

**testimony**

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**From:** John Tomoso [John.Tomoso@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 10:47 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on S.B. 2107 Relating to Disaster Preparedness

**LATE**

**Importance:** High

\*\* High Priority \*\*

To the Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing and the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, who are holding a public hearing on Monday, February 11, 2008, @ 1:15 p.m., In Room 229.

Aloha mai kakou,

I am in support of the establishment of a disaster planning and preparedness consumer advisory board. This board will review existing and develop new policies and plans that address the needs of the elderly (kupuna) and disabled members of our community, in the event of a man-made or natural disaster. This bill is in the best interest of the aging network as "disaster preparedness" is now a mandated inclusion to our Area Plans on Aging, 2007-2011, per the federal Administration on Aging. Pursuant to the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006, our office, as an "Area Agency on Aging" (AAA), and all AAAs throughout Hawai'i Nei and the country, must now include specific goals, objectives and "action plans" to assist in the coordination of plans and activities with "local and state emergency response agencies". I welcome the intent of S.B. 2107.

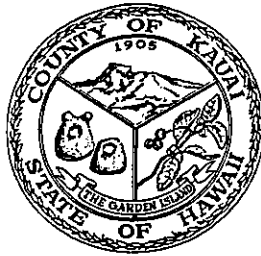
Me ka mahalo pono,

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County of Maui.

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**BRYAN J. BAPTISTE**  
MAYOR



**LUDVINA K. TAKAHASHI**  
EXECUTIVE ON AGING

**GARY K. HEU**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**COUNTY OF KAUA'I**  
**AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**I ATE**

February 8, 2008

**TO:** The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

**FROM:** Ludvina K. Takahashi  
County Executive on Aging

**SUBJ:** SB 2107 RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
SB 2351 RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of Senate Bills 2107 and 2351.

One of the priorities of our federal Administration on Aging is to address and support emergency preparedness for older adults and caregivers. Here on Kaua'i, we have experienced Hurricanes Iwa and Iniki and have learned valuable lessons on emergency preparedness and how we, as an Area Agency on Aging, need to support opportunities for collaboration in our community on this issue. We are particularly concerned about the needs of older adults who are homebound and have special health and mobility impairments during an emergency or disaster.

Over the past year, we have participated in the working group and supported the process to develop an interagency action plan to discuss emergency preparedness for people with disabilities and special health needs. This group was comprised of individuals and agencies that provided input in the planning process for the action plan.

Consequently, we support SB 2107 that would establish a consumer advisory board to review policies and plans relating to disaster planning and preparedness which would address the concerns of older adults and persons with special needs. In addition, we also express our support of SB 2351 which would enable the existing statewide task force to continue their work to advise the Civil Defense Division on the needs of persons with special health needs and impairments. Both bills would provide a valuable mechanism and opportunity for community input on the planning and implementation process.

Thank you very much for your consideration.