

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE  
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

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 Kenneth G. Silva, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD oppose S.B. 582, S.D. 2, which proposes to establish a mutual aid agreement among the counties to provide potable and nonpotable water to another county during an emergency and an integrated statewide mutual aid response capability during disasters.

This bill proposes to give the state authority to control and direct mutual aid among the counties utilizing the counties' budget with no concern on the impact to their operations. Before any assistance is provided by the HFD to an area outside of its jurisdiction, it must first be discussed with and approved by the City administration. We, therefore, oppose this measure, as it attempts to bypass the county approval process.

The Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association (HFCA) has initiated dialogue between the counties to provide support in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. In addition, 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 comprehensive and functional mutual aid plans for the fire service, the counties, and the states. The HFCA is utilizing the IMAS model to this end.

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

The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair  
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Should you have any questions, please call SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151.

Sincerely,

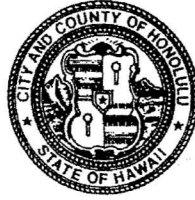
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth G. Silva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

KENNETH G. SILVA  
Chair

KGS/LR:cn

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
650 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 / (808) 723-8960

Peter B. Carlisle  
MAYOR



MeVin N. Kaku  
DIRECTOR

LATE TESTIMONY

March 17, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on  
Water, Land, and Ocean Resources  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Chang:

SUBJECT: S.B. 582 Relating to County Mutual Aid

The Department of Emergency Management, Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Fire Department, and the Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu, strongly oppose S.B. 582.

When members of our community are faced with natural or man-made hazard incidents, they expect the City and County of Honolulu (City) disaster response personnel to provide immediate emergency professional services and responsive community support. S.B. 582 as currently proposed, provides the State with the authority to manipulate and direct mutual aid among the four Counties thus taking all home-rule management from the City's Administration and Departments. This diminishing of authority also applies to Kauai County, Maui County, and Hawaii County.

This proposed State authority to direct the City and potentially the other 3 County mutual aid resources will also allow the State to expend our individual Department budgets with no concern on how it may impact the overall City's Operations or the other 3 County's activities.

In furtherance of inter-County Mutual Aid, the Honolulu Fire Department has initiated dialogue between the four Counties through the Fire Chiefs Association to support each other during disasters. Similarly, other departments within the City have initiated dialogue to also provide mutual aid support during disasters, negating any need for formal State agreements for any local County Mayoral declaration of disasters.

With regard to the proposed "sharing of water" issue with the other 3 Counties, Oahu should be able to assist in supplying water provided that Oahu's water system operations have not been impacted or compromised as a result of the specific emergency incident. Additionally, the quantity of water that may be available and shared with other Counties will be subject to current water use permit allocations that would be in effect at the time of the incident by the State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). If required, any withdrawal of water supply exceeding Oahu's currently permitted allocation will require approval by the CWRM.

In summary, because emergency response to local disasters are the responsibility of the County governments and protocols are in place or under discussion between the Counties, I urge your committee to not pass S.B. 582 to ensure each County the continuing ability to provide immediate and responsive emergency professional services and community support for all hazard incidents.

Sincerely,

  
Melvin N. Kaku  
Director

CC: Mayor's Office  
MD Douglas S. Chin  
Kylan Dela Cruz, Kauai Administrator  
Anna Foust, Maui Administrator  
Quince Mento, Hawaii Administrator