIMA
THE GATSBY	IZAKAYA MITCHS	VALOR BAR
AINA STEAK & SEAFOOD LLC	JACK AI LLC	Rocky Mountain Ramble LLC
ALOHA BENTO	TANTO	THE HAWAII SHOP
AMATERASU	JALEPENOS 808 LLC	SAN PAOLO PIZZA & WINE
WAIKIKI AMBASSADOR HOTEL BY ROMER	MEMOIRS HAWAII (Wedding Events)	COURSE HAWAII TORO HONOLULU
LUCKY STRIKE SOCIAL	JOLENE'S BY THE BAY	SUGAR FACTORY
AROMA CAFFE INC.	BACCHUS WAIKIKI	ONKEE
JNOEL CAFE	CAJUN CRAB WAIKIKI	SHABUYA KAPOLEI
GIOVEDI	KAYAK CAFE	C/O COCKTAIL BAR
TAPA'S	ARTISTRY EVENT CENTER	STRAITS HAWAII LLC
CHARMING EVENTS HAWAII	KO TIKI TERRACE LLC	THE HAWAII CLUBHOUSE
THE CHARMING ESTATE	HALEIWA BOTTLE SHOP LLC	THE RITZ-CARLTON O'AHU, TURTLE BAY
CHONG QING HOT POT WAIKIKI INC.	LANTERNS RESTAURANT AND TAVERN	TORORO
Sinublan Catering	LITTLE PLUM	TPOK LIQUOR, LLC
THE BLUE FISH WAIKIKI	MOGURA	UMI WAIKIKI
REMIXX BAR & GRILL	MAI TAI LOUNGE	EVE ALA MOANA
THE CURB KAIMUKI	MAKAHA GOLF & RESORT, LLC	VILLAGE EVENTS, LLC
DA' BURGER WING HUB LLC	DAVY'S EVOLUTION	VINTAGE BOOKS HAWAII LLC
PICKLES AT FORTE	KO HANA DISTILLERS	THE CAPITAL GRILLE
Events International, Inc.	JAVI'S MEXICAN GRILL LLC	TEXAS DE BRAZIL
FLAIR	NONNAS HAWAII LLC	WAIALAE COUNTRY CLUB
FREE SPIRITS LLC	OCHOS	Silver Lining Kakaako
FUJI JAPANESE RESTAURANT	OHANA HALE	FARIA
GARNISHED LLC	PARK EVENT SERVICES	KAN SUSHI
MENSHO	PINK RABBIT	YOUR EVENT SOLUTIONS LLC
Seoul Lani	Davy's Evolution	Pono Potion's
Onkee	Kamakura Hawaii	Leila Restaurant

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers  
K. Kauano'e Batangan  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

March 31, 2026

**LATE**

TO: Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi  
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

FROM: Yuki Lei Sugimura  
Council Vice-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei Sugimura".

DATE: March 31, 2026

SUBJECT: **Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2835 SD1 relating to liquor**

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 2835 SD1 and its practical updates to Hawaii's liquor licensing laws, particularly as they impact organizations in Maui County.

Nonprofit organizations and community groups on Maui rely heavily on temporary Class 10 liquor licenses to host fundraisers and cultural events. Streamlining the application process, allowing electronic submissions, and reducing duplicative clearance requirements will make it easier for local groups to focus on serving the community rather than navigating unnecessary administrative barriers.

At the same time, increasing the portion of liquor commission fines that may be used for alcohol education and enforcement strengthens public safety. As we collectively face challenges related to alcohol misuse, directing more resources toward education and responsible enforcement is a proactive and balanced approach.

SB 2835 supports community fundraising while reinforcing accountability and public health protections. For these reasons, I strongly support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



31 March 2026

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony in Support w/Comments of SB2835 SD1 HD1

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 400 teammates across Hawai'i. I am submitting this testimony in **SUPPORT** on **SB2835 SD1 HD1**.

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.

Commenting only that an expansion for the use of funds to directly negatively impact the local liquor producers is not only counter-intuitive but this will clearly lead to increased fees and fines. It's a mechanism to raise costs and should be removed.

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



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 329  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 AT 2:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

**SUPPORT SB2835 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO LIQUOR**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce strongly supports SB2835 SD1 HD1 on class 10 special liquor licenses.

We recognize 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 clarifications and streamlined application requirements for class 10 special liquor licenses are important for reducing administrative burdens, especially for small businesses and event organizers who rely on timely and efficient permitting. By allowing electronic submissions and simplifying processes for adjacent parcels, the bill supports productivity and predictability, both of which are critical for economic stability and growth. We believe these measures will strengthen the economic and social contributions of fundraising and hospitality events.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share support of SB2835 SD1 HD1.

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.

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 329  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi and Vice Chair Grandinetti:

**SUBJECT: Strong Support for SB2835 SD1 HD1 Relating to Liquor**

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of SB2835 SD1 HD1 and HLC's position.

HLC has supported legislation over the past three sessions to expand and clarify the use of the Class 10 Special license. This year, HLC supported similar language in HB1901. One proposed amendment would have extended Class 10 Special license authority for off-premises consumption sales. Although that provision was not included in the HD1 after the March 20, 2026 hearing before the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, HLC continues to support further discussion of that issue.

HLC also supports the clarification in the HD1 confirming the longstanding dual use of the Class 10 Special license. For decades, HLC has approved Class 10 Special licenses for sporadic, non-permanent alcohol service by both for-profit entities, such as event planners, and nonprofit entities conducting fundraising activities. The HD1 confirms that for-profit event service providers may continue to use this license, while preserving its use by nonprofits, political candidates, and political parties for fundraising purposes.

This clarification is especially important given HLC's current licensing backlog, which can delay approval of new and transfer applications by approximately 12 months. Some applicants have relied on extended use of the Class 10 Special license to begin operations sooner while awaiting action on their primary license applications. Although that approach is costly, it has provided a practical interim option for certain applicants.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2835 SD1 HD1. The HD1 language does not interfere with the other statutory changes in the bill, including relief intended for neighbor island nonprofits.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sakamoto

**SB-2835-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 9:56:44 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/1/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Edmund "Fred" Hyun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members. My name is Edmund "Fred" Hyun, and I'm submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2835 SD1 HD1. Having personal experience with the Honolulu Liquor Commission (HLC) as an Employee (2009 - 2015) and now as a Commissioner (2024 - Present), I can attest to the merits of passing the measure. The HLC has supported the use of the Class 10 Special License for off-premises consumption sales for the past three legislative sessions. Historically, the HLC has approved the use of Class 10 Special licenses to provide alcohol sales and service for sporadic, non-permanent use (including for-profit and non-profit entities) to reduce procedural challenges for non-profits, while NOT eliminating the use of Class 10 Specials by/for profit entities. While special licenses are expensive, the ability to be open for business (earlier opportunity) far outweighs the increased expenses. Please note that the HD1 language DOES NOT negatively impact or impede the relief sought by our neighbor island non-profits.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to advance Senate Bill 2835 SD1 HD1, as it will provide meaningful support to our communities and non-profits. Your support will help remove barriers and create opportunities for those who need it most

**SB-2835-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 1:15:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/1/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve Haumschild	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Makes sense for everyone, less red tape for good causes!

March 31, 2026

**LATE**

Dear Members of the Committee:

I write to you in full support of SB2835.

Since the 1969 study on Liquor Policy, County Liquor Commissions have had the authority to issue for-profit special licenses. In Act 168 of 2008, a “cleanup” bill, language was added to provide for free Class 10 Licenses to non-profits, and it is no longer clear that for-profit licenses are supported. I believe the cleanup bill inadvertently created ambiguity in connection with special licenses for for-profit businesses. As a former Chair of the Honolulu Liquor Commission, we continued issuing for-profit licenses after 2008 and for-profit Class 10 rules remain part of the “Rules of the Liquor Commission”. However, given the importance of this license to our community, I believe that greater statutory clarity on this issue is necessary.

When I was Chair of the Honolulu Liquor Commission, it took over a year on average to transfer or process a new liquor license. At present, that time estimate is the same or even greater. By statute, County Liquor Commissions are only allowed to issue two 120-day temporary licenses, totaling 8 months. This leaves an applicant business owner with a 4-6 month gap period, at a minimum, between the time their temporary licenses end and a new permanent liquor license is issued. If not for the for-profit Special Licenses, businesses would have to suddenly cease serving alcohol until their permanent license is issued, costing them thousands of dollars and creating significant hardship in operating their business and paying their expenses. The Special License has therefore become an essential tool of the Commission to support our local businesses and allow them to stay open while a new permanent liquor license is pending. I have seen firsthand local businesses and families that were able to keep their establishments open and pay their bills because of the Special Licenses approved by the Honolulu Liquor Commission. In such challenging circumstances, our business community needs and deserves this support.

Thank you for your consideration.



Seth T. Buckley, Esq.

**LATE**

**SB-2835-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 4:42:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/1/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dillon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2835

**LATE**

**SB-2835-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 4:52:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/1/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Cundiff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am submitting testimony in support of SB2835. This personal testimony is not submitted in any official capacity as a Liquor Commissioner, but rather as an individual in support of legislation that establishes a business environment whereby our small businesses are provided the opportunity to capitalize on various revenue streams and maintain operation throughout the license application process. As a past member of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, I had the pleasure of working with state agencies and small businesses to better understand and support appropriate rules and regulation that complied with state law while being fair and supportive of small businesses. I believe it is important to support the state’s small business community as the backbone of our economy and this legislation is important towards accomplishing this objective. Our small businesses need the ability to maintain optimal operations while awaiting formal licenses, where otherwise there would be a significant hardship, along with additional revenue and marketing opportunities through off premises venues like farmers markets.

Thank you for your consideration and support of small business through this legislation.

Submitted respectfully,

Robert Cundiff

**LATE**

**SB-2835-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 8:50:07 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/1/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Takesan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill as buying from Wholesalers are already expensive operational cost. This will also help more keep costs down for street cultural evetns in Downtown and Kakaako areas for family friendly events.

April 1, 2026

**LATE**

Dear Members of the Committee

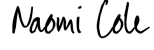
I have been a practicing attorney for over 30 years and have represented many clients in obtaining their liquor license. When I first started, it took about 4 – 6 months to obtain a liquor license. Back then we all complained that that was inexcusably too long. Now, who would have guessed that it could take 2 years or longer to get your liquor license. The only saving grace is that now we have the ability to apply for a special event license.

I have clients currently that submitted their liquor license application in January of 2025. They have used up their 2 temporary liquor licenses, and now thankfully can continue to operate due to the special event licenses. There are many establishments in the same predicament. In an even worse case scenario, there are also those that would not qualify for a temporary liquor license, so the special event license for those establishments are critical to opening and staying open pending review of their permanent liquor license.

With the back log in processing liquor applications, which is only getting worse, we need the special event license to continue now more than ever before.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony

Very truly yours,

DocuSigned by:  
  
691A87261AA540B...  
Naomi Cole, Esq.