

LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE RESOLUTION 103/SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 167
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION OF THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE AND THE CIVIL DEFENSE OR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES OF THE
SEVERAL COUNTIES TO EVALUATE TSUNAMI EVACUATION SITES

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL WONG
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

March 31, 2011

Chair Espero and Committee members:

I am Major General Darryll Wong, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony in support of this resolution.

The tsunami evacuation zones for Oahu and Hawaii County are based on the latest technologies (funded by the 2006 Legislature) and mapping inundation models that were produced by the University of Hawaii. The new tsunami evacuation zones for the two counties are based on credible, historical events since 1946 and also stand up to five hypothetical earthquake events occurring along the Pacific Rim in the range of Magnitude 9.5. As such, we believe that these tsunami evacuation zone maps provide adequate safety guidelines for our residents and visitors.

Tsunami inundation modeling is in progress for Maui County. Modeling for Kauai County should begin late this year or early 2012.

The designation of tsunami evacuation sites or refuge areas is the principal responsibility of county civil defense or emergency management agencies. The planning for and pre-designation of these sites or refuge areas require constant emphasis at the county level.

That said, State Civil Defense will continue to support planning and pre-designation of these sites including the publishing of these sites on public web sites and in the emergency preparedness pages of telephone books.

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

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:48 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: lokalia1939@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR167 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SCR167

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rosalie Hermanson
Organization: Onipa'a Na Kupuna O Waimanalo Association
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lokalialia1939@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:
Aloha:

Onipa'a Na Kupuna O Waimanalo Association is a non profit low income tax credit tenant's association serving the needs of the kupuna living on homestead land in Waimanalo – also known as the Waimanalo Kupuna Housing. We have 86 units and about 104 elderly live right across from the street of the Waimanalo Beach Park. When this last tsunami warning occurred, our association officers (all elderly themselves—and all volunteers) went to each apartment to make sure everyone had a place to go. Around 7 to 8 kupuna opted to just stay put because they have been told by Oahu Civil Defense that we are not located in a tsunami zone (Duuuh! we're right across the street from the Pacific Ocean.)

Of the 100 or so kupuna living here, only about 45% own a car that works. So many are dependent on family or friends or neighbors to transport them to safety. HPD suggests we go to Maunawili School. When some went to Maunawili, it was closed and there were no doors open.

Many drove up to the Wilson Tunnels. Others drove up to Aunty Niki's right above the housing.

A tsunami can come in to land six or more miles we are told.

We believe we need to have the zone areas re-evaluated and town meetings conducted once that is done, to educate all Waimanalo residents about any vulnerability we have to be in harm's way when a tsunami is generated from where-ever.

The kupuna at the housing had been promised by Oahu Civil Defense – that whenever there would be a tsunami warning, that busses would be running to evacuate all those without cars – for free. Instead – on this event – the city stopped bus service.

Please have the zones re-evaluated

please have promises come true regarding evacuation bus services please have promises come true that maunawili school will be open when there is a warning. or for that matter any of the locations where residents can go to and expect that emergency services are available as promised.

Mahaaaalo,

Rosalie Amanda Hermanson
Secretary
Onipa'a Na Kupuna O Waimanalo Association

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:18 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: tampalette@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR167 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SCR167

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paulette Tam
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tampalette@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I live in Kaneohe and am not in the evacuation zone; however, I do agree a higher shelter is needed since I do have friends living in Waimanalo and Kailua. It is a matter of public safety. Signed, a concerned Kaneohe resident

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:13 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: bbtvu2@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR167 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SCR167

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tonic Bille
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bbtvu2@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I support this measure in order for the community to be better prepared in the face of emergency. I am very concerned that overnight visitors in the area of Kailua do not know where to go or what procedures are in place.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:36 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: kaytekinder@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR167 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SCR167

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kayte Kinder
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kaytekinder@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I strongly support this resolution; my family lives in Kailua and was subject to evacuation. They were not clear about the directions and we are concerned about clarification. I went to Kailua to be with them in the state of emergency and felt unsafe in the means by which they communicated the emergency as well as the place to which they asked us to evacuate.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:41 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: seth.alexander.jones@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR167 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SCR167

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Seth Jones
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: seth.alexander.jones@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I support this resolution. My girlfriend's family lives in Kailua, and we went to be with them during the tsunami. We ended up staying at the house, because we weren't clear about our safety at the evacuation site. Her family lives in the Oneawa area below the marsh and, if the tsunami had come, we would have been under water. It would've been totally flooded. But on the other hand, her friends at the evacuation site said they were totally unprepared and the situation didn't look good over there either. Just want to know what the plan is and if it's being improved.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:33 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: roldan5@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR167 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SCR167

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rhonda Roldan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: roldan5@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I strongly support SCR167 and SR103. I am a Kailua resident and I am concerned about how low lying the evacuation site was at Kailua District Park. This is a good time to have the experts re-examine the processes and procedures concerning evacuation.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:29 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: paahana@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR167 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SCR167

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kellie Tiffany
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: paahana@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I strongly support this resolution. During the evacuation for the recent tsunami, I was called from my house to go to an evacuation site that was two blocks closer to the beach. I would like clarification about what Civil Defense has planned for any future evacuations, since the recent plan seemed somewhat haphazard.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:55 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: ctomasa@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR167 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SCR167

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Claudine Tomasa
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ctomasa@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I support this resolution. This evaluation cannot wait. I am a Kailua resident living in proximity to Kawainui Marsh. During the recent tsunami we experienced unusual wave activity raising up through the canal although we are not officially in the inundation zone. I believe this brings to light the need for an evaluation.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 2:06 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: gencar@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR167 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SCR167

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Eugene Carvalho
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gencar@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

The current Tsunami "shelter" for Kailua is listed as the Kailua Rec Center. This is a cruel joke. The center is only 300 yards from the ocean, at an elevation of 0-1 feet above sea level, as is most of Kailua town. In the recent Tsunami in Japan video from the area during the Tsunami showed people on the third floor of a condominium having to move up to the fourth floor (elevation about 10 feet per floor). Additionally, this area was 1 km, or more than 3 times as far from the ocean, as is the Kailua Rec Center.

So, I believe the minimum safe shelter for an area like Kailua would be at an elevation of at least 50 feet, and easy to get to. For the Kailua area two such areas are the Mid Pacific country club at an elevation of 50 feet, and Le Jardin school at an elevation of 150 feet. There are not very many other safe places in Kailua that have easy access.

Aloha,

Dr. Eugene Carvalho

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 1:57 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: ctomasa@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SR103 on 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 3/31/2011 2:50:00 PM SR103

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Claudine Tomasa
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ctomasa@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

Comments:

I support this resolution. This evaluation cannot wait. I am a Kailua resident living in proximity to Kawainui Marsh. During the recent tsunami we experienced unusual wave activity raising up through the canal although we are not officially in the inundation zone. I believe this brings to light the need for an evaluation.