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Mar 31, 2026

#### MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT:** SCR179 – Urging the County of Maui to Enforce the Provisions of the Fire Code of the County of Maui Relating to Fire Hazards, Brush Clearance, Fuel Breaks, Roadside Vegetation Clearing, and Emergency Access.

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) **supports SCR179**, which urges the County of Maui to actively enforce Fire Code provisions relating to fire hazards, brush clearance, fuel breaks, roadside vegetation clearing, and emergency access. Disabled residents, including wildfire survivors, continue to live in temporary and permanent housing in West Maui, and their safety depends on reliable evacuation routes, accessible ingress and egress, and proactive management of hazardous fuels near homes and roads. Strong, visible enforcement of these existing Fire Code requirements is essential to protect lives, housing, and major access corridors into and out of Lahaina, particularly for people who may need more time, assistance, or equipment to evacuate.

AILH also supports the Resolution's emphasis on enforcement near residential communities, temporary housing sites for wildfire survivors, and major evacuation corridors. From a cross-disability and Independent Living perspective, enforcement of brush clearance and fuel breaks must be paired with ongoing communication and coordination that reaches disabled



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residents in accessible formats and involves them in planning, so that evacuation plans, roadway clearing, and emergency access reflect real-world needs for mobility devices, service animals, life-sustaining equipment, and support persons. Ensuring that large property owners meet their responsibilities under the Fire Code will reduce avoidable wildfire risk and help safeguard disabled community members' ability to remain in, and safely leave, their communities during future fire events.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden

Executive Director