



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 11, 2008

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
and

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senate Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Chun Oakland and Inouye and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: SB 2107 – RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SB 2351 – RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Defense (DOD).

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF SB 2107 and SB 2351**. The purpose of SB 2107 is to establish a disaster planning and preparedness consumer advisory board within DOH to review existing and develop new policies and plans that address the needs of the elderly and disabled members of the community in the event of a man-made or natural disaster. The purpose of SB 2351 is to establish a statewide task force within the Civil Defense Division (CDD) of DOD to advise CDD of the needs of individuals with disabilities and special health needs.

In October 2005, an Interagency Workgroup was convened by the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) to develop an interagency action plan for the emergency preparedness of individuals with disabilities and special health needs (see attached for the membership of the workgroup). The workgroup consists of representation from agencies representing persons with disabilities, community agencies, County and State agencies. The Council is a member of the workgroup.

Over the last two years, the workgroup has revised the action plan to reflect emerging issues relating to emergency preparedness, notification and sheltering in place. Other issues addressed are infrastructure and recovery and long-term support.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye
Page 2
February 11, 2008

The Council appreciates the Legislature's initiative to establish a consumer advisory board to review existing policies and develop new policies regarding emergency and disaster planning. We strongly believe participation of individuals with disabilities and agencies representing them are critical to policy development, implementation and monitoring in emergency preparedness.

With all due respect for the intent of SB 2107 and SB 2351, and in consideration of what the Interagency Workgroup is doing, we feel these bills are not necessary. The Council suggests for your consideration, that rather than provide an appropriation to establish a consumer advisory board and a statewide emergency planning task force, the Legislature provide an appropriation to DOD or to DCAB to enhance the work of the existing Interagency Workgroup. We believe it is appropriate for the workgroup to address the intent of both bills with fiscal support.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting the intent of SB 2107 and SB 2351, and to offer suggestions on both bills.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator

**Interagency Workgroup
for the Emergency Preparedness
of People with Disabilities and
Special Needs**

**State of Hawaii Departments or Agencies
(alpha)**

Department of Education (DOE)
Department of Health (DOH)
Department of Human Services (DHS)
Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB)
Executive Office on Aging (EOA)
State Civil Defense (SCD)
State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DDC)

**County Departments or Agencies
(alpha)**

City and County of Honolulu, Department of Emergency Management
County of Hawaii, Civil Defense Agency
County of Kauai, Civil Defense Agency
County of Maui, Civil Defense Agency

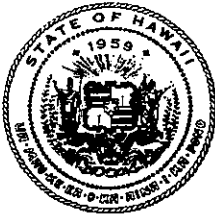
**Community Agencies
(alpha)**

American Red Cross (ARC)
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Agencies Representing Individuals with Disabilities
(alpha)**

County of Hawaii, Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities
County of Kauai, Mayor's Advisory Committee for Equal Access
County of Maui, Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities
Hawaii Centers for Independent Living
Hui Kupuna VIP
National Federation of the Blind
National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Hawaii Division

The above list was taken from the Draft "2008 Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Needs", State of Hawaii, January 2008.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 11, 2008

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senate Bill 2107 - Relating to Disaster Preparedness and
Senate Bill 2351 - Relating to Emergency Preparedness

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) appreciates the intent of the Legislature to address the very important issue of disaster preparedness for people with disabilities and special health needs. Since our testimony on both bills are the same, we are using one testimony to address both bills. While we appreciate the intent, we do not believe either bill is necessary.

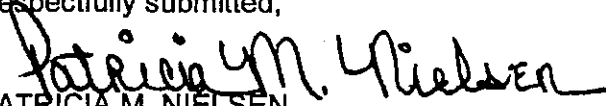
Senate Bill 2107 proposes to establish a disaster planning and preparedness consumer advisory board attached to the Department of Health, and Senate Bill 2351 proposes to establish a statewide emergency planning task force attached to State Civil Defense to advise civil defense agencies on the needs of the people who are elderly or disabled community members in the event of a manmade or natural disaster. Both bills make an unspecified appropriation.


Our office has staffed and coordinated an Interagency Working Group that has produced an Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs. This group includes representatives from state and county agencies as active participants, as well as representatives from key disability organizations. We conducted five statewide forums to obtain input from over 200 people in the community to assist in policy and program development through this planning process. Tremendous progress has been made in this area of bringing people to the table to provide advice and guidance on this very important issue.

As such, we feel that a statutory requirement is not only unnecessary but makes the process more cumbersome than needed. Currently, any agency serving people who are elderly or who have disabilities or any disaster response entity desiring active participation has been welcome. This has allowed flexibility to expand the Working Group as needed when new issues arise. If the Legislature would like to enhance the progress of the Working Group, we would most certainly welcome an appropriation to assist us, as additional funds would allow us to move faster in our efforts, as DCAB is currently re-directing time from its only Planner/ADA Coordinator position to work on this Plan. However, we much prefer that the Legislature direct monies to fund some of the activities recommended in the Plan, including shelter expansion, additional equipment, outreach campaigns, shelter-in-place efforts, and communications enhancement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,


PATRICIA M. NIELSEN
Chairperson
Legislative Committee


FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
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To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senate Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

From: Paul T. Tsukiyama, Director

Date: February 11, 2008, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

Re: Testimony on S.B. 2351
Relating to Emergency Preparedness

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2351. The Office of Information Practices ("OIP") takes no position on the substance of this bill, which seeks to establish a statewide emergency planning task force, but offers the following comment.

The bill, in section 2, proposes subsection (e), which reads as follows:

(e) Meetings of the task force shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Hawaii's open meetings law, commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, is contained in part I of chapter 92. The remainder of chapter 92 provides general provisions concerning meetings and records, such as board powers and quorum, copy charges for records, and public hearing notices.

Accordingly, if the legislature's intent is only to exempt the task force from the Sunshine Law, the above quoted language should be amended to exempt the task force "from part I of chapter 92."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LANAKILA

Building Independence for Challenged Lives

PRESIDENT & CEO
Marian E. Tsuji

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The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Hawaii State Legislature
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

February 11, 2008; 1:15p
Room 229

SB 2351 Relating to Emergency Preparedness

Good afternoon, Chairs Chun Oakland and Inouye, Vice Chairs Ihara and Tsutsui, and Members of the Human Services and Intergovernmental Affairs Committees. Lanakila Rehabilitation Center is in support of SB 2107. Lanakila Rehabilitation Center is in support of SB 2351. As a nonprofit organization that serves thousands of seniors and people with disabilities each year, we understand that these two groups are especially vulnerable populations in our community.

We know from our experience working with these individuals that many traditional emergency notification methods are not accessible to or usable by people with disabilities. People who are deaf or hard of hearing cannot hear radio, television, sirens, or other audible alerts. Those who are blind or who have low vision may not be aware of visual cues, such as flashing lights.

In addition, these groups are often very isolated and will need transportation to an accessible shelter and additional assistance with evacuation. Many times people with developmental disabilities are living with parents who are elderly and have no other support systems. Many of these families do not speak English or English is their second language.

As a result, Lanakila advocates for policies that will increase health and safety in our community to ensure that people with special needs are not left behind in the event of an emergency. We believe that legislation such as SB 2351 will serve to increase independence and improve the quality of life of the seniors and people with disabilities that we serve.

Your consideration and support of SB 2351 is appreciated. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by Marian E. Tsuji, President and CEO

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2351
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

AND

COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

February 11, 2008

Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. We support the concept of Senate Bill 2351 because it coincides with our interest in establishing a vulnerable population advisory committee under State Civil Defense.

We have two concerns about the proposed bill: 1) the fiscal impact of appropriations may replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request; and 2) the composition of the task force per Section 2 (a) (3).

We recommend that the language of Section 2 (a) (3) be amended to reflect that the nine members of the community at large should be selected by those boards or agencies which currently serve vulnerable population groups. The Disability and Communication Access Board, for example, has contributed in no small way to our progress in interagency planning and should be in a position to nominate members of the task force.

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

testimony

From: Mayors ADA [mayorsada@kauai.gov]

Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 5:22 PM

To: testimony

Subject: In support of the following bills relating to emergency preparedness for people with disabilities

Notice regarding hearings on civil defense bills involving special needs.

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2008

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

SB 2107

Testimony

Status RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

Establishes a disaster planning and preparedness consumer advisory board to review existing and develop new policies and plans that address the needs of the elderly and disabled members of the community in the event of a man-made or natural disaster. Makes an appropriation. HSP/IGM, WAM

SB 2351

Testimony

Status RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

Establishes a statewide task force to advise the Civil Defense Division of the state Department of Defense on the needs of individuals with disabilities and special health needs. HSP/IGM, WAM

It is so important that these bills pass so the state can effectively provide the necessary supports to include people with disabilities into emergency preparedness planning. The Civil Defense Departments on each island have their own unique challenges relating to emergencies. Their expertise is dealing with the "masses" so we need to make sure the masses include people who are elderly and people who have disabilities because they are our family members and we don't want to be separated from our most vulnerable family members at a time of emergency.

We want to be secure and proud that in the State of Hawaii our Civil Defense agencies, island-wide, are prepared to deal with people of all ages and all abilities during a natural disaster or an emergency. Both the above Bills will assist the Civil Defense in providing the people across our state with a more effective plan for emergencies. Please support SB 2107 & 2351.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
cp

Christina Pilkington

ADA Coordinator
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