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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Friday, April 17, 2009
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 550 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAI'I HURRICANE RELIEF FUND, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHAEL P. HAMNETT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2013.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lloyd Lim, Acting Executive Director of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund ("HHRF"), testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department strongly supports the reappointment of Michael P. Hamnett, Ph.D to the HHRF Board of Directors.

Dr. Hamnett has served with distinction on the HHRF Board. He diligently attends meetings and participates actively in the discussion. Dr. Hamnett has a long history with HHRF, having also served on the HHRF Technical Advisory Committee and having written an important publication about the limits of federal funding for HHRF. He has provided leadership on hurricane mitigation issues, including serving as the Chair of the Hawaii Statewide Hazard Mitigation Forum and playing key roles in numerous loss mitigation research projects.

Dr. Hamnett brings high level executive and business experience to the HHRF Board, having served as the Executive Director of the Research Corporation of the

DCCA Testimony of Lloyd Lim

Re: Dr. Michael Hamnett

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University of Hawaii and the Director of the Social Science Research Institute of the University of Hawaii. This extensive decision-making experience stands him in good stead as a member of a public board such as HHRF.

Personally, I have known Dr. Hamnett since the inception of HHRF and I have always found him to think in a big picture way about things that can benefit the public.

I thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter and ask for your favorable consideration.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON GM 550
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII
HURRICANE RELIEF FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, DR. MICHAEL P. HAMNETT

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BY

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

April 17, 2009

Chair Baker and Committee Members:

I am Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing testimony in support of GM 550, which considers and confirms Dr. Michael P. Hamnett to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF) Board of Directors.

Dr. Hamnett has served effectively on various advisory committees to State Civil Defense. He has been the Chairman of the Hawaii State Hazard Mitigation Forum since 1998. The Forum advises State Civil Defense on hazard mitigation issues and serves as the clearinghouse for natural hazard mitigation activities in the State to include involvement with insurance matters dealing with hurricanes and floods.

Dr. Hamnett is acknowledged throughout the State and Pacific island nations as an expert in the field of hazard mitigation. This expertise and experience in working with Federal, State, and local emergency managers make him an ideal candidate for the HHRF Board of Directors.

We strongly urge your committee to recommend Senate confirmation on the appointment of Dr. Hamnett to the HHRF Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this consideration.

Testimony for Michael Hamnett
Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board of Directors
Submitted by
Thomas A. Schroeder
Submitted to
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
April 17, 2009
State Capitol 229

I support the re-appointment of Michael Hamnett to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF).

I have studied the science and impacts of hurricanes in Hawaii since 1982 when I served on a National Academy Review team for Hurricane Iwa.. I subsequently served in a similar capacity for Hurricane Iniki (1992). I was a television commentator on the morning of Iniki (KHON) and also served as a founding member of the Technical Advisory Committee for HHRF (1994-1999). I currently serve as a consultant to both the State of Florida (Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology) and the State of Hawaii (Insurance Division) on analysis of hurricane insurance loss models. For the past decade I have served on the State Hurricane Advisory Committee which advises the State Civil Defense agency.

I have collaborated with Michael Hamnett for over 15 years on a range of matters concerning societal impacts of weather and climate hazards. I was a contributor to early (1993) hurricane hazard analyses for Oahu led by Mike. I served with him on the Advisory Committee to HHRF and am aware of his continued efforts with the State Hazard Mitigation Forum.

Mike is well-qualified to continue on the Board of Directors of HHRF. He has an outstanding record of public service (voluntary) in support of the well-being of the citizens of Hawaii. He is well-versed in the history and goals of the HHRF . He is especially well-qualified to represent the interest of Hawaii in an era dominated by economic and climatic uncertainty.

I sincerely hope he is able to continue his important role with HHRF. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Thomas A. Schroeder