



COUNTY OF KAUAI
Fire Department
Mo'ikeha Building
4444 Rice Street, Suite 295
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

March 28, 2008

The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kokubun:

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution (S.C.R.) 85, S.D. 1/Senate Resolution (S.R.) 47, S.D. 1 - Relating to Developing Emergency Evacuation Plans for Condominium Associations

I am Robert F. Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The KFD supports S.C.R. 85, S.D. 1/S.R. 47, S.D. 1, which would urge the association of apartment owners throughout the state to develop emergency and evacuation plans that include the special needs of senior and medically fragile residents.

Knowing what to do in an emergency can minimize panic and prevent tragic consequences for natural and manmade disasters, including fire. Critical minutes elapse from the onset of an emergency until emergency responders arrive and commence operations. Building occupants can provide the immediate actions necessary to evacuate and assist residents in a safe, orderly manner, which has proven to save lives and minimize property damage.

The KFD is available to provide guidance and assist the condominium association of apartment owners in developing their emergency and evacuation plans and requests your committee's support on the passage of S.C.R. 85, S.D. 1/S.R. 47, S.D. 1.

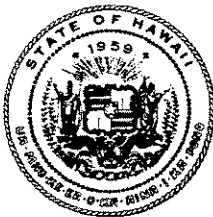
Should you have any questions, please call me at (808) 241-6500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman".

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
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March 31, 2008

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Senate Concurrent Resolution 85, SD1/Senate Resolution 47, SD1 – Urging the Associations of Apartment Owners and Condominium Unit Owners' Associations in the State to Develop Emergency and Evacuation Plans for Residents, Including Provisions for Seniors and Residents with Special Health Needs

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 85, SD1/Senate Resolution 47, SD1 which urges the Association of Apartment Owners and Condominium Unit Owners Association in Hawaii to develop emergency evacuation plans for residents, including provisions for seniors and residents with special health needs.

DCAB is one of three co-conveners of an Interagency Working Group that has developed an Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and Special Health Needs. One of the basic premises of the "2008 Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of Persons with Disabilities and Special Health Needs" is that "Emergency readiness is foremost an individual's personal responsibility, or, if the person is in the care of another person, the caregiver's responsibility. Increased personal readiness for a person with a disability or special health need is even more important to ensure that the person's unique challenges or needs are met."

Urging the Associations of Apartment Owners and Condominium Unit Owners to develop emergency and evacuation plans for residents, including persons with disabilities and special health needs is consistent with the 2008 Interagency Action Plan. We urge the Associations to include residents with disabilities in discussions to develop emergency and evacuation plans, beyond just the voluntary survey mentioned in the resolution. Including residents with disabilities also offers an avenue for direct contact with other residents with disabilities to ensure all residents are aware of emergency readiness, as well as procedures and evacuation routes to use during an emergency. Therefore, we feel including residents with disabilities will provide an invaluable resource in the development of the plans.

We urge your favorable consideration of these resolutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA M. NIELSEN
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 85 SD 1
URGING ASSOCIATIONS OF APARTMENT OWNERS AND
CONDOMINIUM UNIT OWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN THE STATE
TO DEVELOP EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION PLANS FOR
RESIDENTS, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR SENIORS AND
RESIDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

BY

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

MARCH 31, 2008

Chair Kokubun and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 85 SD1.

We are in support of Senate Resolution 47 SD1; however, we recommend amending paragraph 7, to read "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, those associations of apartment owners and condominium unit owners' associations throughout the state are urged to develop emergency plans that include evacuation and shelter-in-place plans that address the special needs of senior and medically fragile residents.

The plans should include provisions for emergency supplies such as water and non-perishable food. These plans should be distributed to all residents and posted publicly where they can be viewed by residents and visitors.

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