

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 898
A BILL FOR RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE

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 898.

Senate Bill 898 strengthens the provisions of HRS Chapter 128 by clarifying that any compensation received by owners or operators of a hospital, care home, healthcare agency of any type, and educational institutions from patients, residents, and students under their care is not considered compensation for the purposes of section 128-19.

Your support of Senate Bill 898 will provide health care facilities and private education institutions the opportunity to be designated as private emergency shelters by the Director of Civil Defense. Where appropriate, the designation will provide the owners or operators of these facilities immunity from liability. For this to occur, section 128-19 requires that private shelter be made available without compensation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of an important emergency preparedness initiative.

Are there any questions?



Maui Hotel & Lodging
ASSOCIATION

February 9, 2009

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill 898

Dear Chair Espero and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs,

I represent the Maui Hotel & Lodging Association – in our membership are approximately 40 properties (consisting of hotels, condos & timeshares) and 80 various businesses who have an interest in the visitor industry. Our industry employs nearly 40% of Maui County residents.

During emergencies and disasters, MHLA takes an active role in Civil Defense. We are a part of the EOC process and work closely with government and other agencies during these times of need. Additionally, our properties are earmarked during times when Civil Defense is activated to provide shelter for residents and visitors.

MHLA supports Senate Bill 898 which will ultimately exempt civil liability for visitor industry properties when these properties are used for sheltering purposes during emergencies & disasters. We urge you to support this legislation.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carol Reimann
Executive Director