

HB 2692 HD1

Measure Title:

RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

Report Title:

Requires the director of civil defense to prepare a disaster preparedness plan for the 44th and 45th House of Representatives districts and report to the legislature in 2011. Effective July 1, 2020.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2692 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

March 11, 2010

Chair Espero 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 2692 HD1 because we believe that the proposed bill is not necessary and above all, omits the critical role and responsibilities of the City and County of Honolulu, specifically those of the Mayor and Director, Department of Emergency Management, in emergency preparedness planning.

We recognize that disaster preparedness planning for communities along the Leeward Oahu coast is a very important task. While these communities face many challenges when incidents and emergencies occur, there are other communities throughout the State that face similar challenges and conditions. Developing specific disaster preparedness plans for these communities is a long-term process that requires master planning and funding.

The proposed bill, if passed, will require State funding at \$194,000 to support two additional staff planners and administrative support staff in State Civil Defense that must be dedicated to developing a specific disaster preparedness plan for House Districts 44 and 45. On the other hand, the City and County of Honolulu will receive Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 funds in the amount of \$1.6 million to perform regional catastrophic disaster planning which may be used toward the development of specific plans for the these districts and other districts on Oahu.

The city received \$2 million in FFY 2008 and \$1.4 million in FFY 2009 for catastrophic disaster planning which were used to develop non-medical pandemic influenza plans for all counties.

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

Rev. `Alapaki Kim
89-318 Farrington Hwy
Nanakuli, O`ahu, Hawai`I 96792

Chair Senator Espero
Vice Chair Senator Bunda
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

This testimony is relating to Disaster Preparedness Planning, H.B No. 2692, H.D. 1. The Wai`anae Coast is a disaster waiting to happen. Farrington Highway is the only way civilians have to get into and out of the coast. In the past there have been accidents, hostage situations and the like that have closed the road for hours. In case of an emergency or disaster, if something happens anywhere along the highway in the Wai`anae area and the road gets closed, I feel this would pose a threat to the safety of the people who live on the Wai`anae Coast, if not a life threatening situation for some.

In our recent tsunami alert, the road was closed from Ko `Olina thereby cutting off the entire coast for hours. Also to make an untenable situation worse, the evacuation centre at Nanakuli High was not prepared to receive people who were evacuating. When the people were arriving at the evacuation centre, the centre not only lacked the necessary supplies, but they weren't even opened. Had a major tsunami hit, quite possibly the only access onto the coast could have been shut thus making it impossible to evacuate the injured and to bring in necessary supplies like water, food and shelter to the entire coast.

We at St. Rita Church in Nanakuli regularly tend to the needs of the homeless so we are keenly aware of the numbers of homeless along the coast. In a major disaster, Civil Defense not only has to concern itself of the evacuation of this segment of the population, but also they need a contingency plan to deal with them after the disaster has hit. Due to the one road in and out situation there has to be a way of providing the necessary supplies not only for the homeless, but for all the people along the coast.

The Military says they have a plan, but I am afraid that as the military goes, their plan deals with military property, assets and personnel and does not adequately deal with the tens of thousands of civilians who live on the Wai`anae Coast. In the past there have been cancer clusters appearing in Nanakuli and Ma`ili, ostensibly due to the antennae at Lualualei. Instead of being helpful, all investigation ended when coming face to face with the military. I have no reason to believe that they will deal any differently with the civilian population on the Wai`anae coast in a major disaster.

The Waianae Coast needs to have a legitimate secondary road in and out of the and not just a \$2 Million bridge that goes to nowhere. Civil Defense has to devise a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan for the Waianae Coast. If a secondary road cannot be built, then Civil Defense and the State Government should devise contingency plans to bring in necessary supplies to the coast and they need to develop a means by which the injured could be evacuated for medical treatment.

If the last tsunami alert taught us anything, it is how ill prepared Civil Defense is concerning the safety of the people on the Wai`anae coast.

I thank you for your kind attention in this matter.

Ke aloha no,



Rev. `Alapaki Kim

Resident of District 44

March 10, 2010

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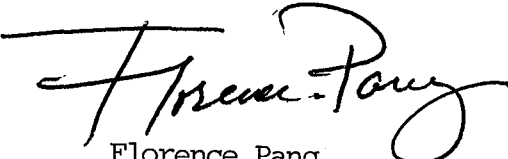
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Department of Defense says they have a plan but I am afraid that the Department of Defense March 6, 2010 failed. The road was closed from Ko Olina thereby cutting off the entire coast for hours. Also to make an untenable situation worse, the evacuation centre at Nanakuli High was not prepared to receive people who were evacuating. When the people were arriving at the evacuation centre, the centre not only lacked the necessary supplies, but they weren't even opened. Had a major tsunami hit, quite possibly the only access onto the coast could have been shut thus making it impossible to evacuate the injured and to bring in necessary supplies.

This bill requires the Department of Defense to prepare a disaster preparedness plan for our communities. The bill includes community meetings for constituents too discuss a plan of action. The most important resources we can use are our people. Businesses and residents have access to heavy equipment vehicles which could help pave the way for a safe passage.

The reality is many of our residents are not properly equipped with an emergency kit for natural disasters. Coordination needs to take place before another disaster occurs. And it will occur. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now.



Florence Pang

Resident of District 44

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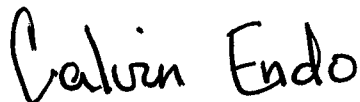
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Calvin Endo

Resident of District 44

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Steve Joseph

Resident of District 44

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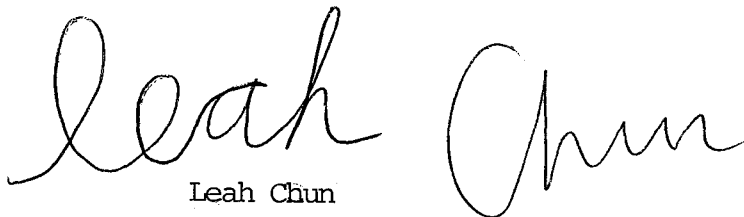
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Leah Chun

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Stacie Marshman

Resident of District 44

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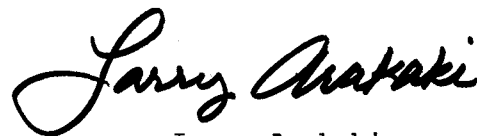
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Larry Arakaki

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KAPUA KAMAHELE

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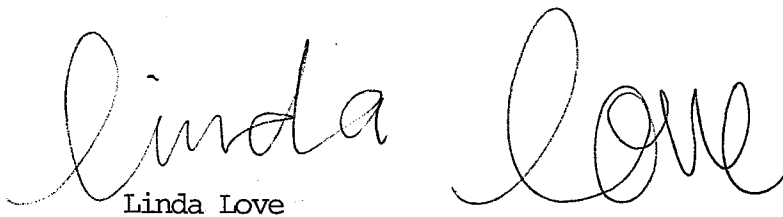
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Linda Love

Resident of District 44

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Sandy Aken

Resident of District 44

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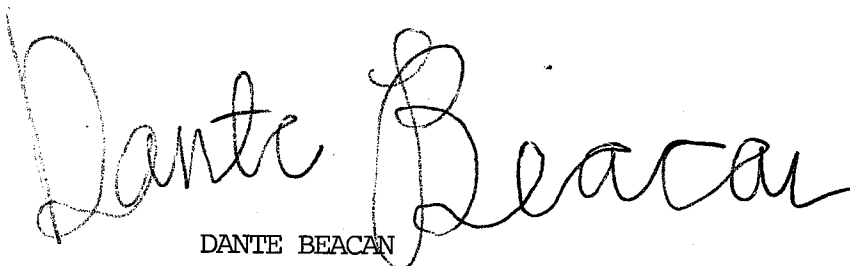
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DANTE BEACAN

Resident of District 44

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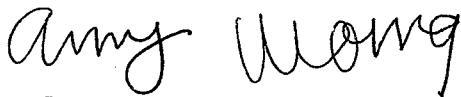
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Amy Wong

Resident of District 44

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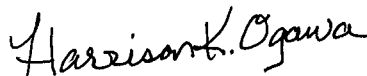
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Harrison Ogawa

Resident of District 44

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Mary Pascua

Resident of District 44

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In 2008 the Waianae Coast was struck by a severe storm which left many of our residents deserted. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy which completely shut down traffic coming in and out of the Waianae Coast. There was no electricity and gasoline used for transportation could not be pumped. Phone calls for emergencies and to our family members could not be used. The only thing that people could rely on was ourselves.

Department of Defense says they have a plan but I am afraid that the Department of Defense March 6, 2010 failed. The road was closed from Ko Olina thereby cutting off the entire coast for hours. Also to make an untenable situation worse, the evacuation centre at Nanakuli High was not prepared to receive people who were evacuating. When the people were arriving at the evacuation centre, the centre not only lacked the necessary supplies, but they weren't even opened. Had a major tsunami hit, quite possibly the only access onto the coast could have been shut thus making it impossible to evacuate the injured and to bring in necessary supplies.

This bill requires the Department of Defense to prepare a disaster preparedness plan for our communities. The bill includes community meetings for constituents too discuss a plan of action. The most important resources we can use are our people. Businesses and residents have access to heavy equipment vehicles which could help pave the way for a safe passage.

The reality is many of our residents are not properly equipped with an emergency kit for natural disasters. Coordination needs to take place before another disaster occurs. And it will occur. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now.


Chanel Opunui

Resident of District 44

March 10, 2010

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

CHAIR SENATOR ESPERO
VICE CHAIR SENATOR BUNDA
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

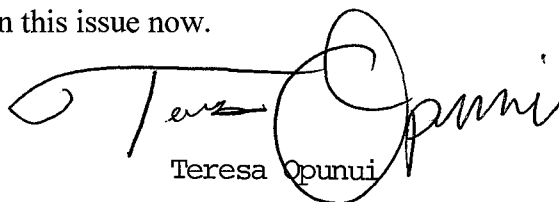
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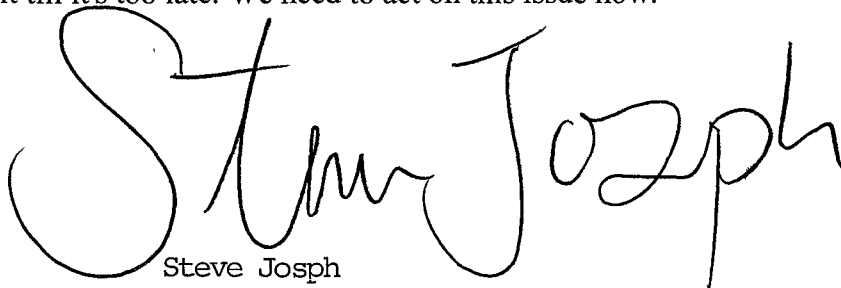
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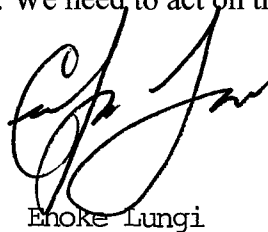
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Enoke Lungi

Resident of District 44

March 10, 2010

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Akau Billia