

LATE TESTIMONY

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Rep. Faye Hanohano, Chair
Rep. Henry Aquino, Vice-Chair
Committee on Public Safety

Thursday, Mar 18, 2010, at 9:00 AM.
Conference Room 309

Good morning Chair Hanohano, Vice-Chair Aquino and Committee members.

My name is Glenn Ida. I'm a Kaneohe resident; I strongly support SB 2919, SD1, HD1, Relating to the Hawaii State Hospital.

The security situation at the State Hospital is very disturbing. From time to time, we have to endure the uncertainty and dangers of escapees from a secure psychiatric facility. We need security professionals with arrest authority to be able to apprehend and bring back patients who are trying to leave the premises without proper authorization.

It is my understanding that some of the patients are being placed there by the State Court System, therefore I believe the State has a responsibility to provide enough security to safeguard the residents of Kaneohe especially since the facilities are in close proximity to the student population of Windward Community College and is next to Kaneohe District park where our children and seniors congregate.

If not, then perhaps those patients should be treated in prison where there would be adequate security and less chances of an escape into the surrounding community.

I strongly support, SB 2919, SD1, HD1, Relating to the Hawaii State Hospital.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important matter.

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My name is Madeleine Snow. I am co-owner of Kahala Shell and have worked there for 30+ years. We are a full service facility and are already equipped with a generator. Although the intent of your proposed resolution is to serve the public, I do not think you know the logistics required to set up and operate a generator. First, the generator itself is not small and must be stored when not in use. To convert from the electrical panel to the generator requires a complete shut down of all computers and all circuit breakers except those in the designated Essential Panel which pre-designates those few units that can be safely run on the generator. Those would be a few lights, the cashier's register which controls the pumps and the underground pumps which get the gasoline to the pump island. After converting to the generator, it must run for a minimum of 15 minutes before the essential items can be operational. Our generator runs on gasoline and when the fuel level gets low, we must cease pumping gasoline until we can refill it. It takes two trained staff members to just do the set up and monitoring of the unit. We then pull staff from other departments to assist the customers at each pumping location to expedite traffic flow.

The last time we were on generator after an earthquake, there were no traffic lights working so the Police Department required that we have one person in the street directing traffic into our facility or they would "shut us down." I was the one out there for about 8 hours controlling the traffic flow. The point is this, to run the sale of gasoline on a generator requires staffing. The safety of our customers and staff is paramount when functioning in an emergency mode.

To require all gas stations to be equipped with a generator would prove burdensome to those stations which staff perhaps one or two cashiers and could cause safety issues both on the street and at the station. For the majority of the customers who patiently wait in line, there are others who try to cut in line or argue about the procedures we have set up. The other issue is this: during an emergency I believe it would be more beneficial to advise people to stay home instead of encouraging them to be driving around when there are no traffic lights. I agree there need to be more stations providing this service during a power outage especially for emergency vehicles and personnel, but to require all stations to be equipped to do so could prove to be detrimental to the safety of all involved not to mention cost prohibitive.