

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 603  
A BILL RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MR. EDWARD T. TEIXEIRA  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

February 10, 2011

Chair Aquino and Committee members:

I am Ed Teixeira, Acting Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony on House Bill 603.

While we appreciate the Legislature's interest and desire to establish an interagency working group in the State Civil Defense for the sharing of information across public agencies in preparing for mass events, we believe that House Bill 603 is not necessary.

The provisions of Chapter 128, Hawaii Revised Statutes, already provide the authority and responsibility for information sharing, planning, and coordination among government and non-government organizations when the scheduling and conduct of mass events present a potential impact on public health and safety. Information sharing and planning through the State civil defense system for a major event may and usually include communications with the Governor, county mayors, and senior public safety officials including federal government executives.

Mass events in the past have included preparations for the 2001 Asian Development Bank Board of Governors Meeting in Honolulu, National Football League Pro Bowls, and annual holiday celebrations. Plans, communications systems, and protocols are in place and are used when necessary to implement information sharing, planning, coordination, and direction of emergency preparedness and response activities. Interagency planning including information sharing is underway for the conduct of the 2011 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit Meeting in Honolulu. Much of this effort is being led by the APEC Host Committee and Security Subcommittee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 603.

**Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.**  
Mayor



**Robert F. Westerman**  
Fire Chief

**Gary K. Heu**  
Managing Director

**John T. Blalock**  
Deputy Fire Chief

**KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i**  
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February 9, 2011

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

**Subject: H.B. 603 Relating to Public Safety**

I am Robert F. Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC and the KFD support H.B. 603, which proposes to establish a working group within the civil defense agency to create a system for sharing information across public agencies during the preparation and planning for certain events, whether arising naturally or from scheduled events.

As a first responder agency the SFC supports improved inter-agency cooperation. Joint training and exercises increase the effectiveness of everyone involved. Future problems and shortcomings can be minimized or eliminated. Effective and efficient first responder aid becomes critical in the event a large incident that may affect thousands of citizens and the potential loss of valuable properties and facilities.

The SFC and the KFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 603.

Please call me at (808) 241-4980 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Westerman  
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
MAYOR



JEFFREY A. MURRAY  
CHIEF

ROBERT M. SHIMADA  
DEPUTY CHIEF

**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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February 9, 2011

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: H.B. 603 Relating to Public Safety

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 support H.B. 603, which proposes to establish a working group within the civil defense agency to create a system for sharing information across public agencies during the preparation and planning for certain events, whether arising naturally or from scheduled events.

As a first responder agency the SFC supports improved inter-agency cooperation. Joint training and exercises increase the effectiveness of everyone involved. Future problems and shortcomings can be minimized or eliminated. Effective and efficient first responder aid becomes critical in the event a large incident that may affect thousands of citizens and the potential loss of valuable properties and facilities.

The MFD and the SFC urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 603.

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