



March 28, 2014



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Chair Sen. David Ige, Vice Chair Sen. Michelle Kidani, and Committee Members
Public Hearing, March 28, 2014, 9:20 a.m., Conference Room 211, State Capitol

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
CIVIL DEFENSE ADVISORY COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF HB 849 HD2 SD1
RECODIFIES HAWAII'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATUTES

My name is William F. Anonsen, the Managing Partner/Principal of The Maritime Group, and the Chair of the State Civil Defense Advisory Council. Regrettably I'm not able to personally testify in support of HB 849 and its passage which would serve to recodify Hawaii's emergency management statutes by updating HRS 127 (Disaster Relief) and HRS 128 (Disaster and Emergency Act) that is over 60 years old, outdated and written primarily to deal with Post World War II-Cold War nuclear attack threats and civil unrest.

Our island state's requirements, expectations and technology have dramatically changed since these statutes were enacted with the proposed changes making the myriad of roles and responsibilities of state and county level government agencies more in alignment with how disasters and emergencies are handled today.

The changes will help foster the necessary emergency management functions needed in support of the collaborative preparedness, response and recovery efforts between federal, state, county and our private sector partners. This measure would provide the necessary statutory authority to help support a comprehensive emergency management program that provides disaster preparedness and relief for our citizens, critical infrastructure, and economic vitality prior to, during and following a natural and/or man-made disaster.

The passage of this bill serves to strengthen emergency management initiatives and programs in Hawaii by codifying administrative and operational functions the state is currently performing, and aligning them with appropriate statutes. This action will provide more efficient organizational structure that is needed to ensure our remote island state is best prepared to respond and protect our citizens, and support the efforts of state and county agencies.

Emergency Management is a top priority for the State of Hawaii, given our isolation and our vulnerability to a myriad of potential threats both natural and man-made. On behalf of the members of the Civil Defense Advisory Council, we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and comment on HB 849 HD2 SD1

Sincerely,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal
Chair, Civil Defense Advisory Council