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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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March 16, 2011

TO: The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair
House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources

FROM: Michael P. Victorino *MPV*
Council Member

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 582, SD2, RELATING TO COUNTY MUTUAL AID**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purposes of this measure are to establish the framework to expedite the sharing of fresh water from one county to another during times of emergency and to create a Hawaii statewide mutual aid system to be activated during times of homeland security emergencies or disasters.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Geographically, the State of Hawaii is vulnerable to natural or manmade emergencies or disasters that could negatively impact the public health and welfare of the State's residents.
2. Part I of the measure amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes to establish a system that will expedite the process by which each county can share and deliver fresh water to another county during times of emergency. Part II of the measure amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes to create a statewide mutual aid system, to be activated in times of disaster or homeland security activity. Cumulatively, these new systems would be a welcome means of mitigating the potential negative impacts arising from emergencies or disasters.
3. The recent tsunami generated by the Japan earthquake reminds us once again of Hawaii's potential vulnerability to natural disaster. The establishment of these emergency systems is clearly necessary to help ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of the State of Hawaii.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darryl J. Oliveira
Fire Chief

Glen P. I. Honda
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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March 16, 2011

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
State Capitol, Room 438
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Chang,

RE: SB 582, SD2, RELATING TO COUNTY MUTUAL AID
DATE/TIME OF HEARING: MARCH 18, 2011, 8:30 A.M.

I would like to submit this letter and written testimony in regards to SB 582, SD 2 with the intent to provide background and education on the present development and continued establishment of an Intrastate Mutual Aid System plan for the fire service organizations within the State of Hawaii.

Under the auspices of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the respective fire service organizations in the State of Hawaii have collaborated and developed an Intrastate Mutual Aid System plan for the fire service organizations in Hawaii. This plan is designed and intended to assist the local fire chiefs for county fire departments with the requesting, providing, receipt of, mobilization, cost recovery, employee protection (workers compensation), and other related activities associated with providing mutual aid for all hazards as it relates to the mission of the fire service.

The draft plan has been submitted to and reviewed by the State Department of Civil Defense, as well as a tabletop exercise was conducted on April 8 and 9, 2010. Our organization continues to work closely with the respective County emergency managers and State Civil Defense on identifying and addressing any gaps or changes to our plan.



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This project has been undertaken and managed by the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association, which is a non-profit organization representative of all fire service organizations in the State of Hawaii.

As the current President of the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association, I would welcome the opportunity to present and review our project and efforts with the members of the legislature and provide you with an overview of our draft plan. I am confident that you would see that our plan is comprehensive and would provide for the effective coordination and provision of mutual aid. In our discussions with former State Adjutant General Robert Lee, and more recently with Adjutant General Darryll Wong, I have personally conveyed our intent to incorporate our Intrastate Mutual Aid System plan as an annex to the State Emergency Response plan.

In essence, we will continue to use existing policies and protocols for requesting needed resources in times of disaster or catastrophic events which may overwhelm the local jurisdiction, and those processes include the submittal of requests for assistance through the local emergency management office.

The current system in process has proven to be very effective and responsive to the needs of the fire service with regards to the requesting and providing of resources for various incidents inclusive of, but not limited to, wildland fires, hazardous materials releases, and search and rescue events.

I respectfully request you consider the review of our plan and how it may be utilized or incorporated into the discussion and consideration of the intent of Senate Bill 582, SD 2.

I would be more than happy to address the legislators regarding this matter and would welcome the opportunity answer any questions or respond to any concerns that you may have.

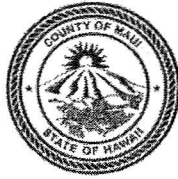
Sincerely,



DARRYL OLIVEIRA
Fire Chief, Hawaii Fire Department
President, Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association

DO:lk

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
CHIEF

ROBERT M. SHIMADA
DEPUTY CHIEF

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March 17, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, and
Ocean Resources
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 435
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Chang:

Subject: S.B. 582, S.D. 2 Relating to County Mutual Aid

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety (MFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The MFD and the SFC oppose S.B. 582, S.D. 2, which proposes to establish a mutual aid agreement of assistance among the counties to provide potable water and non-potable water to another county during times of emergency. It establishes the Hawaii statewide mutual aid system to provide integrated statewide mutual aid response capability between counties in times of disaster.

This bill proposes to give the State authority to control and direct mutual aid among the counties. This proposed authority would allow the State to expend our individual department and county budgets with no concern on the impact to the city or county operations. Before the MFD provides any assistance to an area outside of its jurisdiction, discussion and approval would need to take place with the county administration. We therefore oppose this measure as it attempts to bypass any county approval process.

In addition, the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) has initiated dialogue between the counties to support each other in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The International Association of Fire Chiefs, the parent organization of the HFCA, has developed an Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS), whose goal is to support the comprehensive and functional mutual aid plans for the fire service, the counties and the states. The HFCA is using the IMAS model to this end.

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The MFD and the SFC urge your committee's deferral on the passage of S.B. 582, S.D. 2.

Should you have any questions, please call SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Murray".

JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief