

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 173  
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING  
CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE  
CIVIL DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE TO THE FEBRUARY, 2010 TSUNAMI  
THREAT

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

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

March 18, 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 Concurrent Resolution 173 because we believe that a study, evaluation, and report on the State Civil Defense Division's coordination of the tsunami warning event of February 27, 2010, by the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, University of Hawaii, is inappropriate and a waste of public funds.

Many organizations in Hawaii, which include the State, county governments, federal agencies, and private sector, are conducting their evaluations of agency actions in preparation for the consequences of a tsunami hazard from Chile. An interagency after action review is being held on March 18, 2010, in Honolulu to review significant issues and areas for improved planning.

As an alternative to the resolution, the Department of Defense (and other agencies) should be invited to provide an informational briefing to the Hawaii State Legislature on lessons-learned during the Chile Tsunami Warning of February 27, 2010, and to provide recommendations on what the Hawaii State Legislature can do to improve tsunami hazard preparedness.

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