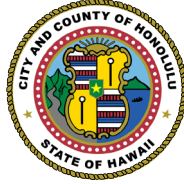


LIQUOR COMMISSION
KOMIKINA KĀKA‘AHI WAI ‘ONA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

711 KAPIOLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 600 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5249
PHONE: (808) 768-7300 • FAX: (808) 768-7311 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEJA



March 18, 2026

JEFFREY HONG
CHAIRPERSON
KEVIN SAKAMOTO
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
DILLON HULLINGER
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
EDMUND K.B. HYUN
COMMISSIONER
ROBERK CUNDIFF
COMMISSIONER

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, House Committee on Economic Development and Technology
State House of Representatives, Room 423
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: Request To Amend SB2835_HD1

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully request your consideration to amend SB2835_SD1 (full draft of proposed changes follows) with two modifications:

- **For-Profit Special License -** Confirming the authority of County Liquor Commissions to issue For-Profit Class 10 Special Licenses for up to 3 days.
 - (1) A special license may be granted for the sale of liquor for a period not to exceed three days per application. [~~and pursuant to commission rule may be approved by the administrator for~~] Special Licenses for certain fundraising events by nonprofit
- **Allowing the sale of alcohol for off-premise consumption.**

Liquor sold under a class 10 license [~~shall~~] may be consumed on the premises[~~+~~] or removed from the premises in its original sealed container for off-premises consumption where not prohibited by law.

For Profit Special License

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. It was brought to our attention the update clouded the authority to issue for-profit licenses. The Honolulu Liquor Commission has granted for-profit licenses since 2008 and for-profit Class 10 rules remain part of the “Rules of the Liquor Commission”.

We request a technical update establishing clear statutory authority to continue issuing For-Profit Class 10 licenses. An adverse judicial determination denying the Honolulu Liquor Commission's authority to issue for-profit special licenses would cause significant damage to our service industry.

It currently takes over 12 months on average to transfer or process a new liquor license. Unfortunately, the number of pending applications and processing time is growing each year. By statute, County Liquor Commissions are only allowed to issue two 120-day temporary licenses. We grant Special Licenses to cover the gap after the second temporary license expires. **In my two years as Chair, we have granted over 500 special licenses permitting continuous liquor service on over 11 thousand days to cover this gap. If not for these Special Licenses, businesses would have to stop serving alcohol until their permanent license is issued.** Attached is a list of businesses granted this relief since 2024. They include a range of businesses: bars, restaurants, weddings, event planners for operations like the Sony Open, to some of our largest commercial service industry companies

Trade Name or Entity		
AC HOTEL HONOLULU/AC HOTELS-MARRIOTT	HALEIWA BOTTLE SHOP 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	JAVI'S MEXICAN GRILL LLC	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	KUNI RESTAURANT AND CATERING 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.	MEMOIRS HAWAII (Wedding Events)	TEXAS DE BRAZIL
FLAIR	NONNAS HAWAII LLC	WAIALAE COUNTRY CLUB
FREE SPIRITS LLC	OCHOS	Silver Lining Kakaako
FUJI JAPANESE RESTAURANT INC.	OHANA HALE	FARIA
GARNISHED LLC	PARK EVENT SERVICES	KAN SUSHI
MENSHO	PINK RABBIT	YOUR EVENT SOLUTIONS LLC

Off-Premise Sale

The purpose of this modification is to provide for our local manufacturers to sell at Farmer's Markets and at pop-ups. It also gives the commission the ability to provide relief to retailers waiting for their licenses.

The Honolulu Liquor Commission has voted unanimously to support these policy changes. We realize "Off-Premise Sale" expands the scope of the Class 10 license, and was not debated in the Senate. We can bring this matter up in another session if there are any concerns. The technical change is our highest priority to avoid any disruption in our operations.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Hong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "g".

Jeffrey Hong
Chairperson

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIQUOR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that some of the
3 requirements for a temporary liquor license in the county of
4 Maui are oppressively burdensome without providing any public
5 benefit. A temporary liquor license, known as a class 10
6 special license, allows a nonprofit group, political candidate,
7 or political party to serve alcohol at a fundraising event
8 lasting no longer than three days. Among the onerous
9 requirements that are only imposed in the county of Maui are the
10 requirements to submit the special license application in person
11 and to provide a handwritten signature on the application. The
12 applicant must also obtain various separate departmental
13 clearances and produce detailed illustrative materials that are
14 duplicative of existing enforcement mechanisms. In addition, if
15 the applicant holds the fundraising event at a location
16 involving multiple parcels with separate tax map key numbers,
17 such as many golf courses, the applicant must submit a separate

1 application for each parcel, despite the event occurring in what
2 is otherwise a single location. Many of these requirements do
3 not apply to comparable temporary liquor licenses in other
4 counties.

5 The legislature believes that these requirements discourage
6 community organizations from hosting fundraisers, are not
7 necessary for the effective regulation of a temporary event, and
8 may encourage community organizations to hold their fundraisers
9 without obtaining a liquor license.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to streamline the
11 class 10 special license application process to reduce
12 fundraising costs in a manner that maintains public safety and
13 the protection of event participants.

14 SECTION 2. Section 281-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsection (j) to read as follows:

16 "(j) Class 10. Special license.

17 (1) A special license may be granted for the sale of
18 liquor for a period not to exceed three days per
19 application. [~~and pursuant to commission rule may be~~
20 ~~approved by the administrator for~~] Special Licenses
21 for certain fundraising events by nonprofit

1 organizations, political candidates, and political
2 parties ~~[+]~~, pursuant to commission rule, may be
3 approved by the administrator; provided that any
4 registered educational or charitable nonprofit
5 organization may sell liquors in their original
6 packages for off-premises consumption; provided
7 further that any social club granted tax-exempt status
8 pursuant to section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue
9 Code of 1986, as amended, may sell wine from the
10 social club's inventory to the club's members for off-
11 premises consumption. Of this class, there shall be
12 the following kinds:

- 13 (A) General (includes all liquor except alcohol);
14 (B) Beer and wine; and
15 (C) Beer.

16 Liquor sold under a class 10 license ~~[shall]~~ may be
17 consumed on the premises ~~[+]~~ or removed from the
18 premises in its original sealed container for off-
19 premises consumption where not prohibited by law.

- 20 (2) Notwithstanding any other section of this chapter to
21 the contrary, the commission shall waive any hearings,

1 fees, notarization of documents, submission of floor
2 plans and other governmental clearances, and other
3 requirements for the issuance of a class 10 license.
4 The class 10 license granted under this subsection for
5 a fundraising event shall include the ability to
6 auction off, at a live or silent auction, liquor in
7 sealed or covered glass, ceramic, or metal containers
8 or services that provide liquor. No criminal history
9 record check under section 281-53.5 or 846-2.7 or any
10 other section of this chapter shall be required. The
11 commission may require proof of liquor liability
12 insurance for the fundraising event and a current list
13 of officers and directors if the applicant is a
14 nonprofit organization.

15 (3) Notwithstanding any other section of this chapter to
16 the contrary, in any county with a population of fewer
17 than two hundred thousand residents but more than one
18 hundred thousand residents, an application for a class
19 10 license:

20 (A) May be submitted electronically and, if submitted
21 electronically, the inclusion of an electronic

1 signature shall satisfy any requirement for a
2 physical, handwritten signature or other
3 signature;

4 (B) May include an applicant's first and last name in
5 satisfaction of any requirement for the
6 submission of the applicant's full name;

7 (C) May be applicable to two or more adjacent parcels
8 of land; provided that all parcels of land are
9 controlled by the same entity; and

10 (D) Shall not be conditioned upon the submission,
11 approval, or completion of any visual renderings,
12 illustrative materials, fire-related clearances,
13 safety inspections, or miscellaneous inspections
14 conducted by any other county department or
15 agency.

16 An application under this subsection shall be
17 sufficient if it satisfies all of the requirements
18 specified under this subsection. No county or county
19 liquor commission shall require, request, or condition
20 the issuance of a class 10 license upon compliance
21 with any other approval, clearance, inspection,

1 choices is vital to ensuring a safer future for our youth and
2 community.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to increase the
4 percentage of fines assessed by county liquor commissions that
5 may be used to fund public liquor-related educational or
6 enforcement programs.

7 SECTION 4. Section 281-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

9 "(a) The liquor commission, within its own county, shall
10 have the jurisdiction, power, authority, and discretion, subject
11 only to this chapter:

- 12 (1) To grant, refuse, suspend, and revoke any license for
13 the manufacture, importation, and sale of liquors;
- 14 (2) To take appropriate action against a person who,
15 directly or indirectly, manufactures, sells, or
16 purchases any liquor without being authorized pursuant
17 to this chapter; provided that in counties that have
18 established by charter a liquor control adjudication
19 board, the board shall have the jurisdiction, power,
20 authority, and discretion to hear and determine
21 administrative complaints of the director regarding

1 violations of the liquor laws of the State or of the
2 rules of the liquor commission, and impose penalties
3 for violations thereof as may be provided by law;

4 (3) To control, supervise, and regulate the manufacture,
5 importation, and sale of liquors by investigation,
6 enforcement, and education; provided that any
7 educational program shall be limited to the commission
8 staff, commissioners, liquor control adjudication
9 board members, and licensees and their employees, and
10 shall be financed through the money collected from the
11 assessment of fines against licensees; provided
12 further that fine moneys, not to exceed [~~ten~~] twenty
13 per cent a year of fines accumulated, may be used to
14 fund public liquor-related educational or enforcement
15 programs;

16 (4) From time to time to make, amend, and repeal rules,
17 not inconsistent with this chapter, as in the judgment
18 of the commission are deemed appropriate for carrying
19 out this chapter and for the efficient administration
20 thereof, and the proper conduct of the business of all
21 licensees, including every matter or thing required to

1 be done or [~~which~~] that may be done with the approval
2 or consent, by order, under the direction or
3 supervision of, or as prescribed by the commission;
4 which rules, when adopted as provided in chapter 91
5 shall have the force and effect of law;

6 (5) Subject to chapter 76, to appoint and remove an
7 administrator, who may also be appointed an
8 investigator and who shall be responsible for the
9 operations and activities of the staff. The
10 administrator may hire and remove hearing officers,
11 investigators, and clerical or other assistants as its
12 business may from time to time require, prescribe
13 their duties and fix their compensation, and engage
14 the services of experts and persons engaged in the
15 practice of a profession, if deemed expedient. Every
16 investigator, within the scope of the investigator's
17 duties, shall have the powers of a police officer;

18 (6) To limit the number of licenses of any class or kind
19 within the county, or the number of licenses of any
20 class or kind to do business in any given locality,

- 1 when in the judgment of the commission [~~such~~] the
2 limitations are in the public interest;
- 3 (7) To prescribe the nature of the proof to be furnished,
4 the notices to be given, and the conditions to be met
5 or observed in case of the issuance of a duplicate
6 license in place of one alleged to have been lost or
7 destroyed, including a requirement of any indemnity
8 deemed appropriate to the case;
- 9 (8) To fix the hours between which licensed premises of
10 any class or classes may regularly be open for the
11 transaction of business, which shall be uniform
12 throughout the county as to each class respectively;
- 13 (9) To prescribe all forms to be used for the purposes of
14 this chapter not otherwise provided for in this
15 chapter, and the character and manner of keeping of
16 books, records, and accounts to be kept by licensees
17 in any matter pertaining to their business;
- 18 (10) To investigate violations of this chapter and,
19 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, violations of
20 the applicable department of health's allowable noise
21 levels, through its investigators or otherwise, to

1 include covert operations, and to report violations to
2 the prosecuting officer for prosecution where
3 appropriate. Investigations of violations of chapter
4 244D shall be referred to the director of taxation to
5 hear and determine complaints against any licensee;

6 (11) To prescribe, by rule, the terms, conditions, and
7 circumstances under which persons or any class of
8 persons may be employed by holders of licenses;

9 (12) To prescribe, by rule, the term of any license or
10 solicitor's and representative's permit authorized by
11 this chapter, the annual or prorated amount, the
12 manner of payment of fees for the licenses and
13 permits, and the amount of filing fees;

14 (13) To prescribe, by rule, regulations on dancing in
15 licensed premises; and

16 (14) To prescribe, by rule, the circumstances and penalty
17 for the unauthorized manufacturing or selling of any
18 liquor."

19 PART III

20 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on March 22, 2075.

Report Title:

Intoxicating Liquor; Liquor License; Class 10 Special License;
Liquor Commission; Fines; Educational and Enforcement Programs

Description:

Part I: In counties of fewer than 200,000 residents, but more than 100,000 residents, exempts the three-day temporary liquor licenses for fundraising events, known as class 10 special licenses, from any requirement to obtain fire-related clearances. Allows applications for class 10 special licenses to be submitted electronically and for a single application to apply any fundraising event that spans multiple parcels of land owned by the same entity. **Authorizes liquor sold through a class 10 license to be consumed on or off premises.** Part II: Increases the percentage of fines assessed by all county liquor commissions that may be used to fund public liquor-related educational or enforcement programs. Effective 3/22/2075.
(SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

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

March 19, 2026

TO: Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

FROM: Yuki Lei Sugimura
Council Vice-Chair

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

DATE: March 19, 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.

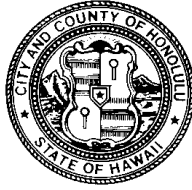
At the same time, increasing the portion of liquor commission fines that may be used for alcohol education and enforcement strengthens public safety. As we collectively face challenges related to alcohol misuse, directing more resources toward education and responsible enforcement is a proactive and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

LIQUOR COMMISSION
KOMIKINA KĀKA'ĀHI 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 • E-MAIL: liquor@honolulu.gov



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair
The Honorable Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development & Technology
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 423
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ilagan and Vice Chair Hussey:

SUBJECT: Requesting Proposed Amendment
SB2835 SD1 Relating to Liquor

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony of the Liquor Commission, City and County of Honolulu (HLC), respectfully requesting a proposed amendment to Senate Bill 2835 SD1 Relating to Liquor.

In the 2026 session, HLC was prepared to testify in strong support of House Bill 1901 Relating to Liquor Licenses. Briefly, HLC has supported proposed amendments 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 and House Bill 1364 in 2025. We intended to renew our strong support for the same proposed change in House Bill 1901.

House Bill 1901 provided 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. Without the clarification provided by the proposed amendment, there are many well-known and respected event planning entities whose entire business plan would be threatened if they lose the ability to offer alcohol service at the events they are hired to produce. The subtle revision in the proposed amendment 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.

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

Further, 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.

Finally, HLC still proposes the use of the Class 10 Special license for off-premises consumption sales. Our local manufacturers and craft producers will benefit if they can sell to customers at limited duration venues (farmers markets, pop up holiday kiosks, etc.), instead of trying to compete unsuccessfully with larger producers for shelf space at supermarkets and liquor stores. If, however, the proposed off-premises use is an impediment to the inclusion of the proposed amendment to Senate Bill 2835 SD1, we would agree to its exclusion in the HD1.

We appreciate the opportunity to respectfully request the proposed amendment to Senate Bill 2835 SD1. Fortunately, the placement of the proposed amendment language will in no way negatively impact the law changes currently contained in Senate Bill 2835 SD1, so the requested amendment would not 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

ESTHER KIA'ĀINA
COUNCILMEMBER
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT III
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5003
EMAIL: ekiaaina@honolulu.gov
<https://www.honolulucitycouncil.org/district-3-kiaaina>

March 20, 2026

Aloha Chair Iligan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism:

I support the intent of SB2835, SD1, and respectfully submit the following comments and amendments.

Currently, it takes over 12 months on average to transfer or process a new liquor license on O'ahu. By law, the County Liquor Commissions are only allowed to issue two 120-day temporary licenses, which is insufficient to support those businesses awaiting approval. As a result, Class 10 Special Licenses are utilized to cover the remaining period for new businesses waiting for the approval of their liquor license. As written, §281-31(j), HRS, does not sufficiently meet the needs of the County Liquor Commissions to efficiently issue class 10 special licenses, further delaying their ability to address the approval backlog.

I support the Honolulu Liquor Commission's suggested amendments to resolve these important issues:

Page 2, lines 16-20, page 3, line 1:

(j) Class 10. Special License.

(1) A special license may be granted for the sale of liquor for a period not to exceed three days per application. [and pursuant to commission rule may be approved by the administration for] Special Licenses for certain fundraising events by nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and political parties[;], pursuant to commission rule, may be approved by the administrator;...

These amendments will clarify the authority of the County Liquor Commissions to issue For-Profit Class 10 Special Licenses for up to three days, as they continue to address the backlog of pending applications for Liquor Licenses for restaurants and bars across the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important matter.

SB-2835-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:24:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Haumschild	Lanikai Brewing Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

We are in support of this bill. It is common sense legislation designed to streamline an already complicated process.



MAUI
BREWING CO

16 March 2026

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, 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 400 teammates across Hawai'i. I am submitting this testimony in **SUPPORT** on **SB2835 SD2**.

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
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 423
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026 AT 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
The Honorable Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology

SUPPORT SB2835 SD1 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 share support of SB2835 SD1.

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.

SB-2835-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 5:52:40 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley Baer	Highgate	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of amending **SB2835 SD1** to clarify the authority of County Liquor Commissions to issue Class 10 Special Licenses to For-Profit entities;

281-31(j) (1) 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] per application. Special licenses for certain fundraising events by nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and political parties[;], pursuant to commission rule, may be approved by the administrator;

The Highgate Hotels needed these licenses to operate across multiple properties for hundreds of days. It would cause significant harm to our operations to halt alcohol service while waiting for a permanent license. We must ensure these licenses continue to be issued to support our businesses.



306 Kamani Street, Honolulu HI 96813, Phone (808) 545-5900, www.eventsint.com, info@eventsint.com

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

RE: **SB2835 SD1**

Testimony – In Favor of Passage

I write in strong support of amending **SB2835 SD1** to clarify the authority of County Liquor Commissions to issue Class 10 Special Licenses to For-Profit entities;

281-31(j) (1) 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] per application. Special licenses for certain fundraising events by nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and political parties[;], pursuant to commission rule, may be approved by the administrator;

It would cause significant harm to our operations to not allow Class 10 Special Licenses to For-Profit entities. Events International Inc provides beverage concession services to many special events enjoyed by the public including The Sony Open, St Patrick's Day Festival, Festa Italiana. Not amending the current state liquor statute would cause the loss of numerous jobs and the degrading of some cherished special events in the State. Please pass this amendment.

Mahalo

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive "E" followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric (Rick) Schneider
CEO/President

SB-2835-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 5:52:23 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Kauffman	Highgate Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitted with respect to those in authority,

I write in strong support of amending **SB2835 SD1** to clarify the authority of County Liquor Commissions to issue Class 10 Special Licenses to For-Profit entities;

281-31(j) (1) 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] per application. Special licenses for certain fundraising events by nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and political parties[;], pursuant to commission rule, may be approved by the administrator;

Numerous hotels across Hawaii have needed these essential licenses to operate across multiple properties for hundreds of days. It would cause significant harm to our operations to halt alcohol service while waiting for a permanent license. We must ensure these licenses continue to be issued to support our businesses.

Thank you for supporting our businesses, especially amid these challenging economic times for Hawaii tourism. We need your help and alliance.

SB-2835-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:00:12 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Troy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I write in strong support of amending **SB2835 SD1** to clarify the authority of County Liquor Commissions to issue Class 10 Special Licenses to For-Profit entities. This is critical to our business operations.

SB-2835-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 10:50:57 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Kaya	Highgate Hotels	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of amending **SB2835 SD1** to clarify the authority of County Liquor Commissions to issue Class 10 Special Licenses to For-Profit entities;

281-31(j) (1) 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] per application. Special licenses for certain fundraising events by nonprofit organizations, political candidates, and political parties[;], pursuant to commission rule, may be approved by the administrator;

The Highgate Hotels needed these licenses to operate across multiple properties for hundreds of days. It would cause significant harm to our operations to halt alcohol service while waiting for a permanent license. We must ensure these licenses continue to be issued to support our businesses.

SB-2835-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 1:25:09 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Tambara Garrick, and I am a resident of Lahaina, Maui. I submit testimony in strong support of SB2835.

SB2835 represents a measured modernization of Hawai‘i’s liquor licensing framework as it relates to temporary Class 10 fundraising licenses. The bill does not reduce oversight or compromise public safety. Rather, it refines administrative procedures to eliminate unnecessary duplication while maintaining appropriate safeguards.

Nonprofit organizations across our state rely on limited-duration fundraising events to sustain essential community programs. Many of these events are recurring and held at established venues with consistent operational plans. Requiring duplicative fire-related clearances in situations where no additional safety benefit is achieved adds cost and delay without improving outcomes. The exemption contemplated in this measure is narrowly tailored and applies only within defined parameters.

Authorizing electronic submission of applications reflects current administrative best practices, improves accessibility for neighbor island organizations, and reduces processing burdens for county staff. Allowing a single application to cover events spanning multiple parcels under common ownership also aligns statutory language with how community venues operate in practice.

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 submitted,
Tambara Garrick
Resident of Lahaina, Maui