

**HB 2692,**

**HD1**

**Testimony**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

March 31, 2010

Chair Mercado Kim 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.

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 and coordinating 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 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. These funds were used to develop a non-medical pandemic influenza plan.

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

**Lautoa F. Atisonoe**

87-140 Kahau St, 8  
Waianae HI, 96792

March 31, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
Vice Chair Shan Tsutsui  
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Donna Mercado Kim,

I am writing to you today in Support of H.B. 2692. As many of you know the Westside of Oahu has been plagued with many challenges in regards to homeless, two landfills and a one-way in one-way out access out of the Waianae Coast. If a disaster was to happen and it will happen, is the Westside of Oahu prepared for such a disaster? Does the State of Hawaii have a plan to evacuate thousands of citizens out of the Waianae coast if Farrington Hwy shuts down?

I have been looking over testimony from General Bob Lee since this bill was introduced by Representative Karen Awana. General Lee's first testimony stated that there was already a plan (Hawaii Hurricane Disaster Plan for Oahu) designated for district 44 and district 45 and that another plan for the Westside of Oahu was not needed. Till this day, we have not seen the plan.

When the bill was heard in House Finance, General Lee pointed out that the bill should not be directed just for Department of Defense but the bill should include the City and County Department of Management because they had received federal funding. Now, General Lee is making it a money issue.

On February 27, 2010 a massive earthquake hit South America and triggered a Tsunami warning for all the Hawaiian Islands. Many of the residents on the Westside of Oahu took shelter at Nanakuli High school and Intermediate. We all gathered at the high school waiting to hear what the plan was. Three people showed up in there civilian clothes and civilian cars waiting for orders from Department of Defense. They showed up with no plan and were on standby till 11 a.m. just about the same time the tsunami was expected to hit.

The west coast of Oahu needs a disaster preparedness plan. You cannot put a dollar sign on someone's life. In the committee on ways and means, you make the decision of someone's life. We have over 30,000 residents; many of the residents are our kupunas and our keikis. I don't want someone pointing fingers if a catastrophe was to hit our Islands. This is why I urge the Committee on Ways and Means to pass H.B. 2692.

Mahalo,

**Lautoa F. Atisonoe**

Rev. 'Alapaki Kim  
89-318 Farrington Hwy  
Nanakuli, O'ahu, Hawai'i 96792

Honorable Chair Donna Mercado Kim & Vice-Chair Shan Tsutsui

This testimony is relating to Disaster Preparedness Planning, in *Support H.B No. 2692*. 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.

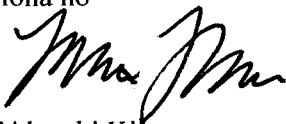
The Military says they have a plan, but I am afraid that as the military goes, their plan deals with military property, assets and personnel and does not adequately deal with the tens of thousands of civilians who live on the Wai'anae Coast. In the past there have been cancer clusters appearing in Nanakuli 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

William F. Pearson

87-1041 Huamoa St.

Waianae, HI 96792

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Dear Chairperson Donna Mercado Kim & Vice-Chairperson Shan S. Tsutsui & Members of the Committee:

My name is William Pearson and as a resident of the Waianae Coast and I am in strong support of HB 2692. Waianae will be isolated from the rest of the island if a disaster was to happen. To prevent this, the Department of Civil Defense should prepare a disaster preparedness plan for the Leeward Coast in case of a natural disaster. So far we are not prepared for any major emergency that would affect the community as a whole. This measure should be passed as soon as possible for the safety of our people and land. When a disaster strikes I want my family and friends to be safe and secure. This measure will apply to that and help my community if a disaster was to happen.

Thank you for this opportunity and time to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William F. Pearson".

William Pearson

**Chanel Waialae**

**3142 Uelena Street**

**Honolulu, HI 96819**

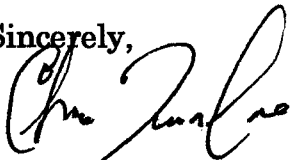
**March 30<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Dear Chairperson Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chairperson Shan S. Tsutsui, and members of the committee**

**My name is Chanel Waialae and I fully support HB 2692. My family lives in Makaha and I want to ensure that a disaster plan for the Leeward Coast is needed this instant. My family is my concern and their safety is also my concern and this bill does just that. A disaster can happen at any moment at any time so this bill needs to be passed as soon as possible to save thousands of people from being isolated in the Leeward Coast. I don't want my family and their community to suffer because the government didn't have enough money. We need to act now to save all of these people from being stranded and HB 2692 will do just that.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chanel Waialae', written in a cursive style.

**Chanel Waialae**

Wayne Soto  
District 44  
March 30, 2010

**TESTIMONY - FULLY and STRONGLY SUPPORT**

HB 2692: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN, CIVIL DEFENSE

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** and ask for YOUR SUPPORT to this bill, HB 2692. The leeward coast of Oahu is **ONLY** accessible by way of Farrington Highway. The plan can HELP and INCLUDE strategies to address the following:

- The closing of roadway access to the districts with no available alternate routes
- The use of air and sea transportation services when roads are closed and the coordination of these services, especially the designation of primary and alternate air landing sites and any legal authorization NEEDED to land on these sites
- The large homeless population living on beaches with LIMITED RESOURCES
- The elderly, some of whom live alone, with limited access to disaster shelters and transportations
- The coordination, distribution, and delivery of food, products, and services by private and public companies, organizations, and individuals to homes and communities

**COORDINATION NEEDS TO TAKE PLACE NOW!** Once again, I **STRONGLY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT** to this bill.

Sincerely yours,



Wayne Soto  
Nanakuli, Hawaii



**Resident of District 44**

**March 30<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Akoni Rodriguez**

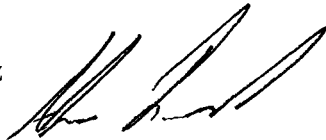
**Dear Chairperson Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chairperson Shan Tsutsui, and  
Committee**

**The 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> districts are in a unique location that makes them in a vulnerable location. It is vital that the Department of Civil Defense to prepare a disaster preparedness plan. The Waianae coast has endured severe storms in the past and the city had no one to rely on but themselves. I am testifying in support for this measure because my community and Ohana need to have an access out of the coast in case of an emergency. Disasters are unpredictable and can happen tomorrow. I hope the legislature takes this measure seriously and takes action as soon as possible before it is too late and the community is in jeopardy.**

**Thank you for your time**

**Sincerely,**

**Akoni Rodriguez**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Akoni Rodriguez', written in a cursive style.

Margaret Enoa – District 45  
March 30, 2010

**TESTIMONY - FULLY and STRONGLY SUPPORT**

HB 2692: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN, CIVIL DEFENSE

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

HEARING: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 9:30 am Room 212

My name is Magaret Enoa and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB 2692**. I live in DISTRICT 45 for most of my life. **WE NEED A PLAN IF ANOTHER DISASTER WAS TOO HIT! DON'T WAIT TILL IT IS TOO LATE!** We need to act on this issue **NOW**.

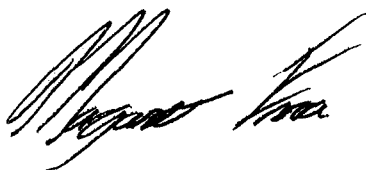
There is **ONLY ONE ROAD OUT OF THE WAIANAE COAST**. The City and County Department of Facilities Maintenance has moved out of the coast to Kalaeloa. There are community members and businesses within the community have access to large construction vehicles in the coast and **CAN** assist. The **EXISTING** Waianae Emergency Access Route is **LACKING SIGNAGE** to inform residents should **RE-ROUTE** traffic be required. **REALITY** is many are not properly equipped with an emergency kit for natural disasters.

When roadway is closed, the Waianae Coast becomes isolated to the rest of the island. The growing indigent population that is suffering from the current economic downturn who rely heavily on public transportation to commute to work and the coordination, distribution, and delivery of food, products, and services by private and public companies, organizations and individuals to homes and communities **CAN** temporarily disrupt lives of tens of thousands of commuting residents.

Thank You for this opportunity to provide testimony. Again, I **STRONGLY** ask for your support to this bill. ***This is a NO BRAINER and YOU CAN'T PUT DOLLARS ON LIFE!***

Mahalo Nui I Loa,

Margaret Enoa



Samson Kalilikane

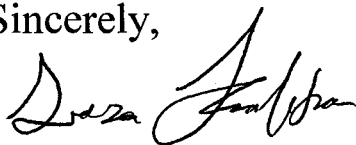
March 30<sup>th</sup> 2010

To whom it may concern...

My name is Samson Kalilikane from Nanakuli. This testimony is regarding HB 2692. When the next disaster strikes I want my community to be prepared, and to be prepared we need HB 2692 to be passed. The Department of Civil Defense needs to prepare a disaster preparedness plan for the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> districts immediately before it is too late. In 2008 the Waianae coast was struck by a severe storm which led residents without power, water, and most of all a place to go. Roads were blocked off and emergency phone calls were unable to be used. To prevent this we need a preparedness plan, and HB 2692 is that hope. I'm hoping this bill can be passed and we can have a plan of action in case of the next disaster and be prepared for it.

Thank you for an opportunity to testify

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samson Kalilikane', written in a cursive style.

Samson Kalilikane

## TESTIMONY - STRONGLY SUPPORT

HB 2692: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN, CIVIL DEFENSE

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

HEARING: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 9:30 am Room 212

ALOHA Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair Shan S. Tsutsui and members of the committee:

My name is Michael Kadota and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 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 the year 2008. We were stuck and stranded for many days when the storm hit with NO ACCESS OUT OF THE WAIANAEO COAST! Utility poles went down on Farrington Highway, there were NO ELECTRICITY and telephones didn't work because majority of our residents are CONNECTED WITH OCEANIC CABLE.

The existing Waianae Emergency Access Route is LACKING SIGNAGE to inform residents SHOULD re-routing of traffic be required! 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 with rock falls and narrow roadway. When the roadway is closed, the Waianae Coast becomes isolated to the rest of the island.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Kadota ~ Waianae  
March 30, 2010

George Campbell  
District 44  
March 30, 2010

**TESTIMONY - FULLY and STRONGLY SUPPORT**

HB 2692: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN, CIVIL DEFENSE

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** and ask for YOUR SUPPORT to this bill, HB 2692. 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. Through my eyes and experience, 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. With this DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANNING, the plan shall include strategies to address some of the following:

- The closing of roadway access to the districts with no available alternate routes
- The use of air and sea transportation services when roads are closed and the coordination of these services, especially the designation of primary and alternate air landing sites and any legal authorization NEEDED to land on these sites
- The large homeless population living on beaches with LIMITED RESOURCES
- The elderly, some of whom live alone, with limited access to disaster shelters and transportations

**COORDINATION NEEDS TO TAKE PLACE NOW!** Once again, I **STRONGLY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT** to this bill.

Sincerely yours,

George Campbell

Ikaika Castro

March 30<sup>th</sup> 2010

Waianae Homestead Resident

Dear Chair

Residents are in danger of another disaster that can occur at any moment. My community is my home and is where my heart is. HB 2692 which relates to disaster preparedness can help my community in many ways. With no plan or idea on how to react to a natural disaster is wrong in many various ways. If people need help, we need to take action and help them now, not wait until it happens then take on fourth. Waianae has been hit with many storms in the past and the community has worked together to bring out the best and help each other. But with our own community we need help from other communities as well. The whole island needs to work together and help each other in time of need. HB 2692 will do just that. I strongly support this measure along with everyone else on the Leeward Coast. I'm hoping the Department of Civil Defense takes this into account and prepares a disaster preparedness plan.

Sincerely,

Ikaika Castro

Lukela La'o

45<sup>th</sup> District

March 30<sup>th</sup> 2010

Dear Chairperson Donna Mercado Kim & Vice-Chairperson Shan Tsutsui

**I FULLY SUPPORT** HB 2692. Two years ago Waianae was hit by a massive storm that left my house and community in ruins. My telephone line did not work and roads were blocked off all around Farrington Highway. How do I leave Waianae? How do I seek help if no roads are open to the public? This measure calls for the Department of Civil Defense to prepare a disaster preparedness plan for the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> districts. The next disaster might even be worse than the previous and we need to act now just in case it is. My family is my top priority and to keep them safe and I am sure the residents in my community feel the same exact way. If a disaster were to happen tomorrow, then what? We are stuck in Waianae with only ourselves to help each other. We also need outside communities to help if a disaster occurred just like we would help them if they were in need. I support this measure and I hope for the best in my community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lukela La'o". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name below it.

Lukela La'o

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim – Chair

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui – Vice-Chair

Honorable Committee Members

Hearing: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 9:30 am Room 211

**Re: HB2692 HD1 – Relating To Disaster Preparedness Planning**

I'm Cecil Watson, a long time resident of Waianae and requesting your **FULL SUPPORT** to HB 2692 HD1 addressing the disaster readiness in our community.

In 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 Luualalei, into Waianae, into Makaha, and into Kaena at the Point we are the most vulnerable when a natural crisis or some form of accident occurred. During these times of utmost 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 DEFINITELY NEED to INCLUDE** in the plan the "houseless" community that almost **ALL** the time are **AFFECTED BY THE CONDITIONS OF THE WEATHER**. There is **ONLY ONE ROAD OUT OF THE WAIANAE COAST** and **COORDINATION NEEDS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE DISASTER OCCURS!**

**Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony, I STRONGLY ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT to this bill.**

**Mahalo Nui I Loa**

**Cecil Watson - Waianae, Hawaii**

**March 30, 2010**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cecil Watson', written over a horizontal line.