

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1147  
A BILL FOR RELATING TO STATE DISASTER RELIEF

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

February 10, 2009

Chair Espero and Committee Members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing testimony in support of Senate Bill 1147.

Senate Bill 1147 requires the Vice Director of Civil Defense to issue a preliminary report within sixty days from the date of issuance of a disaster proclamation detailing the nature of the disaster, loss projections, including an assessment of what caused the disaster.

We recommend that you amend line 9 of the bill requiring that a preliminary report be issued within 90 days. We also recommend that the word "natural" on line 13 be deleted. A preliminary report should be provided for disasters caused by natural hazards and man-made hazards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Are there any questions?

To: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety  
and Military Affairs

From: Sheryll Kresnak

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, Room 229, 1:00 pm

Re: SB 1147, State Disaster Relief  
Testimony in Strong Support

This testimony is in strong support of SB 1147.

Hawaii has now experienced its second island-wide blackout in just 3 years, with both events causing significant losses for business, inconvenience for most residents, and confusion, delay and fear for many. Closely following the Dec. 26, 2008 "night without lights" Oahu experienced a mass closing of facilities in anticipation of winds in excess of 60 mph. Thankfully, the natural disaster did not manifest as expected.

SB 1147 would greatly help in situations such as these. The powers granted to the governor by the bill will expedite the necessary actions for mitigating losses brought on by natural disasters, and give her the flexibility to fashion remedies as the circumstances require. The effort to restore normal operations on the island will also be assisted by a report as required by the bill. The pertinent government agencies will have the information they need to take actions to ameliorate the damages caused by the natural disaster.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of the bill.