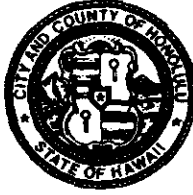


DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 / (808) 723-8960

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU  
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 20, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

SUBJECT: H.B. 850 Relating to Homeland Security

I am Melvin Kaku, Director of the Department of Emergency Management, City and County of Honolulu.

The Department of Emergency Management, City and County of Honolulu, strongly supports H.B. 850 which provides a legislative basis for performing missions and tasks that we are already performing when members of our community are faced with a natural or man-made hazard incident. This bill allows the State to organize more efficiently to support our counties, communities, and citizens through the establishment of the Office of Homeland Security in the State Department of Defense. Through consolidating office functions that the state is already performing and codifying roles and responsibilities, the Office of Homeland Security will further strengthen the State's Homeland Security program.

H.B. 850 also authorizes but does not require the counties to establish local offices of homeland security. For the City and County of Honolulu, the Department of Emergency Management already performs these homeland security missions and tasks. Therefore, to recognize that the City's Department of Emergency Management is performing these roles and responsibilities, it is requested that "Paragraph 5 County organizations for homeland security" last sentence be amended to read "If a county does not establish a separate organization for homeland security, the functions listed in section - 4 shall be incorporated into the responsibilities of the county civil defense agency/City and County of Honolulu, Department of Emergency Management."

I urge your committee to support and pass H.B. 850 with our proposed amendment language. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin N. Kaku", is written over a printed name and title.

Melvin N. Kaku  
Director