

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 3347
A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL
CENTER TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY ENERGY CAPACITY

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

BY

LATE TESTIMONY

EDWARD T. TEIXEIRA
VICE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

February 13, 2008

Chair Green and Committee Members:

I am Ed Teixeira, Vice Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony on House Bill 3347.

We support the intent of House Bill 3347 so long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

The Queen's Medical Center's emergency generator capacity for its trauma center is currently not sufficient to support a prolonged power outage resulting from a major disaster. The Queen's Medical Center needs financial assistance to build an emergency generator capacity that would accommodate an estimated peak demand of six thousand kilowatts of electricity.

A grant to the Queen's Medical Center under Chapter 42F, HRS, may be a viable strategy to hasten the installation of additional emergency generators and storage areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this measure.

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THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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Representative Joshua Green, M.D., Chair
House Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 13, 2008; 8:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

LATE TESTIMONY

Re: HB 3347 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY ENERGY CAPACITY

Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leslie Chinen, Vice President of Corporate Development for The Queen's Health Systems, **testifying in strong support of HB 3347** which appropriates funds to the Queen's Medical Center as a grant to increase its emergency power generator system to ensure a required maximum capacity of 6,000 kilowatts to continue operating its hospital and trauma center in the event of a disaster.

The October 2006 Big Island earthquakes and subsequent power outage severely hampered The Queen's Medical Center's (Queen's) ability to provide comprehensive health care and serve as the "heart" of the State's trauma system. Queen's was forced to rely on back-up generator power and the hospital activated its internal disaster plan.

Patients Discharged: In the early hours following the earthquakes, the severity of damage and injuries was not immediately clear. Queen's asked physicians to discharge sufficiently healthy patients to open up bed capacity in the event the Medical Center received patients on ventilators from home-care settings (who were affected by the power outage) or possibly had to accommodate neighbor island-transferred patients.

Elevators Inoperable: Following the earthquakes, only certain elevators worked intermittently, affecting the delivery of food to patients as well as the ability to move patients to other floors.

Lack of Air Conditioning, Impact on Diagnostic Equipment and Sterility: With limited back-up generator power, the Medical Center went without air conditioning. Higher than normal temperatures affected diagnostic equipment which must remain cool to function correctly. Queen's CT and MRI (vital tools in our ability to diagnose and treat suspected traumas) became unusable, forcing the Medical Center to go on "Trauma Divert" for the first time ever. Emergency medical services had to divert incoming trauma patients to Tripler because Queen's could not function as a trauma center without a reliable CT or MRI. Staff physicians were also concerned about the sterility of the Operating Room due to increased warmth and humidity in the Medical Center.

Queen's has been working on an electrical upgrade project since 2004 and the 2006 earthquakes stressed the urgent need for additional emergency power generation. Anticipated project cost is \$34.5 million. As the State's trauma center, Queen's appreciates the Legislature's support and acknowledgement that trauma care should be a public health priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Founded in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV

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