



24 February 2026

[COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY](#)

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, 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**.

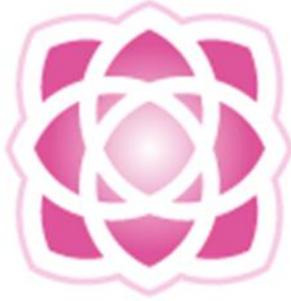
This bill makes sensible improvements to the liquor licensing process for counties with populations between 100,000 and 200,000. Allowing Class 10 special licenses for fundraising events to move forward without additional fire clearances, permitting electronic application submissions, and allowing one 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



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 AT 10:15 A.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

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.



Maui Hotel & Lodging
ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

March 2, 2026

Testimony in Strong Support of SB2835

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

The Maui Hotel and Lodging Association in **strong support** of SB2835.

SB2835 is a thoughtful and necessary update to liquor laws in Hawaii, particularly as they relate to Class 10 special licenses and nonprofit fundraising events. These special event licenses play an important role in supporting community-based organizations, schools, cultural groups, and charitable nonprofits that rely on fundraising events to sustain their operations.

Class 10 special licenses allow nonprofit organizations to responsibly serve or sell liquor at limited, permitted events. These events often include school fundraisers, cultural festivals, charitable galas, and community celebrations. The ability to obtain a temporary liquor license can significantly increase fundraising capacity, directly benefiting programs that serve local families, youth, and vulnerable populations.

However, it is equally important that these events operate under clear, consistent, and enforceable standards. SB2835 strengthens oversight, clarifies compliance expectations, and ensures that the privilege of serving alcohol at temporary events is exercised responsibly. By establishing clearer guidelines, the bill helps:

- Ensure proper supervision and accountability at fundraising events
- Prevent underage access to alcohol
- Promote safe serving practices
- Maintain neighborhood safety and minimize community disruption
- Protect the integrity of the licensing process

Importantly, responsible regulation does not hinder nonprofits—it supports them. Clear rules reduce confusion for applicants, improve consistency in enforcement, and protect reputable organizations from being undermined by bad actors who misuse special event licenses.

Fundraising events are vital to sustain educational programs, healthcare services, arts initiatives, and cultural preservation efforts across our islands. SB2835 strikes the appropriate balance between enabling these important activities and safeguarding public health and safety.

By modernizing and clarifying the framework surrounding Class 10 special licenses, this bill reinforces accountability while continuing to support the charitable and community-driven work that strengthens our state.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to pass SB2835.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.
John Pele- Executive Director Maui Hotel and Lodging Association

SB-2835

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:41:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2835

Committee on Judiciary

March 3, 2026

Chair Karl Rhoads

Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

Members of the Committee on Judiciary

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

My name is Tambara Garrick, and I am a resident of Lahaina, Maui. I am testifying 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