

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1868  
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY SHELTERS

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE  
February 19, 2014

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

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 hurricane shelter facilities.

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



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1868  
RELATING TO TAXATION

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

DOUG MAYNE  
VICE DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE  
February 19, 2014

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Johanson and Nishimoto and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

I am Doug Mayne and I am the Vice Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1868.

There is a continuing need to retrofit public school facilities to meet the standards of hurricane shelters. As a major hurricane approaches the Hawaiian Islands, people will begin to move to predestinated hurricane shelters. These shelters must be able to withstand the high winds and other dangers that hurricanes bring.

Further, a major hurricane would damage many homes, making them uninhabitable. These designated school facilities would be some people's long term living location.

Retrofitting schools to meet the standard of hurricane shelters is essential. The issuance of general obligation bonds will be a key step to get more shelter space for the people of Hawaii.

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

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

# Raleigh Ferdun

3558B Woodlawn Dr, Honolulu 96822

## Testimony for the House Committee on Finance

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

Committee Hearing on February 19, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB1868** to fund the retrofitting of and upgrading of public school buildings so that they can be used as emergency shelters.

I am a member of the Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team which is in the process of creating a disaster preparedness plan for Manoa. Since involving myself with the subject of disaster preparedness for Manoa Valley, my home for over 60 years, I have become 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 our 22,000 residents, or 4,000, are over 65 years old. As an example, one of the Neighborhood Security Watch areas in upper Woodlawn, has three over 100 year old residents. There are also a dozen or so care homes in Manoa 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. At our present public shelters, **Noelani** and **Manoa Elementary Schools**, not all of the buildings meet civil defense shelter standards. We need to upgrade these schools so that all of the buildings meet civil defense standards or those shelters will be quickly overwhelmed.

A greater need for shelter will be for those from the lowlands of our Ala Wai watershed who come to Manoa seeking higher ground. The real importance of preparing more Civil Defense certified shelters in Manoa will be for protecting, not just our residents, but those many refugees, tourists and others, from the low-lying communities of Waikiki, Kapahulu, Makiki, McCully and Ala Moana.

The probability of a tsunami or powerful hurricane hitting our island some day is high. Corps of Engineers projections predict that at that time, the tsunami or storm surge would flood the Ala Wai Canal and the surrounding area forcing those residents to flee up into Manoa Valley.

The time to prepare is today. Our Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team has identified the need for more civil defense certified shelters 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:      Raleigh Ferdun  
Member – Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team  
Coordinator – Upper Woodlawn Neighborhood Security Watch  
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certified

**Hector H. Venegas**  
2532 Rainbow Drive, Honolulu 96822

**Testimony for the House Committee on Finance**  
Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters  
Committee Hearing on February 19, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street,

Dear Rep. Silvia Luke, Chair and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Mahalo for allowing me to submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1868 to fund the retrofitting and upgrading Manoa's public school buildings.

As an active member of the Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team (MDPT) we have been tasked the extremely serious responsibility of creating a practical plan to respond for a disaster in Manoa. I am personally involved with the subject of disaster preparedness of Manoa Valley, because of my 80year old home. And many of us have been made aware of the lack of sufficient emergency shelter for our residents.

Manoa Valley has unique disaster shortcoming. We are a neighborhood with a high number of resident senior citizens, 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.

Manoa, with many old homes and many old people will need greater support than the average community. Our present public shelters, Noelani and Manoa Elementary Schools, will be overwhelmed beyond capacity. We need to upgrade these schools to meet civil defense shelter requirements.

Residents of the lowlands of our Ala Wai watershed will also have a greater need for that shelter. The ultimate Importance of such preparation is to receive certification from Civil Defense for Manoa's shelter needs. Thus, we can take care of not only Manoa residents but also the many other displaced people: tourists and residents, from the sea level and low-lying communities of Waikiki, Kapahulu, Makiki, McCully, etc.

It is not if, but when a tsunami, hurricane or super storm hit Oahu is imminent. 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

To meet the impendent calamity head on, we must start preparations, not tomorrow, but today, and it starts with your support. The MDPT Team has identified the need for additional civil defense certified facilities in our valley as a priority. We request your outmost consideration of HB1868, not just for Manoa residents, but for the greater good of the entire Ala Wai watershed population.

Respectfully Submitted by: Hector H. Venegas  
President, Hector H. Venegas Ent.. Ltd.  
Former member of Manoa Neighborhood Board  
Rainbow Drive Coordinator, Manoa Neighborhood Security Watch  
Lyricist, "Hawaiian Lullaby"

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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**LATE**

**Date:** 02/19/2014

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 1868(hscr415-14) 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.