

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2305 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 13, 2014

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ing, and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2305 SD1.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and emergency management organizations nationwide are moving toward the whole community approach of disaster response. This whole community approach works toward a collaboration of government, military, commercial and community organizations to respond to natural and other types of disasters.

Community volunteer teams will be a welcomed addition to any disaster response. Team members live in their communities and can quickly provide needed response and recovery support. Their support would be critical if roads were washed out or blocked with debris. These teams will play an important role in their community's recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 2305 SD1.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2305 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

DOUG MAYNE
VICE DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 13, 2014

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ing, and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

I am Doug Mayne, Vice Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2305 SD1.

This bill supports the core concept of the whole of community approach of disaster response. Emergency management agencies will welcome the support of community volunteer teams. They will provide a needed boost to response and recovery efforts during and after disasters, and help communities recover more quickly.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 2305 SD1.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
House of Representatives
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Aquino and Members:

SUBJECT: S.B. 2305 S.D. 1, Relating to Public Safety

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

DEM supports the intent of SB 2305 S.D. 1, but opposes the artificiality that is created by restricting teams to senatorial districts. We feel that the best criterion should be a self-nominating process, i.e. each community should be able to define their own boundaries and include concerned neighbors that choose to be a part of their team. A sense of "community" is a powerful, cohesive force that is essential for these teams.

Currently on Oahu, there are Disaster Preparedness Teams that have self-started in Ewa Beach, Hauula, Kailua, Manoa, Nanakuli, Laie, Oahu North Shore, Kaaawa, and Waimanalo. These groups were allowed to define their own community boundaries, and owe their success to the self-determination of their breadth and scope as well as inclusion of active, dedicated neighbors. By imposing artificial boundaries onto these teams we are essentially dismissing all their past accomplishments and (in some cases) would force them to split up, dissolve, or consolidate.

DEM feels strongly that restricting boundaries will have a negative and dampening effect on passionate community leaders that have created these volunteer community organizations as well as their dedicated and motivated participants.

State Civil Defense, working collaboratively with the County civil defense entities, can establish criteria to avoid duplication and possible misuse of funds as well as work to establish boundaries that are mutually agreeable with the communities and counties they serve.

The Honorable Representative Aquino and Members
March 12, 2014
Page 2

I urge your committee to incorporate our recommendations and support and pass a revised S.B. 2305. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Melvin N. Kaku
Director

cc: Ember Lee Shinn, Managing Director

William P. Kenoi
Mayor

Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director



Darryl J. Oliveira
Civil Defense Administrator

County of Hawaii

CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

920 Ululani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3958
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March 11, 2014

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to submit my testimony in support of Senate Bill 2305.

My name is Darryl Oliveira and I am the Administrator for the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency. I am submitting this letter and testimony in support of the fundamental intent of Senate Bill 2305 and would like to request your consideration of the following suggested amendments to the proposed legislation.

As drafted, SB 2305 would provide funding and support for the establishment of civilian community teams to assist city, state, and federal personnel during man-made or natural disasters. Further, the SB 2305 proposes to add a new section to the Hawaii Revised Statutes §128 and would establish these community teams based on senatorial districts with specific defined parameters for composition, fund allocation, and fundamental duties and responsibilities.

Much of what is being proposed in SB 2305 is aligned with the Community Emergency Response Team or CERT program that is currently being supported, coordinated, and promoted across our state. The CERT program is one of the primary community disaster preparedness, response, and recovery programs within the Citizens Corp program and coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"The mission of Citizen Corp is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds."




As a matter of illustrating the success of the CERT program and the efforts made thus far, the County of Hawaii has trained and certified over three hundred (300) community members in the CERT program and has a cadre of over twenty (20) active CERT units across the Island of Hawaii in nearly every community and district. Our CERT units or teams have been activated and deployed in a variety of emergencies and incidents to include the recent flood events of this past December and during the threat of Tropical Storm Flossie last July. In addition, the CERT units have in the past, and will be included once again this year, in our annual state-wide Makani Pahili hurricane preparedness exercise and other disaster exercises to further build and enhance our capabilities and bolster our community resiliency efforts.

As I indicated, I am in support of SB 2305 and would request that consideration be given to amending the draft bill to allow for each County to develop, administer and manage the most effective program that would meet with the intent of this proposal to include the CERT programs that have demonstrated success. The commitment and appropriation of funds for such endeavors as the CERT program would provide tremendous support and assistance with growing and sustaining this invaluable asset and resource. The concept of supporting the County specific initiatives would also allow for the local emergency management agencies to maximize the limited resources we have and to prevent the duplication of efforts and the competing for interested volunteers in our communities.

In closing I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and ask for your support of SB 2305 and the consideration of my requested amendments or changes. I truly feel that the proposed changes will continue to support the fundamental intent of the bill and allow for the support of existing programs designed and being delivered with the same goals and objectives.

Sincerely,


Darryl Oliveira, Administrator

ing2-Travis

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 4:16 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: sonnyfernan@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2305 on Mar 13, 2014 10:00AM

SB2305

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for PBS on Mar 13, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colonel Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of SB2305. Funding is needed to establish, train to provide critical training for 25 civilian community teams and one coordinator. Training is critical for first responders to perform their life saving duties in natural disasters, tsunamis, or any disasters affecting the State of Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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This bill supports the core concept of the whole of community approach of disaster response. Emergency management agencies will welcome the support of community volunteer teams. They will provide a needed boost to response and recovery efforts during and after disasters, and help communities recover more quickly.

My name is Claudine M Tomasa, a resident of Kailua-Oahu, and I am testifying in SUPPORT of SB2305 SD1 and its intent to make an appropriation for the State Civil Defense to 1) create trained volunteer teams that will assist during and after disasters in their community/ senate district, and 2) to hire a coordinator, who will establish and train this team of community volunteers.

Any appropriation that assists emergency management agencies -with response and recovery- is worthy especially when applied at the grass roots level. However, in order to be successful I believe that the program should be developed so that it operates in sync with other existing agencies (i.e. CERT, EMRC, ARC, CAP, Military, etc.).

All in all, I would welcome more trained volunteers- in my community- who can assist first responders during and after a disaster and request that SB2305 SD1 be passed through your committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB2305 SD1.