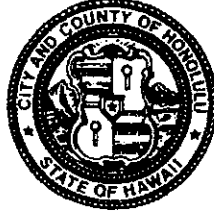


OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR

February 3, 2010

The Honorable Faye P. Hanohano, Chair
and Members of the Public Safety
Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hanohano and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 1888 – Relating to Disaster Preparedness

The City and County of Honolulu supports in principle House Bill No. 1888 (HB 1888; "Bill"), which establishes the Office of Disaster Preparedness in the Department of Defense (Department).

Attached are comments to this Bill, which are intended to prevent major duplication of effort and funding within the Department, as well as alleviate confusion with regard to leadership roles, responsibilities, and authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should there be any questions, please contact Melvin N. Kaku, Director, Department of Emergency Management, at 723-8960 or email mkaku@honolulu.gov.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mufi Hannemann".

Mufi Hannemann
Mayor

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

| AREA | COMMENTS |
|---|---|
| §__ 1-Definitions | Add: "Preparedness' means any pre-disaster action or activity to mitigate against loss of life and damage to property in addition to increasing response and recovery capabilities." |
| §__ 2-Office of disaster preparedness established | <p>Line 8; after "disaster preparedness" append "which exists independently from the civil defense division."</p> <p>Language clarity will avoid secondary administrative oversight and influence over the Commission's activities and deliverables. It is important that this office is not imbedded under the Civil Defense Division. Current HRS is vague and invites subjective interpretation of the delegation of authority from the Director of Civil Defense to the Vice Director of Civil Defense. Authority over plans and programs can be interpreted to mean plans and programs of the Commission.</p> |
| §__ 2-Office of disaster preparedness established | <p>Line 10; after "...exempt from civil service." add "The director shall serve as the state's designated state hazard mitigation officer as federally mandated."</p> <p>Currently, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) is a special staff member under the Civil Defense Division; and, reports to, and receives direction from the Vice Director of Civil Defense. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter 1, Section 201.3 mandates the requirement of a SHMO; but, does not mandate where the SHMO is placed within state government. CFR identifies the SHMO as the official representative of State government and primary point of contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA; the implementing agency for Federal pre-disaster and mitigation grant programs).</p> <p>Consolidating the roles of the Director and SHMO will eliminate duplication of effort and salaries (in part, depending on pay scale).</p> |
| §__ 3-Duties of the director | <p>Under (b); after "The director shall report..." change language to "at minimum bi-annually to the governor and to public safety legislators no later than twenty days..."</p> <p>Because disaster preparedness funding and activities are fluid processes, it is imperative that they all be kept abreast of current preparedness issues in order to take proactive measures as opposed to reactive measures.</p> |
| §__ 4-Disaster preparedness commission established... | <p>Line 6; before "The commission shall consist..."; insert "The commission, through its defined duties, shall replace all other commissions, forums, or ad-hoc groups with replicate activities."</p> <p>The Commission will replace the Hawaii State Hazard Mitigation Forum (Forum) which falls under the Civil Defense Division. The Forum's primary duties are to determine the state's mitigation strategies, guide mitigation plans updates, and provide recommendations to the Director of Civil Defense on mitigation project priorities. Hurricane and earthquake committees also apply.</p> <p>This will not affect HRS Chapter 128-4: Civil Defense Advisory Council, whose roles and responsibilities are clearly defined as a public body for civil defense matters.</p> |
| §__ 4-Disaster preparedness commission established... | On page 5 line 8 under (3) "Advise and assist..." add: "(C) Guiding the updates of federally mandated mitigation plans;" and "(D) Evaluating preparedness activity inconsistencies, report findings, and provide remedial recommendations to the Governor." |

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1888
A BILL RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

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

February 4, 2010

Chair Hanohano and Committee members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony in opposition to House Bill 1888.

We oppose House Bill 1888 because the proposed bill establishes an office of disaster preparedness and disaster preparedness commission within the Department of Defense for the purpose of developing a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan for the State of Hawaii. The proposed bill will duplicate ongoing emergency preparedness functions and planning performed by the State Civil Defense Division.

If this proposal is passed, there will be considerable cost implications generated by creating a new office of the director of disaster preparedness in the Department of Defense.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony that opposes this bill.