



917 Irving St.  
San Francisco, CA 94112  
415.393.9990  
www.uphelp.org

February 20, 2026

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

*Submitted via Hawai'i State Legislative Portal*

**RE: Strong Support for SB 2960 – Property Insurance; Disaster Recovery; Replacement Cost Value; Actual Cost Value; Payment Time Frames**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of United Policyholders<sup>1</sup> (“UP”), I write in strong support of SB 2960, introduced by Senator Angus McKelvey. This measure takes important steps to ensure that homeowners recovering from declared disasters are not unfairly cut off from collecting paid-for policy benefits due to a deadline written into the policy by the drafting insurer that is unrealistic for how long it actually takes to rebuild after a disaster, particularly in light of Hawai'i's unique island conditions.

As the Legislature has recognized, those conditions (high construction costs, limited contractor availability, supply-chain delays, shipping rules and complex permitting processes) slow post-disaster rebuilding. After a large-scale disaster like the 2023 Maui wildfires, recovery frequently takes years, and where a policy deadline for collecting full replacement cost benefits is strictly enforced, policyholders lose access to benefits due to forces beyond their control. SB 2960 establishes a fair and realistic timeline for policyholders to access replacement cost value benefits after a declared disaster or emergency.

The bill appropriately provides up to thirty-six months for policyholders to recover the full replacement cost value of a covered dwelling, allows extensions for good cause, and ensures additional time to recover personal property replacement cost value once rebuilding is complete. It also requires insurers to provide clear notice of applicable deadlines and extension opportunities so that policyholders understand their rights. These protections recognize the practical realities of disaster recovery while maintaining insurer liability within existing policy limits. This bill will bring Hawaii law into conformity with Colorado and California, two other wildfire-prone states. Having consistent rules across wildfire-prone states helps claim adjusters and policyholders, reduces delays and improves outcomes and claim handling.

---

<sup>1</sup> United Policyholders is a national nonprofit that has advocated for insurance consumers for more than 30 years. Recently in Hawai'i, UP has been actively supporting residents in the aftermath of the 2023 Maui wildfires through our Roadmap to Recovery<sup>®</sup> program, public workshops, and in-person assistance for survivors navigating insurance claims and rebuilding challenges. Our staff and volunteers—including Maui-based partners—have provided free guidance, educational resources, and advocacy to help homeowners understand coverage, secure benefits, and resolve disputes with insurers. We have also filed amicus briefs in Hawai'i courts and engaged with policymakers to strengthen consumer protections and improve disaster-recovery outcomes for residents across the state.



917 Irving St.  
San Francisco, CA 94112  
415.393.9990  
[www.uphelp.org](http://www.uphelp.org)

United Policyholders has worked extensively with policymakers and regulators across the country to implement the reforms this bill contemplates. In Colorado, California and Oregon, extended timeframes for collecting replacement cost benefits have proven essential to ensuring that policyholders can fully rebuild after catastrophic events. These policies reflect a growing recognition that recovery timelines must align with real-world rebuilding conditions, particularly in disaster-impacted communities where labor shortages, material delays, and regulatory processes can significantly slow reconstruction.

SB 2960 reflects these best practices. By establishing realistic timelines and extension mechanisms for accessing replacement cost benefits, the bill will help ensure that Hawai'i homeowners are able to fully utilize the coverage they purchased and rely on as they rebuild their homes and communities.

We respectfully urge your support for SB 2960. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and for your continued work to protect Hawai'i homeowners and support long-term disaster recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Bach".

Amy Bach, Executive Director  
United Policyholders