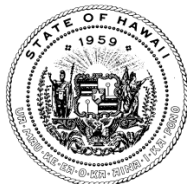


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
AUDREY HIDANO
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:
(808) 586-2165

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 28, 2014
9:20 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

H.B. 849, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill, as it conforms Hawaii's emergency management statutes to nationwide practices.

Inasmuch as counties are the first to respond to a wide variety of events, the DOT plays an essential role as part of the emergency support.

The enactment of this bill, underlines the importance of working with all partners in order to effectively prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate hazards and threats that might come before us.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 849 HD2 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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 28, 2013

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and 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 849 HD2 SD1, with the recommended changes listed below.

HB 849 HD2 SD1 is an important and much needed update to current Hawaii civil defense statutes.

- The current statutes were written in the 1940's and modified in the 1950s and 60s. The outdated language, powers and some references require revision.
- Global warming appears to have increased the number of potential natural disasters. The new emergency management chapter will allow the state and counties to better prepare and respond to this increase in disasters.

An overview of HB 849 HD2 SD1.

- Repeals HRS 127 (Disaster Relief Act). Nine of the 11 chapters were indefinitely suspended in 1961. The new emergency management chapter will incorporate the major disaster fund from HRS 127.
- Repeals HRS 128 (Civil Defense and Emergency Act). HB 849 HD2 updates language and moves into the new emergency chapter.
- There are civil defense authorities scattered in four chapters of the Hawaii Revised Statutes - 26-21, 127, 128, and 209-9. This new chapter will streamline the statutes by placing all emergency management authorities in one chapter and will update the language of the law.
- HB 849 HD2 recodifies the powers and authorities of the governor and the mayors.
 - Does not add any gubernatorial powers - all powers exist in the current statutes.

- Moves some gubernatorial authorities from general powers to emergency powers while deleting outmoded powers.
- Mayors will now be directly responsible for emergency management in their county as a function of being mayor. Currently, mayors are appointed vice directors of State Civil Defense by the Adjutant General.

This new chapter will establish clear emergency management authorities, roles and responsibilities for the mayor of each county and formalize already functioning county emergency management agencies under the direction of each mayor. Under the current law, these agencies work for the Director of Civil Defense. The new chapter will formalize operational processes currently in use by the state and counties. These changes promote partnership by clarifying the powers and authorities of the governor and the four county mayors.

New sections in HB 849 HD2 SD1.

- Authorizes the use of \$100,000 from the Major Disaster Fund to establish an Emergency Reserve Corps. The money would come from the \$500,000 the Legislature allocates to the fund.
 - State Civil Defense (SCD) will use this funding to train 100 volunteer corps members. The training will be four days a year to prepare them to quickly augment the SCD staff during an emergency event and the follow-on recovery period.
 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uses this concept to robust their staffing after major disasters.
- Authorizes the 24/7 State Warning Point, a State Civil Defense function operating since 2005. No additional personnel needed.
- Changes "Civil Defense" to "Emergency Management". Out of the 54 states and territories, only Hawaii uses "civil defense" in reference to their state emergency management agency. Guam uses Office of Homeland Security and Civil Defense. State Civil Defense will become the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

We request the following changes be made to HB 849 HD2 SD1:

Insert a new paragraph into Section 1 Policy and Purpose

Add -1(c) It is further declared to be the purpose of this chapter and the policy of the State that the governor shall lead a comprehensive and collaborative emergency management system within the State to ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters at all levels.

Renumber rest of -1

Insert new language into paragraph -3

Add -3(a) The Governor is responsible for leading the emergency management system of the State and coordinating resources to effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters within the State.

Renumber rest of -3

Amend (3)(e): The agency shall lead a comprehensive and collaborative emergency management system for the State and shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the State;

I strongly urge you to pass HB 849 HD2 SD1 so we can move the State's emergency management function forward.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of this measure.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 849 HD2 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MR. DOUG MAYNE
VICE DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
March 28, 2014

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

I am Doug Mayne, Vice Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **FAVOR** of House Bill 849 HD2 SD1 **with recommended changes (see below)**.

HB 849 HD2 SD1 proposes needed recodification of, and a small number of additions to the current Hawaii Civil Defense statutes. These changes will help better protect the people of Hawai'i. The statutes we are using today were written in the 1940's, and, over time, civil defense authorities have been placed into at least 4 different chapters of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes. Among other things, HB 849 HD2 SD 1 will streamline the law by placing all emergency management authorities in one chapter and will update the language of the law.

I have worked closely with the County Civil Defense Agencies and other partners to ensure they had input at all stages of drafting this bill. And although there are a couple of specific sections of this bill they would like to see changed, they support the overall bill. The Director of Civil Defense has also received letters of support for HB 849 from Mayors Arakawa, Carvalho, and Kenoi. This bill has as much broad-based support as I believe it is possible to attain for a major piece of legislation that is 100 pages in length.

We request the following changes be made to HB 849 HD2 SD1:

Insert a new paragraph into Section 1 Policy and Purpose

Add -1(c) It is further declared to be the purpose of this chapter and the policy of the State that the governor shall lead a comprehensive and collaborative emergency management system within the State to ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters at all levels.

Renumber rest of -1

Insert new language into paragraph -3

Add -3(a) The Governor is responsible for leading the emergency management system of the State and coordinating resources to effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters within the State.

Renumber rest of -3

Amend (3)(e): The agency shall lead a comprehensive and collaborative emergency management system for the State and shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the State;

One new section in HB 849 HD2 SD 1 establishes the Emergency Reserve Corps (ERC). We know we cannot afford a full-time force that is large enough to staff medium and large-scale disasters for 24 hour operations for weeks on-end. The ERC will be a low-cost surge staff to assist government (state and local) during emergencies. The ERC will be recruited from community members, trained, and ready to assume their duties when mobilized by the Administrator of Emergency Management. The ERC members will be required to attend 4 one-day training periods each year to ensure they are ready to respond. Up to \$100,000 of the cost of the required training (salaries, facilities and training material) for the ERC will be taken from the annual major disaster fund appropriation. The ERC will provide a low cost, fully-trained surge staffing capability.

A second new section codifies our existing support of the State Warning Point, a 24/7 watch facility staffed by State Civil Defense personnel. We have performed this function since 2005.

HB 849 HD2 SD1 recodifies the powers and authorities of the Governor. Some of the powers under the current statute are outmoded and need to be repealed. HRS 128-6(5) (A), for example, authorizes the Governor to provide for “Compulsory RHo blood typing on females of child bearing age or younger...” This power is dropped in the new bill as unnecessary.

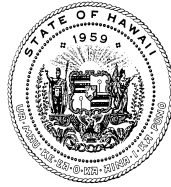
Other powers that are currently very broad in nature are moved to a more restrictive category. For example, the Governor now has the authority to take over direct operational control of a county-level emergency at any time; under the new statutes, this becomes a power he will only have during a declared state of emergency. All of the Governor’s powers in sections 12 and 13 of this bill are authorities that are listed in the current statute; HB 849 HD2 SD1 clarifies two authorities: the authority to order mandatory evacuations during a declared state of emergency (Governor) or local state of emergency (Mayors), and the ability to identify emergency response personnel among government workers and order them to report for duty regardless of the availability of leave. This second clarification is designed to ensure that employees who are needed for disaster response and recovery can be ordered to report for work, even if administrative leave is granted to the general work force.

The biggest change in HB 849 HD2 SD1 concerns the role of the county Mayor. The current civil defense statutes place all civil defense authorities with the Governor, and the Mayors have no authority over civil defense matters until they are appointed as a Deputy Director of Civil Defense by the Director (The Adjutant General). HB 849 HD2 SD1 provides the Mayors their emergency management authorities as a function of being the chief elected executive of the county. This law will establish clear emergency management roles and responsibilities for the Mayor of each county, establish a county emergency management agency under the direction of each Mayor, and provide specific emergency management authorities for the Mayor. These changes will make clear the roles and responsibilities of the county and state level governments, ensuring a clear understanding of who is responsible for what.

HB 849 HD2 SD 1 is a comprehensive recodification of the emergency management laws in our state. This bill will simplify the law by placing all emergency management authorities in one chapter of the HRS. It will strengthen emergency management by making the County Mayors responsible for emergency management in their counties and providing them clear powers and authorities to act in their jurisdictions. It promotes partnership by clarifying the powers and authorities of the Governor and the Mayors. And it increases our capabilities by providing a mechanism to hire and train a low-cost surge staff.

I strongly urge you to **PASS** HB 849 HD2 SD1 with recommended changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
<http://labor.hawaii.gov>

March 28, 2014

To: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair,
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Monday, March 28, 2014

Time: 9:20 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Dwight Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 849 H.D. 2 S.D. 1 Relating to the State Building Code

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The enactment of HB849HD2SD1 would represent an important step for Hawaii in becoming better prepared for the unexpected and could provide better management of emergencies and disasters. Through collaboration, cooperation and coordination of stakeholders, this measure is progressive and forward thinking because it recognizes the need to have an integrated approach to emergency management.

Disaster events do not only disrupt people's lives, but they also jeopardize the economy of the state. The growing threat of disasters we face today underlines the necessity and importance of modernizing our emergency management. We must adapt to changes and be equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills to prepare us for the enduring threats, hazards, and vulnerabilities and make the state more resilient. Better coordination among stakeholders is a sure way to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency management.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB849HD2SD1.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2500
Fax: (808) 586-2501

Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**
Friday, March 28, 2014
9:20 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
in consideration of
HB849, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB849, HD2, SD1, an Administrative measure which recodifies Hawaii's emergency management statutes by updating the statutes, clarifying the relationship between the state and county emergency management agencies, and delineating the emergency management functions and powers of the Governor and Mayors.

Hawaii's emergency management statutes were established more than a half century ago, and few updates have been made since then. During that time, however, conditions in Hawaii have changed dramatically. In addition, the field of emergency management has changed significantly, including a reorganization of the federal emergency management infrastructure.

Many State and County agencies are involved with emergency management, including DBEDT. This bill helps to clarify their roles and responsibilities to improve coordination and to ensure that decisions are made at the appropriate level.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support of HB849, HD2, SD1.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2014
9:20 a.m.
Room 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 849 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 849 HD2 SD1 that recodifies Hawaii's emergency management statutes by updating the statutes, clarifying the relationship between the state and county emergency management agencies, and delineating the emergency management functions and powers of the Governor and mayors. State Civil Defense fills a vital role in Hawaii's society during disaster relief and recovery. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture's (HDOA) role primarily falls within the recovery phase of post-disaster activities and it relies heavily on the expertise and infrastructure that State Civil Defense provides. As such, HDOA supports this effort to make State Civil Defense more effective and efficient by modernizing the statutes governing the State's emergency management functions.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

TESTIMONY OF HERMINA MORITA
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

MARCH 28, 2014

9:20 a.m.

MEASURE: H.B. No. 849, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
TITLE: Relating to Emergency Management

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This measure proposes to amend and repeal current disaster relief and civil defense provisions under state law, and to add a new chapter in Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) setting out provisions for the State’s program for emergency management. In addition, this measure makes conforming amendments to HRS Chapters 269 and 271G concerning the ability of utilities affected by emergencies to apply for special emergency-only cost recovery and temporary certificates of operation, subject to the review of the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”).

POSITION:

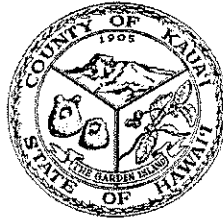
The Commission would like to offer the following comments on this measure.

COMMENTS:

The Commission has reviewed this measure’s proposed amendments that will affect public utilities under HRS Chapters 269 and 271G, amendments which conform existing emergency cost recovery and temporary operating certificate language to the bill’s proposed new Emergency Management chapter. The Commission supports the measure’s non-substantive amendments to the extent they are only intended to make existing language consistent with the proposed bill’s Emergency Management chapter.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written comments on this measure.

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Nadine K. Nakamura
Managing Director

LATE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 235, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4900 FAX (808) 241-6877

March 24, 2014

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: House Bill (HB) 849, HD2, Relating to Emergency Management

Dear Chair Ige and Members:

Aloha from the County of Kaua'i.

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 849, An Act Relating to Emergency Management.

HB 849 revises the statutes written shortly after World War II. A civil defense system "enacted at a very different time in the history of Hawaii and our nation." (HB 849, Section 1). The nation's civil defense has evolved to a system that is more responsive and emergency management focused.

Passage of HB 849, HD 2, will help improve my ability to provide emergency management for the people of Kaua'i and Niihau by clarifying and delineating the separate authorities, roles and responsibilities of County Mayors and the Governor. By providing clear lines of authority, HB 849 will enable the Governor and the Mayors to work with a clear unit of effort in responding to and recovering from natural and manmade disasters.

I support HB 849, HD 2. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Mahalo for your leadership on this legislation that will improve emergency management for all Hawaii.

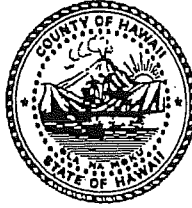
Aloha,

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor

Cc: Glenda Nogami Streufert, Civil Defense Manager

William P. Kenoi
Mayor

Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director



Darryl J. Oliveira
Civil Defense Administrator

County of Hawaii

CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

920 Ululani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3958
(808) 935-0031 • Fax (808) 935-6460

March 27, 2014

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 208
State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Ige,

I would like to request your support and passage of House Bill 849 HD 2, SD 1 relating to Emergency Management.

As proposed, House Bill 849 HD 2, SD1 will modernize the statutes pertaining to the organizational structure and responsibilities of those State and County agencies tasked with emergency management as well as more clearly delineate the roles and authorities of the Governor and the Mayors as it pertains to emergency management. In addition, this proposed legislation will establish Hawaii State emergency management roles, responsibilities, authorities, policies, and decision making processes in a manner that is in alignment with nationally recognized and accepted best practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 849 HD2, SD1 and I strongly urge and request your passage of this measure as written.

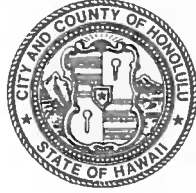
Thank you,


Darryl Oliveira, Administrator



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



KIRK W. CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **GG-BL**

March 28, 2014

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 849, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Management

I am Gordon Gomes, Captain of the Major Events Division, Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department strongly supports House Bill No. 849, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Management. The present way we plan for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from man-made and natural catastrophic events is not reflected in Hawaii's present emergency management laws. House Bill No. 849, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 will update Hawaii's emergency management laws to conform to nationwide practices in emergency management.

House Bill No. 849, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 will clearly delineate the lines of authority between the governor and the county mayors with regard to emergency management. It will also establish county emergency management agencies that are independent from state control on a day-to-day basis. This provides for a more timely response to emergency management issues and enhances interagency operations at the county level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge your committee to support and pass House Bill No. 849, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Gomes", is written over a horizontal line.

GORDON GOMES, Captain
Major Events Division

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoa", is written over a horizontal line.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Way and Means

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, March 28, 2014, 9:20 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

By

James P. Crowe
Office of Judiciary Security and Emergency Management

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 849, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Management.

Purpose: Recodifies Hawaii’s emergency management statutes by updating the statutes, clarifying the relationship between the state and county emergency management agencies, and delineating the emergency management functions and powers of the Governor and mayors. Effective July 1, 2014 (HB849, HD2, SD1)

Judiciary's Position:

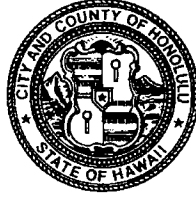
The Judiciary fully supports the passage of House Bill 849 H.D. 2, S.D. 1. This bill clarifies and delineates the roles of key decision makers within the State of Hawai‘i in the most difficult of times. As the third branch of government, the Judiciary recognizes and appreciates the impact such clarity can bring to a very difficult situation. We believe this bill, if passed, will assist in a timely and more organized response and recovery effort by the State of Hawai‘i. The Judiciary continues to endorse and support all efforts to better prepare the State of Hawai‘i for a catastrophic disaster. As such, it is our hope that this bill gains your approval and receives the appropriate level of acceptance, as to become a significant step in safeguarding the State of Hawai‘i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 849, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 / (808) 723-8960

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 27, 2014

The David Y. Ige, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill (HB) 849, HD2, SD1 Relating to Emergency Management

I am Melvin N. Kaku, Director of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Emergency Management.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Emergency Management, supports HB 849, HD2, SD1, which proposes needed recoding of the State's emergency management laws. Some of the powers under the current statute are outmoded and need to be repealed. For example, the Governor now has the authority to take over direct operational control of an emergency at any time; this becomes a power he will only have during an emergency period. All of the Governor's powers in sections 12, 13 and 14 are authorities that are listed in the current statute. To minimize any ambiguity in sections 13a(4), recommend the following replacement language to clarify under what circumstances the Governor may assume control. The replacement language is as follows:

For section 13a(4): "In the event of an emergency or disaster beyond local control, the local entity may request that the Governor take control of the disaster or emergency incident."

It is noted that HB 849, HD2, SD1, in clarifying the roles of the Governor and the Mayors, unintentionally shifts a greater burden of the State's responsibilities to the counties, which would be an unfunded mandate.

I urge your committee to support and pass HB 849 with our proposed amendment language. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin N. Kaku". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melvin" being the most prominent part.
Melvin N. Kaku
Director

cc: Ember Lee Shinn, Managing Director



American Red Cross
Hawaii State Chapter

Testimony on HB 849, HD2, SD1, Relating to Emergency Management

by

Coralie Chun Matayoshi, CEO, American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter

Senate Ways and Means
March 28, 2014, 9:20 am, Conference Room 211

Honorable Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and members of the Senate Ways and Means;

The Hawaii State Chapter of the American Red Cross supports House Bill 849, HD2, SD1 Relating to Emergency Management, which recodifies Hawaii's emergency management statutes and clarifies the roles of various agencies and individuals involved with emergency management.

The mission of the American Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. In Hawaii, we respond to natural and manmade disasters about every 4 days and provide critical disaster emergency preparedness information to the general public.

We work very closely with Federal, State and County emergency management agencies in performing government-like functions. The Red Cross is named in county, state and federal Emergency Operations plans to assist government agencies in meeting the humanitarian needs caused by disasters. Each county designates Red Cross as the lead or primary support organization to plan and execute disaster sheltering operations. We regularly participate in civil defense agencies joint planning, training and exercises, including coordinating shelter operations, disaster assessments and providing individual assistance, health assessments, and crisis counseling. Red Cross is a key response agency at the Emergency Operations Center for state and county government and also serves on the State Emergency Response Team. As such, our relationship with State and County civil defense is important and critical. We also work closely with state and county government to convene and coordinate services with other non-governmental organizations to augment existing emergency services.

This bill will clarify roles and responsibilities of agencies involved with emergency management. This can only improve overall coordination and effectiveness of emergency management and disaster responses statewide.

Working together, the state, county and other response organizations can effectively prepare for, respond to, recover from, and help mitigate the effects of major disasters in Hawaii.

Hawaii is the most isolated population on the face of the earth. Not only are we vulnerable to major disasters like hurricanes, earthquake and tsunami, but influenza pandemic and terrorist attack. It is not if, but when the next catastrophic disaster will strike our islands, so having our emergency management strengthened and lines of coordination clarified is critical. Being prepared can mean the difference between life or death, hopelessness or resiliency, business continuity or bankruptcy.

I urge your committees to support and pass HB 849, HD2, SD1 Relating to Emergency Management. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Coralie Matayoshi
Chief Executive Officer
American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter



Friday – March 28, 2014 – 9:20am
Conference Room 211

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

From: George Greene
President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 849, HD 2, SD 1 — Relating to Emergency Management

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 116-member organization that includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of long term care facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospice programs, as well as other healthcare organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 849, HD 2, SD 1, which recodifies Hawaii's emergency management statutes by clarifying the roles of the various agencies and individuals involved with emergency management.

Hawaii's emergency management statutes were established more than a half century ago, and few updates have been made since then. During that time, however, conditions in Hawaii have changed dramatically. In addition, the field of emergency management has changed significantly, including a reorganization of the federal emergency management infrastructure.

Many State and county agencies are involved with emergency management. This bill clarifies their roles and responsibilities to improve coordination and to ensure that decisions are made at the appropriate level. In improving the effectiveness of Hawaii's emergency management infrastructure, this bill will ultimately result in lives being saved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 849, HD 2, SD 1.

**Testimony on House Bill 849 HD2 SD1
A Bill Relating to Emergency Management**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

March 26, 2014

CHAIR IGE, VICE CHAIR KIDANI, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

I am Edward T. Teixeira, former vice director of civil defense, State of Hawaii, from October 1999 to October 2011. I am testifying in strong opposition to House Bill 849 HD2 SD1.

The proposed bill is a rushed and desperate attempt to reform the state civil defense system by a name change, in essence substituting most of the provisions found in HRS Chapter 128. The proposed bill falls short of making a real change to the state civil defense system, a change that requires a bold (and justified) transition from the Federal Civil Defense laws of the 1950s to the 21st Century and beyond.

Simply stated. HB 849 HD2 SD1 will continue to retain the state emergency management agency under the department of defense and the state adjutant general or Hawaii National Guard (**Page 8 Section -3 Hawaii emergency management agency**), This is an outmoded Cold War concept that is currently prescribed in HRS 128.

The Hawaii State Legislature should take the initiative many other state legislative bodies have taken long ago by placing their emergency management agencies directly under their respective governors. Placing the state emergency management agency under the department of defense and adjutant general places an unnecessary layering of responsibility and purposefully insulates the governor from the day to day exigencies involving the protection of our residents and visitors. To be clear, there should be a either a civilian director of emergency management or a civilian administrator of emergency management who reports directly to the governor.

There are other parts of the proposed bill that address many other critical functions and responsibilities, which should be studied carefully. Passing this bill out of your committee without a thorough review by your committees will be a disservice to the people of the State.

I, therefore, recommend that you defer this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony that strongly opposes this bill.