

LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1868
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY SHELTERS

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM)
&
EDUCATION (EDU)

BY

MAJ GEN DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 17, 2014

Chair Espero, Chair Tokuda, and the Members of the Senate Committees of Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and 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 hurricane shelter facilities.

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

LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1868
RELATING TO TAXATION

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM)
& EDUCATION (EDU)

BY

DOUG MAYNE
VICE DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 17, 2014

Chair Espero, Chair Tokuda and the Members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs (PSM) and Education (EDU).

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.

LATE TESTIMONY

Raleigh Ferdun

3558B Woodlawn Dr, Honolulu 96822

Testimony for the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs; Committee on Education

Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters

Committee Hearing on March 17 2014 at 1:15 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 414

Dear Chair Espero, Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Education:

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, up to 10 percent of our 26,000 residents, or 2,600, 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. Our current public shelters at Noelani and Manoa Elementary Schools are at least partly illusion because 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 high 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

LATE TESTIMON

The Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs (PSM) and Education
Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters
Committee Hearing on Monday, March 17 at 1:15 pm; Conference Room 414.
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street,

Senator Will Espero, Chair and Members of the Senate Committee members

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"

LATE TESTIMONY

Helen Nakano

3080 Puhala Rise, Honolulu, HI 96822

Testimony for the Senate Committees

on

Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs (PSM)
Education (EDU)

Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters

Committee Hearing on March 17, 2014 at 1:15 pm, Conference Room 414

Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania, Hon., HI

Dear Chair Espero, Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committees on PSM/EDU:

I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1868** to fund the retrofitting and upgrading of Manoa's public school buildings to make them shelter certified.

Just last week, along with other members of the Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team, we gave a presentation at the Pacific Risk Management Ohana 2014 conference held at the Convention Center. We had just completed writing our community's disaster preparedness plan. We found that we were the first urban community and only the fifth community in the state to have even written a plan.

A *Star-Advertiser* reporter interviewed us and members of other communities represented there.

Her article in the local section of the Saturday 15 edition was headlined: **Disaster readiness must grow, officials say**. The second page title read: **DISASTER: Few communities are ready**.

What I have learned in the past months is that Manoa, Oahu, indeed, the entire State is very vulnerable to any natural disaster. I truly believe that if an Iniki were to hit Oahu today, we would see not only experience massive damage to property, but many lives lost, and most likely, high crime by hungry and thirsty citizens who were caught unaware and unprepared.

Our Manoa Team is continuing to plan and organize diligently, under the leadership of our State Representative Isaac Choy, so we can make our community as disaster resilient as possible. We are doing our part. We are beginning aggressive outreach programs; we will be holding our first all-Manoa Disaster Preparedness Fair in the fall; we are strengthening our Neighborhood Security Watch Network and we are going to seek FEMA and CERT training for as many of our citizens as possible. We want to serve as a "*model disaster-ready community*" to help other communities prepare their own plans. We believe that if we work together and prepare, we have the best chances of surviving and thriving.

However, we need your help in assuring that not only our own residents, but also the droves of refugees from the flooded lowlands and coastal area of our watershed will at least have a roof over their heads when that tsunami or super hurricane strikes. Please pass HB 1868 so we can provide shelter for our Waikiki, Kapahulu, Moliili, and McCully neighbors too.

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

Helen Nakano

hanafudahawaii@gmail.com

LATE TESTIMONY

Gary Andersen

61691 Manoa Station
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96839

Testimony for the Senate Committees

on

**Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs (PSM)
Education (EDU)**

Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters

**Committee Hearing on March 17, 2014 at 1:15 pm, Conference Room 414
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania, Hon., HI**

Dear Chair Espero, Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committees on PSM/EDU:

I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1868.**

Manoa Valley has more historic homes than any other neighborhood in the state. There are many old single walled homes and many old people will need greater support than the average in the face or aftermath of a disaster.

Our present public shelters, Noelani and Manoa Elementary Schools, do not meet Civil Defense shelter standard for a hurricane.

The importance of preparing more Civil Defense certified shelters in Manoa cannot be overemphasized. For we will be for protecting; not just Manoa residents, but many tourists and others, arriving from Waikiki, Kapahulu, Makiki, McCully and Ala Moana.

The probability of a tsunami or powerful hurricane hitting our island some day is high. It is not a question of IF but rather WHEN. The Army Corps of Engineers predicts a tsunami or storm surge would flood the Ala Wai Canal and the surrounding area forcing residents to flee to higher ground. . . And that is Manoa Valley.

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

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

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

Gary Andersen

Gary Andersen, Member, Manoa Neighborhood Board
Founding Member, The Outdoor Circle, Manoa Branch
Manoa Neighborhood Watch
Past President, The Sierra Club, Honolulu Branch
Past Chair, Earth Island Institute

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:43 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR45 on Mar 18, 2014 13:20PM*

SCR45

Submitted on: 3/18/2014
Testimony for PSM/TEC on Mar 18, 2014 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	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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