

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2054 SD1  
A BILL RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

February 22, 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 support of Senate Bill 2054 SD1.

Senate Bill 2054 SD1 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.

We recommend that in Section 3 of the proposed bill the sum of \$110,000 be inserted for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of an important emergency preparedness initiative. We urge the Committee to pass this measure.