



**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  
March 24, 2008

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

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

**SUBJECT: SCR 18 and SR 12 – REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONVENE A STATEWIDE TASK FORCE TO ADVISE THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION ON THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS**

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 SCR 18 and SR 12, however, in consideration of what the Interagency Workgroup is doing, we feel these resolutions are not necessary.**

The purpose of the measures is to request DOD to: 1) convene a statewide task force to advise the Civil Defense Division (CDD) on addressing and planning for the disaster-preparedness needs of individuals with disabilities and special health needs, and 2) report the finding of the task force to the Legislature prior to the 2009 Session.

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.

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye  
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
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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. We are confident that the Interagency Workgroup will continue to address the disaster-preparedness needs of individuals with disabilities and special health needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SCR 18 and SR 12.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Waynette K. Y. Cabral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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 "2008 Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Needs," State of Hawaii, January 2008.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE RESOLUTION 12  
REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONVENE A  
STATEWIDE TASK FORCE TO ADVISE THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION ON THE  
NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

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

MARCH 24, 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 intent of Senate Resolution 12; however funding will be necessary to accomplish the goal of convening a statewide task force.

In the last two years we have made significant progress in disaster planning and preparedness for our special health needs population groups. This achievement is the result of interagency planning and coordination involving those agencies named in the proposed resolution including others that are not. Still, much work remains to be done to build our emergency preparedness capabilities to support the vulnerable, and we need their input and recommendations to develop effective plans and programs.

With respect to the language of this proposed resolution, we recommend that the members of the state task force be chosen by agencies or organizations that directly support special health needs population groups.

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