

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1868
RELATING TO TAXATION

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

DOUG MAYNE
VICE DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 25, 2014

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and the Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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 associated with hurricanes.

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 increase the number of hurricane shelter facilities.

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1868
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY SHELTERS

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE

March 25, 2014

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and the Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, 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 passing near or 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.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
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March 25, 2014

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill 1868 - Relating to Emergency Shelters

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1868 Relating to Emergency Shelters that authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund the retrofitting of public school buildings so that they can also be used as emergency shelters.

In 2005, DCAB co-convened an Interagency Working Group for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs with State Civil Defense and the Department of Health. Since that time, DCAB and the Working Group developed an "Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs" to ensure that emergency management efforts and plans statewide included people with disabilities and other access and functional needs. A major effort involved the retrofitting of public school buildings by providing technical assistance to ensure accessibility of the facilities per the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). In 2013, DCAB trained state and county staff to review sites selected as emergency shelters, such as public schools, in order to retrofit the shelter and include accessibility features so individuals using the emergency shelter will have access to the site. This goal meets several of the goals set in the "2009 Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs." That plan is currently being revised with the assistance of all stakeholders in the emergency management community, including individuals with disabilities and other access and functional needs.

DCAB acknowledges all of the work previously accomplished by State Civil Defense, the county emergency management agencies and all partner agencies. We look forward to a continued partnership with all public and private agencies to develop emergency shelters and emergency management plans that are accessible to and include the whole community.

We believe that the additional funds used to increase the capacity of available shelters should include not only hardening of facilities but also accessibility to ensure that the retrofitted shelters are usable by all in the community, including persons with disabilities.

We defer to the Departments of Defense and Education regarding the amount of funding required to adequately address the purpose of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

From: [G. Andersen](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: House Bill No. 1868
Date: Saturday, March 22, 2014 5:40:10 AM
Importance: High

GARY KENT ANDERSEN
3023 LOOMIS STREET, Honolulu, HI 96822
Testimony for the Senate Ways and Means Committee
Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters

March 25, 2014 at 9:10 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 211

Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani

and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Please consider favorably House Bill No. 1868 for passage unamended. It is not a question of IF a hurricane will strike our islands but WHEN. In order for our public schools to be considered hurricane shelters we need to retrofit them. You can make this happen.

I close with my respect and thanks for your service to our state.

Gary Kent Andersen, Member Manoa Neighborhood Board
Past Chair Sierra Club, Honolulu Group
Project director, Earth Island Institute

Hector H. Venegas
2532 Rainbow Drive, Honolulu 96822

Testimony for the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters

Committee Hearing on March 25, 2014 at 9:10 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

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 80-year-old home, and my immediate family. 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 6,600, 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 outmost

Need for such preparation is to obtain the required certification from Civil Defense for Manoa's shelters. Thus, we can take care of not only Manoa residents; but also the many other displaced people: tourists and residents, alike, 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 will 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 impending 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
Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team Member
Lyricist, "Hawaiian Lullaby"

Raleigh Ferdun

3558B Woodlawn Dr, Honolulu 96822

Testimony for the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters

Committee Hearing on March 25, 2014 at 9:10 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

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

Helen Nakano

3080 Puhala Rise, Honolulu, HI 96822

Testimony for the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Regarding House Bill No. 1868, Relating to Emergency Shelters

Committee Hearing on March 25, 2014 at 9:10 a.m., Conference Room 211

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

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

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

Recently, Jim Harwood, a fellow member of the Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team (MDPT) and I were discussing the dire lack of sufficient shelters in Manoa Valley, in the event of catastrophic disaster in the coastal areas of our Ala Wai Watershed.

He told me of an even more hazardous situation which could occur for people forced to evacuate their homes and go to one of our existing shelters in the event of a major hurricane. A few years ago, Mr. Harwood and his wife were told to leave their home and go to Noelani Elementary School when the possibility that a major hurricane equal to Iniki might hit Oahu. He and his wife stayed in the cafeteria for several hours before the all clear signal allowed them to return to their home.

"Never again", he said. In his estimation, as Noelani cafeteria presently stands, is, in his words, a *"death trap."* The low roof would be lifted. The wide doors with flimsy hinges would fly open and be hurled into the sheltered masses.

Let us make sure the shelters we have designated for the public be upgraded to the highest level and will be strong enough to withstand the high winds of super storms like those which recently hit the Philippines.

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

Helen Nakano

hanafudahawaii@gmail.com