

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

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 2692 because we believe that the proposed bill is not necessary.

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 in terms of traffic congestion, lack of adequate ingress, egress or evacuation routes; lack of available public or privately-owned facilities that can serve as emergency shelters; and the lack of adequate resources including volunteers to care for vulnerable population groups, there are many other communities throughout the State, in every county, that face the same challenges and conditions.

In 2009, with support of numerous government and non-government agencies, the State Department of Defense and the Federal Emergency Management Agency completed a joint Hawaii Hurricane Catastrophic Disaster Plan for Oahu. The plan requires continuous interagency coordination and the establishment of task forces that address detailed planning in: port continuity operations, mass evacuation, mass feeding, energy restoration, and debris removal. Communities along the Leeward Oahu coast will benefit from this planning initiative.

The safety of citizens along the Leeward Oahu coast continues to be a matter of great concern for many government agencies and especially for the State Civil Defense Agency.

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

Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan

TESTIMONY – FULLY SUPPORT

HB 2692: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN; CIVIL DEFENSE

TO: **Rep. F. Hanohano**, Chair, Rep. H. Aquino, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety

Rep. R. Yamane, Chair, Rep. S. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Health

HEARING: Thursday, February 4, 2010 8:30 AM CR: 309

Aloha Chairs Hanohano and Yamane, Vice Chairs Aquino and Nishimoto, and members of the committees:

I'm Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan, a long time resident of Waianae and homeowner in Maili. I'm also the retired executive director of Waianae Community Outreach, a non-profit agency managing the emergency homeless shelter in Kalaeloa and providing homeless outreach services to those on the leeward coast. And currently the Leeward Housing Coalition coordinator primarily working with the homeless shelter providers and other providers of the community.

Today, I'm here as a private resident. I request for your **FULL SUPPORT to HB 2692** addressing the disaster readiness in our community, this bill MAKES EVERY SENSE!

As recent experience has thought us, we in the remote community of Waianae that includes Nanakuli from the top of Black Rock Beach Park into Maili, into Lualualei, into Waianae, into Makaha, and into Kaena at the Point, we are most vulnerable when a natural crisis or some form of accident occurred. During these times of urgency, we found that coordination of emergency plans with our local, state and community officials are difficult as there are many who response only when there is a certain type of crisis. We need to include in the plan the "houseless" community that almost all the time are affected by the conditions of the weather.

Mentioning the last 2 storms, Waianae Community Outreach under the leadership of Sophina Placencia, the executive director lead the coordination of basic core services which include the American Red Cross and staffing the evacuation shelter, the city's department of transportation with the assistance of DCS, Waianae Civil Defense, HPD and the Office of Emergency Management and volunteers to reach out and assist the houseless with relocating their pets, securing their property and accessing the services for safety. This process served as an example of how effective communication and understanding of roles would benefit those that are affected in the many different crisis.

KKBulawan
02/04/10: 8:30 AM
HB 2692: Disaster Preparedness Planning

I commend Rep. Awana, the chair and members of this committee in taking on the Kuleana of our community, accepting that we are vulnerable to the conditions of which we are not in control of and developing a master plan to address crisis that WILL, not if, another disaster hits the coast. I often say when we suffer a road shut down; we are an island of our own. The only way to access our coast will then be by air or sea.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony, I strongly ask for your support to this bill. I can be reach at 808 888-0369 for further questions. This is a NO BRAINER measure that should be PASSED!

LONG TIME RESIDENT OF NANAKULI
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

CHAIR HANOHANO, VICE CHAIR AQUINO AND THE MEMBERS OF PBS COMMITTEE.

I am testifying in **Strong Support of HB2692 RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.**

My name is Cindy Burgess and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in Nanakuli for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days when the storm had hit with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity and our telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are connected with Oceanic cable. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

Why we need HB 2692!

- *There is only one road out of the Waianae Coast.
- *The City and County Department of Facilities Maintenance has moved out of the coast to Kalaeloa.
- *There are community members and businesses willing to come forward to participate in assisting during times of natural disasters.
- *Businesses within the community have access to large construction vehicles in the coast and can assist.
- *The existing Waianae Emergency Access Route is lacking signage to inform residents should re-routing of traffic be required.
- *Reality is many are not properly equipped with an emergency kit for natural disasters.
- *Coordination needs to take place before the disaster occurs.
- *We are a community of over 60,000 people – trapped when there are road closures.
- *Lualualei Naval Magazine road is also closed during natural disasters due to the hazardous conditions – rock falls and narrow roadway.
- *When roadway is closed, the Waianae Coast becomes isolated to the rest of the island.

Mahalo,

Cindy Burgess

LONG TIME RESIDENT OF MAILI
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

CHAIR HANOHANO, VICE CHAIR AQUINO AND THE MEMBERS OF PBS
COMMITTEE.

**I am testifying in Strong Support of HB2692 RELATING TO DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.**

My name is Steve Westbrook and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in Maili for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days when the storm had hit with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity and our telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are connected with Oceanic cable. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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Mahalo,



Steve Westbrook

LONG TIME RESIDENT OF NANAKULI
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

CHAIR HANOHANO, VICE CHAIR AQUINO AND THE MEMBERS OF PBS COMMITTEE.

I am testifying in **Strong Support of HB2692 RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.**

My name is Sandra Aken and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in Nanakuli for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days when the storm had hit with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity and our telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are connected with Oceanic cable. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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Mahalo,



Sandra Aken

LONG TIME RESIDENT OF MAILI

February 4, 2010

DISTRICT 44

CHAIR HANOHANO, VICE CHAIR AQUINO AND THE MEMBERS OF PBS
COMMITTEE.

**I am testifying in Strong Support of HB2692 RELATING TO DISASTER
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My name is Theresa Opunui and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in Maili for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days when the storm had hit with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity and our telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are connected with Oceanic cable. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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Mahalo,



Theresa Opunui

LONG TIME RESIDENT OF NANAKULI
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

CHAIR HANOHANO, VICE CHAIR AQUINO AND THE MEMBERS OF PBS COMMITTEE.

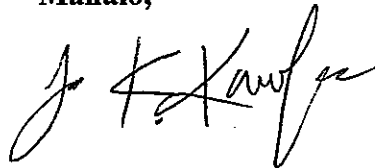
I am testifying in **Strong Support of HB2692 RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.**

My name is Jazmine K. Kaawaloa and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in Nanakuli for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days when the storm had hit with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity and our telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are connected with Oceanic cable. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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Mahalo,



Jazmine K. Kaawaloa

LONG TIME RESIDENT OF NANAKULI

February 4, 2010

DISTRICT 44

CHAIR HANOHANO, VICE CHAIR AQUINO AND THE MEMBERS OF PBS COMMITTEE.

I am testifying in **Strong Support of HB2692 RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.**

My name is Elwin Spray and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in Nanakuli for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days when the storm had hit with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity and our telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are connected with Oceanic cable. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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Mahalo,



Elwin Spray

LONG TIME RESIDENT OF NANAKULI
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

CHAIR HANOHANO, VICE CHAIR AQUINO AND THE MEMBERS OF PBS
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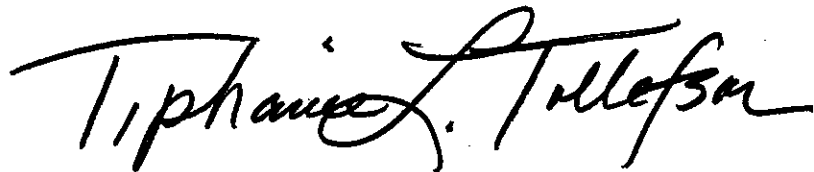
**I am testifying in Strong Support of HB2692 RELATING TO DISASTER
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My name is Tiphonie L. Tollefson and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in Nanakuli for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days when the storm had hit with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity and our telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are connected with Oceanic cable. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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Mahalo,



Tiphonie L. Tollefson

LONG TIME RESIDENT OF NANAKULI
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

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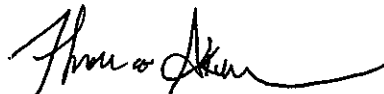
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My name is Thomas Aken and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in Nanakuli for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days when the storm had hit with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity and our telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are connected with Oceanic cable. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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Mahalo,



Thomas Aken

LONG TIME RESIDENT OF MAILI
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

CHAIR HANOHANO, VICE CHAIR AQUINO AND THE MEMBERS OF PBS COMMITTEE.

I am testifying in **Strong Support of HB2692 RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.**

My name is Chanel Oponui and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in Maili for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days when the storm had hit with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity and our telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are connected with Oceanic cable. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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Mahalo,



Chanel Oponui

Resident of Nanakuli
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

Committee on Public Safety

CHAIR HANOHANO
VICE CHAIR AQUINO

I Strongly Support HB 2692: RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

My name is Lilian Chun and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in district 44 for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity, no way to communicate with our families and no plan for the residents to escape if something else would happen. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again. We need a plan if another disaster was too hit!

There is only one road out of the Waianae Coast. The City and County Department of Facilities Maintenance has moved out of the coast to Kalaeloa. There are community members and businesses willing to come forward to participate in assisting during times of natural disasters. Businesses within the community have access to large construction vehicles in the coast and can assist. The existing Waianae Emergency Access Route is lacking signage to inform residents should re-routing of traffic be required. Reality is many are not properly equipped with an emergency kit for natural disasters. Coordination needs to take place before the disaster occurs. We are a community of over 60,000 people – trapped when there are road closures. Lualualei Naval Magazine road is also closed during natural disasters due to the hazardous conditions – rock falls and narrow roadway. When roadway is closed, the Waianae Coast becomes isolated to the rest of the island.

Lilian Chun

**TO: The Honorable Faye Hanohano , (Chair)
The Honorable Henry Aquino , (Vice Chair)
and Members of the Public Safety Committee**

**The Honorable Ryan Yamane , (Chair)
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto (Vice Chair)
and Members of the Health Committee**

**DATE: Thursday, February 04, 2010
8:30 AM Room 309**

RE: HB 2692, Relating to Disaster Preparedness Planning

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Fetu Kolio, I support this bill HB 2692 we need a Disaster Preparedness Planning before it happens, it is an ongoing problem for many years.

HB 2692, would help the State of Hawaii, by requiring the director of civil defense to prepare a disaster preparedness plan for the 44th and 44th House of Representatives district and to report to the legislature in 2011.

Than you for hearing this bill and my testimony please Pass HB 2692.

**Fetu T. Kolio
Community Resident**

Resident of Nanakuli
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

Committee on Public Safety

CHAIR HANOHANO
VICE CHAIR AQUINO

I Strongly Support HB 2692: RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

My name is Zen Watanabe and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in district 44 for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity, no way to communicate with our families and no plan for the residents to escape if something else would happen. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

We need a plan if another disaster was too hit!

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Zen Watanabe

Resident of Nanakuli
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

Committee on Public Safety

CHAIR HANOHANO
VICE CHAIR AQUINO

I Strongly Support HB 2692: RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

My name is Aya Watanabe and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in district 44 for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity, no way to communicate with our families and no plan for the residents to escape if something else would happen. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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Aya Watanabe

Resident of Waianae
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 45

Committee on Public Safety

CHAIR HANOHANO
VICE CHAIR AQUINO

I Strongly Support HB 2692: RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

My name is Tui Ala and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in district 45 for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy; there were no electricity, no way to communicate with our families and no plan for the residents to escape if something else would happen. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again. We need a plan if another disaster was too hit!

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Tui Ala

Resident of Waianae
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 45

Committee on Public Safety

CHAIR HANOHANO
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I Strongly Support HB 2692: RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

My name is Brandon Ala and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in district 45 for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy; there were no electricity, no way to communicate with our families and no plan for the residents to escape if something else would happen. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again. We need a plan if another disaster was too hit!

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Brandon Ala

Resident of Waianae
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 45

Committee on Public Safety

CHAIR HANOHANO
VICE CHAIR AQUINO

I Strongly Support HB 2692: RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

My name is Houston Ala and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in district 45 for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy; there were no electricity, no way to communicate with our families and no plan for the residents to escape if something else would happen. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again. We need a plan if another disaster was too hit!

There is only one road out of the Waianae Coast. The City and County Department of Facilities Maintenance has moved out of the coast to Kalaeloa. There are community members and businesses willing to come forward to participate in assisting during times of natural disasters. Businesses within the community have access to large construction vehicles in the coast and can assist. The existing Waianae Emergency Access Route is lacking signage to inform residents should re-routing of traffic be required. Reality is many are not properly equipped with an emergency kit for natural disasters. Coordination needs to take place before the disaster occurs. We are a community of over 60,000 people – trapped when there are road closures. Lualualei Naval Magazine road is also closed during natural disasters due to the hazardous conditions – rock falls and narrow roadway. When roadway is closed, the Waianae Coast becomes isolated to the rest of the island.

Houston Ala

Resident of Nanakuli
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 44

Committee on Public Safety

CHAIR HANOHANO
VICE CHAIR AQUINO

I Strongly Support HB 2692: RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

My name is Vernon Watanabe and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in district 44 for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy, there were no electricity, no way to communicate with our families and no plan for the residents to escape if something else would happen. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

We need a plan if another disaster was too hit!

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Vernon Watanabe

Resident of Waianae
February 4, 2010
DISTRICT 45

Committee on Public Safety

CHAIR HANOHANO
VICE CHAIR AQUINO

I Strongly Support HB 2692: RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING.

My name is David Pa'aluhi and I am testifying this morning in support of H.B. 2692. I lived in district 45 for most of my life. I am in great concern if another storm would hit our district like the one that had hit the Waianae Coast in 2008. We were stuck and stranded for days with no access out of the Waianae coast. Utility poles went down on Farrington Hwy; there were no electricity, no way to communicate with our families and no plan for the residents to escape if something else would happen. Don't wait till it's too late. We need to act on this issue now. I am here to testify that there should be some plan of action if another storm would hit again.

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David Pa'aluhi