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2023-24

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Date: February 8, 2024

To: Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead

Subj: HB 1902, HD1 relating to Emergency Management

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing 4,000 Eating and Drink Place locations STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1902, HD1 that clarifies the Governor's and mayors' emergency management powers shall be consistent with the state constitution and clarifies the scope of the comprehensive emergency management plan. Clarifies the powers of the Governor and Mayors to extend or terminate a state of emergency and shortens the duration of price controls periods from ninety-six hours to seventy-two hours.

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes 127A-30, when a state of emergency is declared by the Governor or a Mayor of a county, it automatically prohibits any increase in commodity prices, both retail and wholesale in that area.

The many Emergency Proclamations in recent years has created confusion among consumers and businesses regarding when price freezing is required and which commodities it applies to, resulting in inconsistent practices

While the Administration has begun to specify which commodities the price freeze statute applies to in the governor's recent Emergency Proclmations, we believe a permanent legislative fix is necessary to help provide needed clarity for both business and consumers during emergencies.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

