

# **SB 582**

## **RELATING TO COUNTY MUTUAL AID.**

Establishes a mutual aid agreement of assistance among the counties to provide potable water and non-potable water to another county during times of emergency. Establishes the Hawaii statewide mutual aid system to provide integrated statewide mutual aid response capability between counties in times of disaster.

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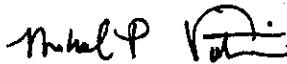


Director of Council Services  
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February 2, 2011

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

FROM: Michael P. Victorino   
Council Member

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 582, 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.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.