

GM 627

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL HAMNETT, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE 627
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHAEL HAMNETT
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017

PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
April 11, 2014

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Governor Message 627, nominating Michael Hamnett to another term on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund.

Michael Hamnett's leadership as the Chair of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund board has been exceptional. His résumé documents over 30 years of experience with emergency management and mitigation related projects here in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. These projects afforded him opportunities to interface with our emergency management partners like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). His knowledge about natural disasters and their effects on Hawaii is an asset to the board.

I am in full **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Michael Hamnett to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE 627
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHAEL HAMNETT
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017

PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BY

DOUG MAYNE
VICE DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
April 11, 2014

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

I am Doug Mayne, Vice Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Governor Message 627, which nominates Michael Hamnett to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund.

Mr. Hamnett currently serves as the Chair of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. Since his initial appointment in 2009, his extensive experience in hazard mitigation projects and other related activities has benefited the board of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. He is knowledgeable about the risks and understands the effects of natural disaster on the people, landscape and infrastructure of Hawaii. He is a great partner and will continue to serve the people of Hawaii as a board member.

I urge the committee to recommend Senate confirmation on the appointment of Michael Hamnett to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of this nomination.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE 627
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND

NOMINEE, MICHAEL P. HAMNETT

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BY

VERN T. MIYAGI, EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
STATE OF HAWAII CIVIL DEFENSE

April 9, 2014

Chair Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am Vern T. Miyagi, Executive Officer at State of Hawaii Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of the reinstatement of Michael P. Hamnett as a Director of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF).

Since June of 2012, I have worked closely with Mike Hamnett in the re-establishment of the State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Forum, which lay inactive for a number of years. This forum is comprised of scientists, engineers, and emergency managers and has the responsibility of formulating and executing the state hazard mitigation plan regarding natural (Hurricanes, Tsunamis, Floods, etc.) disasters. This plan has to be updated and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every three years. Without an approved plan, Hawaii is ineligible for any Federal post-disaster funding for long-term disaster mitigation projects.

As the direct result of Mike Hamnett's leadership of the State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Forum, the State Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA in October 2013 and Hawaii continues to be fully eligible for long-term mitigation project support from FEMA. The Forum is currently fully operational and continues to enhance the state's hazard mitigation efforts.

Mike Hamnett's extensive experience in managing research and training contracts and grants and his real world experience in the fields of disaster mitigation and preparedness are critical enablers to the successful execution of the HHRF.

I urge your committee to recommend the Senate confirmation of Michael P. Hamnett as a Director of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT** of gubernatorial nominee Michael P. Hamnett.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE 627
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND REAPPOINTMENT AS
MEMBER, HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND BOARD
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, Dr. MICHAEL P. HAMNETT

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMERCE and CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

BY

IAN K. DUNCAN, STATE HAZARD MITIGATION OFFICER
STATE CIVIL DEFENSE

April 8, 2014

Chair Roz Baker, Vice Chair Brian Taniguchi, and Members of the State Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

I am Ian K. Duncan, I am a member of State Civil Defense and serve as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of the gubernatorial nomination for reappointment of Dr. Michael P. Hamnett as a member of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board.

Mike Hamnett has nearly 30 years of experience in Climate Change, Coastal Zone Management, and Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness. He is an accomplished author and highly respected environmental scientist. As the State Hazard Mitigation Officer I have frequent and regular contact with Mike. His extraordinary leadership of the Hazard Mitigation Forum and subject matter expertise contributed immeasurably in updating the 2013 State Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is important to note that this plan ensures that the State of Hawaii is eligible for federal aid in the event of a natural disaster. The plan also identifies and provides mitigation strategies against all known natural hazards in the State of Hawaii. This plan that Mike Hamnett worked so diligently on is now on record with FEMA Region IX and is considered the benchmark for other states and territories. The citizens of Hawaii are safer, our buildings are stronger, and we are all more resilient because of Mike Hamnett's leadership and commitment to excellence.

Prior to serving as the Executive Director, Research Corporation University of Hawaii, Mike was the Director of the Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawaii. In this capacity, he expertly managed the Institute's \$11 million per year problem oriented research program.

The reappointment of Dr. Michael P. Hamnett to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board is essential to the State of Hawaii's ability prepare, respond and recover in the in event of a natural disaster.

I urge your committee to support the reappointment of Dr. Michael P. Hamnett to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board. His membership is essential to the State of Hawaii's ability prepare, respond and recover in the in event of a natural disaster.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT** of gubernatorial nominee Dr. Michael P. Hamnett.

Testimony on Governor's Message 627

**SENATE COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014**

February 11, 2014

HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Larry M. Kanda, and I am providing written testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 627. I was employed at State Civil Defense as a mitigation planner from 1992 to 2010 and very familiar with Dr. Michael P. Hamnett's outstanding performance to the State of Hawaii and his total commitment to make the State a better place.

GM 627 proposes the confirmation of Dr. Hamnett to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. I worked closely with Dr. Hamnett from 1998 to 2010 when he served as Chairman of the Hawaii State Mitigation Forum and I worked as the Forum's administrative officer. In that role, he was responsible for the creation of the first State of Hawaii Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which must be approved by the Governor, is currently in its fourth iteration. The plan approved by FEMA allows Hawaii to receive disaster funds from the national level. There is extensive data in this plan about the hurricane threat to Hawaii and cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce death and injury and property losses. Dr. Hamnett possesses more than the requisite understanding of the hurricane hazard and the necessity of proper application of the HHRF.

Dr. Hamnett is totally dedicated to the public safety of Hawaii's citizens and visitors, spending numerous volunteer hours in achieving that goal. It has been a distinct honor in serving and working with him.

I urge you and your committee to confirm him to the Board of Directors of the HHRF.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of this bill.

Larry M. Kanda
98-1702C Kaahumanu St.
Pearl City, HI 96782

GM627

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for CPN on Apr 11, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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Testimony
of
Michael Hamnett
To
The Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs
On
GM 627
April 11, 2014

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board of Directors, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL HAMNETT for a term to expire on June 30, 2017.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, unfortunately I am on the mainland and unable to appear before you in person today. Please accept this written testimony and thank you for the opportunity to submit it.

I also want to thank the Governor for nominating me and to the Senate President for recommending that he do so. It is truly an honor and a privilege to be considered.

I also want to thank those who have supported my nomination and confirmation.

I have had the good fortune to work in the fields of disaster preparedness and mitigation for the past 34 years in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands region. From 1981 until 1986, I led the efforts of the Pacific Islands Development Program at East West Center to assist the governments of eighteen countries and territories in the South Pacific to begin to shift the emphasis from disaster response and relief to reducing the risk of disaster losses through mitigation. We focused on changes in land use regulation, enhancement of building safety standards, and hardening existing structures. From 1987 until 1994, I worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Flood Insurance Program, and the Pacific Basin Development Council on efforts to reduce the risk of disaster losses in the American Flag Pacific Island, including Hawaii.

Following Hurricane Iniki in 1992, I led two Hazard Mitigation Planning Projects with support from the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program. Both of those planning projects involved working with the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. During the first project we worked with the Insurance Division on the development of the HHRF and the hazard mitigation efforts authorized by its enabling legislation. Based on the results of the second project we recommended that HHRF establish a risk-based premium structure

to encourage home owners to harden their structures. This included insurance premium credits for storm shutters and hurricane clips.

From 1994 until 2001, I served on the HHRF Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC proposed a hazard mitigation matching grant program which was to provide matching grants for up to \$3500 to home owners who installed wind resistive devices on their homes to reduce the risk of future hurricane losses. The TAC oversaw a detailed feasibility study that found that the installation of roof to wall and wall to foundation hurricane clips and storm shutters would significant and cost effectively reduced the risk of future losses.

Since 1998, I have served as Chair of the Statewide Hazard Mitigation Forum, an advisory group of officials and staff from 17 government agencies and organizations. The Forum planned and implemented a major public education and awareness campaign in the late 1980 and early 1990s. The Forum has also served as a coordinating body for the development of hazard mitigation plans for the state and county governments. I was directly involved in the development of the first hazard mitigation planning effort for Maui County and in development of the first hazard mitigation plans for the State of Hawaii, the County of Kauai, and the Territory of American Samoa.

I have served on the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board since 2009 and been Chair of the Board for the past year. Unfortunately, for the past several years, the HHRF Board has been a caretaker Board and has done little to advance the reduction of future hurricane losses. Fortunately, Hawaii has not experienced a major hurricane since 1992 but the risk has not diminished. Despite improvements in building codes, older homes, which make up the vast majority of our housing stock, are still at considerable risk from hurricane damage. Moreover, global climate change is undoubtedly going to increase the frequency and severity of hurricanes in our part of the world. Climate change is also going increase the frequency of El Niño event during which Hawaii is more susceptible to hurricane strikes.

I think the HHRF Board in collaboration with the Statewide Hazard Mitigation Forum, the State Building Code Council, and the Office of Planning's climate change adaptation efforts should seek ways to reduce the risk of catastrophic damage from future hurricanes.

I would very much like to help lead that effort as a member of the HHRF Board.

Thank you very much for considering my nomination.

Michael Hamnett

Senator Rosalyn Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

I wish to express my support for the nomination of Michael P. Hamnett to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. I have worked with Michael for over ten years on the Hawaii State Hazard Mitigation Forum, Hawaii State Civil Defense, and highly respect his knowledge and his leadership skills as the Chair of this forum. I am confident that he will continue to serve with equal aptitude on the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Mr. Hamnett on his nomination.

Timothy Hiu, PE
Chief of Building Safety
Department of Planning and Permitting
City and County of Honolulu

Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board of Directors

Submitted by

Michael P. Hamnett

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund?

I would like to be a member of the Board because I think I can make a contribution to the future of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. I have worked with HHRF since 1993 as a member and chair of the Technical Advisory Committee and as a member of the Board. I think HHRF was an extremely important safety net for homeowners, mortgage providers, and the housing industry following Hurricane Iniki and it remains a critical safety net in the event of another catastrophic hurricane. I also believe that the likelihood of that happening is increasing with global climate change. And, the HHRF can play a leadership role in efforts to adapt to climate change and to reduce the risk of future hurricane losses through hazard mitigation. I would like to contribute to that future.

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

The Board is the policy making body of HHRF and is responsible for establishing policies for the administration and operation of the fund. The Board appoints the executive director and develops policies on management of the investment portfolio and monitoring the adequacy of the private homeowners' insurance market. If the Board finds that the private insurance market is inadequate, the Board has the authority to authorize re-start the property insurance program. This would involve re-establishment of a program staff; developing and implementing a loss financing plan including the purchase of re-insurance, use of the mortgage recording fee, and assessment of funds from the private property and casualty insurance companies; setting actuarially sound premiums rates; and establishing policies for servicing requirements for private insurers. The Board also has the authority to create incentives for mitigation and development of a loss reduction plan for the hurricane peril.

3. Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I have worked in the field of disaster management since the early 1980s and have worked with HHRF since 1993. Most of my work in disaster management has focused on hazard mitigation or the reduction risk through changes in land use practices and building safety standards, and providing incentives to individuals, businesses, and government to retrofit their buildings and infrastructure. In the mid-1990s, as chair of the HHRF Technical Advisory Committee, I helped design the risk-based premium structure used by the fund and adopted by private insurers when they came back into the market. I also designed a hazard mitigation grant program for HHRF which provided incentives for policy holders to install shutters and hurricane clips on their homes.

Since 1998, I have also chaired the State-wide Hazard Mitigation Forum, an advisory body for State Civil Defense that involved representative from 17 agencies and organizations involved in various aspects of disaster loss reduction. The Forum has played a critical role in the development and implementation of hazard mitigation plans for the state and county governments. The Forum also reviews and prioritizes mitigation projects for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through State Civil Defense.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to re-kindle HHRF's role in hazard mitigation. There is considerable interest among re-insurers, several private foundations, and government agencies involved in climate change adaptation and hazard mitigation in what HHRF was able to accomplish. They are specifically interested in HHRF's risk-based premium structure and development of incentives for people to strengthen their homes and commercial buildings. A connection with the reinsurance industry and private foundations may provide opportunities for hazard mitigation funding from private sources to reduce the risk of future losses in housing and other sectors.

I am also hoping to work with the Insurance Division of DCCA in developing a contingency plan for re-starting the insurance program should Hawaii suffer another catastrophic hurricane loss. This could dovetail nicely with interest in a state disaster recovery plan being discussed at State Civil Defense.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

The three qualities that I would bring to the Board are: (1) my ability to work effectively with people in government and the insurance industry; (2) my knowledge of HHRF and of the fields of risk management and hazard mitigation, and (3) my good working relationships with relevant stakeholders.

6. Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

My 33 years of experience in hazard mitigation and my 11 years of experience with the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund should benefit the Board and HHRF. I have also worked extensively on climate variability and change and their impact on extreme weather events including hurricanes. I was involved in the first National Assessment of the Consequences of Climate Variability and Change and have done extensive research on the likely impacts of climate change on Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interest that could arise during another term on the Board.