

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 788 PROPOSED SD1
A BILL RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

February 1, 2008

Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense, and I am testifying on Senate Bill 788 Proposed SD1.

Although the proposed bill could provide funds that would enhance the department's emergency response capabilities we are concerned about funding priorities. We therefore support the intent of Senate Bill 788 Proposed SD1 so long as it does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

We have established a disaster supply warehouse in Diamond Head Crater and could use additional funding for the purchase of additional supplies including the purchase of equipment to support emergency shelters for Special Health Needs groups. Currently, the Major Disaster Fund is appropriated at \$500,000. These funds are being used to pay for the non-federal cost share of expenses for three open disasters (2004-2006) and for the December 2007 High Wind and Flood emergency response. The department will require additional funds to pay for disaster recovery expenses.

The department has also initiated the design and fabrication of an impact resistance testing capability that was prescribed by Act 5, Special Session of 2005. Funds are needed to sustain the project beyond the current fiscal year.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this disaster-related measure.