

LATE

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 954

March 3, 2009

RELATING TO A MAJOR DISASTER RESERVE TRUST FUND

House Bill No. 954 creates the Major Disaster Reserve Trust Fund to hold federal fund reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The funds held in the Major Disaster Reserve Trust Fund, including principal and any income accrued thereon, may be expended under the same circumstances and for the same purposes as funds pursuant to Section 127.11, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This bill makes no other appropriation to fund the program, which this bill establishes upon its approval.

We are opposed to this bill. Section 162 of Act 213, SLH 2007, as amended by Act 158, SLH 2008, provides the Governor with the authority to transfer savings or unrequired balances as may be available from the appropriated funds of any program in Act 213, SLH 2007, as amended by Act 158, SLH 2008, to cope with the effects of natural disasters or other unforeseen emergencies, making the passage of this bill unnecessary.