

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/10/2014

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1868 RELATING TO EMERGENCY SHELTERS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund the retrofitting of public school buildings so they can also be used as emergency shelters.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports this bill. The DOE appreciates the intent of this bill. Retrofitting school facilities that have been identified as emergency shelters during disasters is a necessity. The DOE would like to ensure its involvement in this process so that all retrofit projects follow the necessary requirements regarding school facilities projects. The DOE would appreciate coordinating with the Department of Defense in this matter.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1868  
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY SHELTERS

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

BY

MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE  
February 10, 2014

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

I am Major General Darryll D.M. Wong, State Adjutant General and Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1868.

The retrofitting of public school facilities to meet the standards of hurricane shelters is critical to the State of Hawaii. In the event of a major storm approaching and making landfall on any or all of the Hawaiian Islands, citizens must evacuate to shelters that can withstand the dangers associated with hurricanes.

The issuance of general obligation bonds will be a key step to increase the number of hurricane shelters in the State of Hawaii.

State Civil Defense will work closely with the Department of Education in this retrofitting program as we continue our efforts to upgrade facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 1868.

**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 07, 2014 9:54 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** CLSKWOCK@GMAIL.COM  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1868 on Feb 10, 2014 14:00PM\*

**HB1868**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 10, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
CHU LAN SHUBERT-KWOCK	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**ohno2-Rexie**

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**Sent:** Sunday, February 09, 2014 6:28 PM  
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**HB1868**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 10, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rudy de Vre	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is a general lack of emergency shelters for hurricanes on all Islands. Why limit this bill to just Public Schools ? What about all the other Public buildings on each Island ? Like the local Recreation Centers, Gyms, etc. During the Hurricane, how are these buildings going to keep the lights on ? The bathrooms working ? Once the hurricane has passed how are these building going to support all those that no longer have then own home to go back to ? Where are they going to live ? The objectives of this bill are right on, but the problem is bigger than just shelters. Is our state prepared for another large scale disaster ? Especially if we have a disaster that involves multiple Islands ? A Tsunami could involve the entire State !

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## Testimony - HB 1868

Good afternoon. My name is Raleigh Ferdun and am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1868. I am a resident of Manoa Valley and am a member of the Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team (Manoa DPT). This team is composed of volunteer citizens, such as myself, members of the Manoa Neighborhood Board and representatives of Malama Manoa. The objective of the Manoa DPT is to compile a comprehensive Manoa Disaster Preparedness Plan and to make Manoa a resilient community which can weather any disaster and quickly recover thereafter.

Manoa is an older community in several different ways. Many of the houses were built in the 1950s, '60s and '70s and are single wall construction. As such they would be very vulnerable to an Iniki strength wind event. The population of Manoa Valley is 20,000 to 25,000 residents so during a hurricane there could potentially be 100s or possibility 1000s of residents requiring emergency shelter. Currently there are only two hurricane shelters available in Manoa, Manoa Elementary School and Noelani Elementary School both with very limited capacity. In addition, neither of these shelters is designated as a special needs or pet friendly. Manoa is an old community in the sense that there are many elderly and disabled residents yet there is no nearby special needs shelter.

In addition, of great concern to the Manoa DPT is that, although Manoa Valley is not in danger of tsunami inundation, we may need to play host to potentially 1000s of people from Waikiki, Makiki, and Downtown seeking higher ground. If there is substantial damage at those lower elevations, a large number of evacuees could require shelter for an extended period of time. In that scenario, the available shelters in Manoa would be totally inadequate.

As a member of the Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team I request that this committee, and the legislature as a whole, take steps to upgrade and increase the capacity of emergency shelters not only in Manoa, but elsewhere as well. And to do so before we have an event which shows us how ill prepared we are.

# Helen Nakano

3080 Puhala Rise, Honolulu 96822

## Testimony for the House Committee on Education

### Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters

Committee Hearing on February 10, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ono and Members of the House Committee on Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to lend my voice in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB1868** to fund the retrofitting of and upgrading of public school buildings.

I am a member of the Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team which has been tasked with the serious responsibility of creating a practical plan of disaster response for Manoa. Since involving myself with the subject of disaster preparedness of Manoa Valley, my home for over 60 years, I have been made aware of the lack of sufficient emergency shelter for our residents.

Manoa Valley has some unique vulnerabilities. Specifically, we are a neighborhood with a particularly high number of elderly residents, approximately 30 percent of approximately 22,000 residents, or 4,000, over 65 years old. As one example, in my own Neighborhood Security Watch in upper Woodlawn, we have three over 100 year old residents. We also have about a dozen care homes housing several hundred very infirm elderly patients.

An old neighborhood such as Manoa, with many old homes and many old people will need greater support than the average. Our present public shelters, **Noelani and Manoa Elementary Schools**, will be quickly overwhelmed. We need to upgrade these schools to meet civil defense shelter standards.

The greater need for shelter will be for those in the lowlands of our Ala Wai watershed. The real importance of preparing more Civil Defense certified shelters in Manoa will be for protecting, not just our residents, but the many refugees, tourists and residents, from the sea level and low-lying communities of Waikiki, Kapahulu, Makiki, McCully etc.

The reality of a tsunami or super storm hitting the coast some day is imminent. Some of the Corps of Engineers projections predict that at that time, the waters would flood the Ala Wai Canal and that the Ala Wai Golf Course would serve as a water catchment.

The time to prepare is today. Our Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team has identified the need for more civil defense certified facilities in our valley as a priority.

We ask your consideration of this proposal, not just for Manoa residents, but for the greater good of the entire Ala Wai watershed population.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB1868**.

Respectfully Submitted by: Helen Nakano  
Owner, Hanafuda Hawaii LLC  
Former member of Manoa Neighborhood Board  
Co-founder of Malama Manoa  
Board member of Manoa Heritage Center  
Longtime community activist

# Aloha McGuffie

2829 Manoa Road, Honolulu 96822

## Testimony for the House Committee on Education

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Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 309

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Thank you for this opportunity to lend my voice in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB1868** to fund the retrofitting of and upgrading of public school buildings.

I am a member of the Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team which has been tasked with the serious responsibility of creating a practical plan of disaster response for Manoa. Since involving myself with the subject of disaster preparedness of Manoa Valley, my home for nearly five years, I have been made aware of the lack of sufficient emergency shelter for our residents.

Manoa Valley has some unique vulnerabilities. Specifically, we are a neighborhood with a particularly high number of elderly residents, approximately 30 percent of approximately 22,000 residents, or 4,000, over 65 years old. We also have about a dozen care homes housing several hundred very infirm elderly patients.

An old neighborhood such as Manoa, with many old homes and many old people will need greater support than the average. Our present public shelters, **Noelani and Manoa Elementary Schools**, will be quickly overwhelmed. We need to upgrade these schools to meet civil defense shelter standards.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB1868**.

Respectfully Submitted by: Aloha McGuffie

**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
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**HB1868**

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 10, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**ohno2-Rexie**

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**HB1868**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 10, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James V. Harwood	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill as written, with the proviso that the upgrading of Manoa Elementary and Noelani Elementary to conform to FEMA hurricane shelter standards be coordinated with any proposed effort to air-condition those schools, an initiative that is currently under consideration. In the event of a hurricane, civil defense authorities ordering residents in a storm situation to take shelter in sub-standard community buildings, or overcrowded buildings, is asking them to risk serious injury or death. Currently, there is only room for about 10% of Manoa's population in our elementary schools. Many more shelters in Manoa than the two Manoa elementary schools need to be identified and prepared. Thank you. James V. Harwood

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