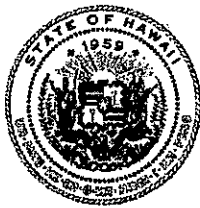


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Thursday, March 11, 2010
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2054, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE**

Senate Bill 2054, Senate Draft 2 would establish within the State Civil Defense agency a statewide communications interoperability coordinator. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of the measure and believes that interoperable communications between federal, state, county and non-governmental organizations are important to public safety and the protection and management of natural resources. The establishment of a statewide coordinator in this regard will further those efforts.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL V. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2054 SD2
A BILL RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

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

March 11, 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 support of Senate Bill 2054 SD2.

Senate Bill 2054 SD2 establishes within the State Civil Defense Agency a Statewide Communications Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC). Creating this SWIC function recognizes the importance and complexity of multi-jurisdictional collaboration and partnerships among our many public safety agencies to achieve effective voice and data communications during routine and emergency situations.

To be eligible for future federal funding and technical assistance in support of communications programs, the National Emergency Communications Plan that was adopted by Congress states that all states and territories should establish full-time statewide interoperability coordinators or equivalent positions. The SWIC position will be 100 percent federally-funded under the FY 2009 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant to the State Civil Defense.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of an important emergency preparedness initiative. Your support for Senate Bill 2054 SD2 will help build a strong public safety communications program in Hawaii. We urge the Committee to pass this measure.