

# LATE TESTIMONY

har2-Michael

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**From:** Deborah Stone Swanson [mailto:StoneSwanson@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 7:00 PM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans; PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** testimony Emergency Radio Station Pilot Program

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing in support of the Emergency Radio Station Pilot program for the Big Island.

Our family home is in Waikoloa and we were near the epicenter of the 2006 October quake that shook the Big Island. This same area was impacted during the massive brush fire that nearly overtook this community a few years ago.

In both instances we had little or no information for decisions on emergency actions such as the need to evacuate, condition of evacuation roads, available shelters or other assistance. Our public shelters and roads were at risk during the fire or damaged in the quake and there was no resource for getting that info or getting help. The day of the quake, battery radio was the only source of info and not a single Big Island radio station was on the air with emergency broadcasts.

Please help the Big Island better prepare and respond to our Civil ;Defense emergencies/natural disasters by supporting the Emergency Radio Station Pilot Program.

Mahalo,

Deborah Stone-Swanson

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# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Anika Glass '  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 8:22 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** SUPPORT OF HB 2160

Public Safety and Military Affairs.

Few things could be more important than emergency communications in the Islands when things are wild.

Here, in South Kohala, we have had recent, multiple instances of loss of communications from public and civil defense officials when there was the need for evacuation, information on shelters, road closures, and the state of schools and location of school children.

During the wildfire in South Kohala in '05 there was no timely information on when and how to evacuate Waikoloa Village. It was CHAOS. There was no timely information on the status of school children in schools in three towns. The radio stations carried old announcements and at no set time or frequency.

After the earthquakes in '06 the only communication at my home in Waikoloa was my cell phone to the mainland where my son could tell me what was happening. *All radio stations that are normally received clearly here were out, except for one which was pleading, begging on-air for the Mayor or Civil Defense to call them.* They could not, of course, be heard in Hilo.

During a rather moderate storm late last year, I tried to determine the latest Civil Defense message by accessing it on-line, but the cable Internet connection was down. So, I went to my radio and found only a Maui station, and it was on "automatic pilot."

Civil Defense promised some radio stations generators after the earthquakes, but only one has been installed, and that on the Hilo side of the island, where we cannot hear it. Others are in a state of flux. Nothing has happened, as demonstrated during that storm.

A hardened, redundant capability for radio communications to all major population areas in Hawaii is essential.

A station installed on Maui should be at enough strength to be picked up in North Kohala on the Big Island, which only gets high-wattage Maui stations. All sides of all Islands need coverage. The pilot should take this into account when testing a solution.

A pilot program is imperative and must not be allowed to drag on.

Mahalo for supporting House Bill 2160

Anika Glass  
Waikoloa HI 967-38  
808-937-2309

2/7/2008

# LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: Thurs Feb. 07, 2008

Time 8:45 am

Place: Conf Room 309

**RE: SUPPORT OF HB 2160**

I am in support of HB 2160, which would establish a pilot project to operate an emergency advisory radio station. In the past few of years, my community has experienced an extremely large fire and a major earthquake. The lack of communication from officials during these incidents placed my community in heightened danger.

Setting up a reliable system for communication during disasters is paramount. To help protect the public, we need to insure that officials can provide frequent, up to the minute updates to an emergency advisory radio station.

Please support HB 2160 and help insure the safety of the public.

Chris Gaughen  
Hawai`i Island

**Tommie Suganuma**

## LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** Tommie Suganuma on behalf of Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 9:30 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Testimony on HB2160 "Emergency Advisory Radio Station; Pilot Program"

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 2:05 PM  
**To:** Rep. Cindy Evans  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Testimony on HB2160 "Emergency Advisory Radio Station; Pilot Program"

Aloha Cindy,

As a member of the Board of Directors for the Waikoloa Village Association and the chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, I am in full support of this bill. The residents of our village are in dire need of information updated during an emergency such as the earthquake in 2006 and the big fires of 2004 and 2005. Our county officials give reports several hours old and with a population pushing 7000, we need information and would like to be kept up with what is happening during an emergency. We have proposed some type of radio system for years and even tried to get a low powered FM station license to no avail. This means of communication would be the most efficient for keeping the residents informed.

*Mahalo and Aloha,*

*Jim Albone*

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har2-Michael

LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** BARBARA FUNK [BAFUNK@webtv.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 9:48 PM  
**To:** PSMtestimony  
**Subject:** HB2160

I fully support HB2160  
protection during emergencies.  
Barbara Funk

We need safe  
Waikoloa