

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2787
A BILL RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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Chair Evans and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am testifying on House Bill 2787.

We support the concept of House Bill 2787 as residents and visitors need to know about the likely hazards that may affect their communities. They also need to know how to protect themselves, their families, and businesses from the potential effects of likely hazards. They need information concerning emergency shelters, evacuation routes, and of plans to provide disaster assistance and recovery.

Much of the aforementioned disaster preparedness information is available to the general public through a variety of resources. While we work to build emergency preparedness and response capabilities in government, we have strived to inform the public about preparedness through presentations, workshops, and publications.

We believe that the proposed bill may be more appropriate in the form of a resolution. The State Preparedness Report required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security may not be the appropriate document for community-specific disaster plans. This level of planning is generally included in county emergency operations plans.

Again, we support the concept of the bill as it parallels national, State and local emergency management goals in building disaster-resilient communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Are there any questions?