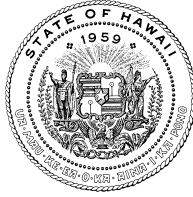


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

April 01, 2026 at 3:02 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 016

In consideration of

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 180 / SENATE RESOLUTION 175 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 Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC **supports** Senate Concurrent Resolution 180 / Senate Resolution 175, 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, the County of Maui, and other partners to meet the expectations outlined in this resolution.

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

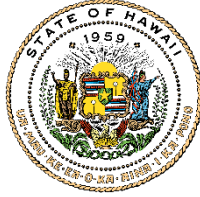
management, would require substantial dedicated funding and possibly additional field personnel and contract management staff.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY

Wednesday April 1, 2026
3:02 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 180
and
SENATE RESOLUTION 175

Senate Concurrent Resolution 180 and Senate Resolution 175 call on state agencies that own or control land in West Maui to adopt and enforce vigorous vegetation management, fuel reduction, defensible space, and emergency access measures to lower wildfire risk to Lahaina and nearby communities. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) agrees with the purpose of this resolution and provides the following comments.**

The Department supports proactive fuel reduction, defensible space, and improved access and egress, as these are essential parts of a comprehensive wildfire risk reduction plan and align with ongoing efforts across state and county agencies.

The Department of the Attorney General has hired the Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization to create a statewide wildfire action plan based on recommendations from the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI). This initiative represents a coordinated, science-based approach to reducing wildfire risk throughout Hawai'i. The Department suggests that the actions outlined in this resolution should align with FSRI's recommendations and be guided by the upcoming statewide wildfire action plan, which will serve as the main framework for setting priorities and carrying out efforts. This approach will help ensure consistency among agencies, target efforts on the highest-risk areas, and make the best use of limited resources.

Wildfire risk must be managed across the entire landscape. While the resolutions focus on agency-managed parcels, effective mitigation involves coordinated efforts among state, county, and private lands, as well as the establishment and long-term upkeep of strategic fuel treatments. The Department promotes efforts that encourage cross-boundary coordination and ongoing management over time.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.