

SB2336

Measure Title:

RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

Report Title:

Emergency Energy Capacity; Disaster Preparedness (\$)

Description:

Appropriates funds to the State's only trauma center to upgrade generator capacity in order to ensure sufficient capacity in the event of a major disaster.

Introducer(s):

ESPERO (BR)

Current Referral:

IGM/HTH, WAM

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2336
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

BY

EDWARD T. TEIXEIRA
VICE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

February 13, 2008

Chair Inouye, Chair Ige, and Committee Members:

I am Ed Teixeira, Vice Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony on Senate Bill 2336.

We support the intent of Senate Bill 2336 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.

We recommend that a grant to the Queen's Medical Center under Chapter 42F, HRS, be considered to hasten the installation of additional emergency generators and storage areas.

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



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senate Committee on Intergovernmental & Military Affairs

Senator David Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 13, 2008; 1:10 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Re: SB 2336 – RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Chairs Inouye and Ige, Vice Chairs Tsutsui and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Mark Yamakawa, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of The Queen's Health Systems, **testifying in strong support of SB 2336**, which appropriates funds to the State's only trauma center to upgrade generator capacity in order to ensure sufficient capacity in the event of a major 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