

SCR 163

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
TRAINING CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT
MANOA TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE CIVIL DEFENSE
PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE TO THE FEBRUARY, 2010
TSUNAMI THREAT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 163
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE CIVIL DEFENSE
PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE TO THE FEBRUARY, 2010 TSUNAMI THREAT

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

BY

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

April 1, 2010

Chair Espero, Chair Tokuda and Committee members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 163 because we believe that a study, evaluation, and report on the State Civil Defense Division's coordination of the tsunami warning event of February 27, 2010, by the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, University of Hawaii, are inappropriate and a waste of public funds.

The recently established National Disaster Preparedness Center is charged to do training. This organization needs to fulfill its obligations and not be asked to report on the Civil Defense response to the February 27, 2010, Tsunami Warning.

Many organizations in Hawaii, which include the State, county governments, federal agencies, and private sector, have conducted their evaluations of agency actions in preparation for the consequences of a tsunami hazard from Chile. An interagency after action review was conducted on March 18, 2010, in Honolulu to review significant issues and areas for improved planning.

As an alternative to the resolution, the Department of Defense (and other agencies) should be invited to provide an informational briefing to the Hawaii State Legislature on lessons-learned during the Chile Tsunami Warning of February 27, 2010, and to provide recommendations on what the Hawaii State Legislature can do to improve tsunami hazard preparedness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony that opposes this resolution.

SCR163, 4/1/10
1:15 PM, RM 229

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE CIVIL DEFENSE ADVISORY COUNCIL

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 163
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING
CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO
PREPARE A REPORT ON THE CIVIL DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE
TO THE FEBRUARY 27, 2010 TSUNAMI THREAT

April 1, 2010

Chair Espiro, Chair Tokuda, Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Members of the Higher Education.

As a member of the Hawai'i State Civil Defense Advisory Council, which consists of members from all four counties of the State of Hawaii, and the representative for the Island of Oahu, I am in opposition to SCR163.

It is my opinion that the study called for in SCR 163 is duplicative of evaluation efforts currently underway by State and county governments, federal agencies and private sector organizations that helped prepare our population during the Chile Tsunami Warning of February 27, 2010. These organizations are presently conducting evaluations of their preparedness and response activities and lessons learned. Furthermore, a follow-up After Action Review was conducted by Hawai'i State Civil Defense on March 18, 2010 with these entities to review significant issues and initiate planning for any coordinated operational or policy changes.

I agree however that improvements can always be made to Hawai'i's preparedness and response efforts to tsunamis or other threats to our community and appreciate the Legislature's intent to do so. As such, I respectfully would like to recommend that instead of the proposed study and evaluation by the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, that the Hawaii State Legislature convene an informational briefing by all involved agencies and/or organizations with emergency response responsibilities to discuss what lessons were learned and to offer recommendations to the legislature for public policy changes.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann M. Sakaguchi, MPH, PhD

State Civil Defense Advisory Council/Oahu Representative

**MANUEL MAKAHIAPO KULOLOIO
MAUI COUNTY, MEMBER
HAWAII STATE CIVIL DEFENSE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 163
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE CIVIL DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE
TO THE FEBRUARY 27, 1010 TSUNAMI THREAT**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
HEARING
CONFERENCE ROOM 229
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL
APRIL 1, 2010 AT 13:00PM**

Aloha Chairman Espero, Chairwoman Tokuda, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Committee on Higher Education, respectively:

I am Manuel Makahiapo Kuloloio of Kahului, Maui and the Maui County member of the Hawaii State Civil Defense Advisory Council. I submit this written testimony in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 163.

I have been the Maui County member of the Hawaii State Civil Defense Advisory Council since June 2002, recommended by Governor Benjamin Cayetano with concurrence by the Hawaii State Senate. I was recommended by Governor Linda Lingle to another four year term in 2006 with concurrence by the Hawaii State Senate. In 2002, Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and a former Hawaii County Mayor, requested that I commit to serve the full term of my appointment. For the past 8 years, I have kept my promise to Mayor Inouye dedicating my best to malama the people of Maui County, Kaho'olawe, Kalawao, and all of Hawaii with the State Civil Defense 'Ohana under the extraordinary leadership of Vice-Director Edward Teixeira, former Director General Ed Correa, and current Director General Robert Lee.

I was present in the State Emergency Operating Center (EOC) at Diamond Head Crater in the early hours of February 27, 2010 following the Chile Tsunami Warning with Vice-Director Teixeira, Governor Linda Lingle, and members of the media. I witnessed, first-hand, the execution and implementation of plans, processes, and procedures, developed and refined over the years of collaboration, partnerships, dialogue, lessons-learned, and direct personal interactions. That the State EOC was operating on a 24/7 posture is an exemplary testament to the critical support we have received from you and our partners after offering recommendations from lessons-learned to the Hawaii State legislature.

I witnessed, first-hand, the live, interactive communications conference calls between Governor Lingle, her Cabinet, and Vice-Director Teixeira (and many agencies and partners) from the State Emergency Operating Center (EOC) to Hawaii County Mayor William Kenoi in the Hawaii EOC, to Kauai County

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Mayor Bernard Carvalho in the Kauai EOC, to my Maui County Mayor Charmaine Tavares in the Maui EOC with Maui Civil Defense Administrator Gen linuma, and to Managing Director Kirk Caldwell in the City and County of Honolulu EOC. I would encourage the Hawaii State Legislature to invite Hawaii State Civil Defense, all affected agencies, and emergency response organizations to share what lessons were learned and to offer recommendations to the legislature for support.

Following the Chile Tsunami Warning of February 27, 2010, Federal, State, and County agencies have been conducting evaluation efforts along with private sector entities that helped Hawaii prepare our population that day. Our State Civil Defense Advisory Council convened on O'ahu on March 18, 2010 with Director General Lee and Vice-Director Teixeira following a State Civil Defense meeting of the Hawaii Emergency Preparedness Executive Consortium (HEPEC). The Director of the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa sat next to me at the HEPEC and departed before it concluded at around 1130. At 1430 on March 18, 2010, Hawaii State Civil Defense (SCD) conducted an After Action Review at the Hawaii Convention Center. Those in attendance were linked via live video feed to the Hawaii County EOC, Kauai County EOC, and Maui County EOC. I was concerned both when the City & County of Honolulu EOC was not represented on the video screen monitor and no City & County of Honolulu personages acknowledged their presence when called. The first-responders of the City & County of Honolulu are an integral part in the mission success and effectiveness of our State Civil Defense 'Ohana. I remain hopeful and prayerful for the continued, extraordinary support we have received from Mayor Mufi Hanneman and his administration. I have made inquiries into this matter, and I am looking forward to hearing the candid concerns of Mayor Hanneman.

On March 18, 2010, Hawaii State House Committee on Public Safety heard testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 173. Most Federal and State Agencies and private sector organizations were represented at the State Civil Defense 1430 After Action Review at the Hawaii Convention Center. Many observations made and shared by those in attendance confirmed my concerns and perceptions while I remained in the State EOC during the Chile Tsunami Warning of February 27, 2010. Encourage SCD to provide you an informational briefing as soon as practicable. We all deserve an honest accounting.

As my term on the State Civil Defense Advisory Council ends in June 2010, I implore this Committee to facilitate collaboration, dialogue, and stewardship in our community. When Vice-Director Teixeira welcomed me into the SCD 'Ohana with a fresh pikake lei at the Maui County Council Chambers in 2002, he expected and demanded Po'okela (excellence), Malama (caring), and Wiwo'ole (courage) of ourselves and of each other. In my 8 years, I have seen no less than the very best from the State Civil Defense, their hyper-vigilance, malama, and aloha. I am deeply concerned "the spirit" and effect of SCR173 will be demoralizing and sever the cohesion of trust between critical agencies with "institutional memory" advantages as we prepare to accommodate our native son in U.S. President Obama's hosting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Hawaii 2011. This ultimate event (SSE) requires our best, extraordinary collective efforts to malama our residents, guests, dignitaries, heads of state, and Hawaii's own in President Obama. State Civil Defense will play an integral role in facilitating this mission success and needs your continuing support and encouragement.

For this reason, I oppose Senate Concurrent Resolution 163.

ME KE ALUHA HAAHAA
Manuel M. Kuloiloio
330-2896

FROM: CASTBERG
SENT: TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2010 4:48 PM
TO: PSM TESTIMONY
SUBJECT: SCR 163

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU DO NOT PASS S.C.R. No. 163, WHICH REQUESTS THE NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER AT UH-MANOA TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE RECENT TSUNAMI THREAT.

MY PRIMARY CONCERN IS THAT THE CENTER IS SIMPLY NOT QUALIFIED TO PREPARE SUCH A REPORT. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE FAR MORE QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS TO DO SUCH A STUDY, INCLUDING STATE CIVIL DEFENSE AS WELL AS THE CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCIES OF EACH COUNTY.

I SAY THIS AS THE HAWAII COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE STATE CIVIL DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, HAVING SERVED IN THIS CAPACITY FOR APPROXIMATELY 6 YEARS, AS A PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO, AND AS A CAPTAIN, U.S. COAST GUARD, RETIRED.

THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN THE SIX AREAS CITED IN THE RESOLUTION IS ALREADY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE STATE AND COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCIES. COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCIES WORK CLOSELY WITH ALL EMERGENCY RESPONDERS, AS WELL AS PUBLIC WORKS PERSONNEL, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTIES. I KNOW THAT THE DATA REQUESTED HAS BEEN AVAILABLE AT HAWAII COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE SINCE SHORTLY AFTER THE TSUNAMI ALERT WAS CALLED OFF, AND I SUSPECT THAT IS TRUE FOR THE OTHER COUNTIES AS WELL. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME HOW THE NDPTC AT UH MANOA CAN OR WILL EVALUATE THIS INFORMATION, AS I SEE NOBODY ON THE STAFF OF THE CENTER WHO IS EXPERIENCED IN THE RELEVANT FIELDS.

IF THE LEGISLATURE WANTS DETAILED AND COMPLETE DATA ON THE TSUNAMI RESPONSE, I SUGGEST THAT IT ADDRESS THIS REQUEST TO THOSE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE BEST QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE IT.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ANTHONY D., CASTBERG, PH.D
PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE