

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1344 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO MITIGATION OF HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
April 9, 2015

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in support the intent of House Bill 1344 with proposed amendments.

We request the following changes, starting at page 17, line 3:

(d) Nothing in this section shall prevent a ~~duly authorized representative of any news service, newspaper, radio station, television station, or online news distribution network~~ journalist or newscaster, under the supervision of emergency management agency personnel, from covering the mitigation of hazardous situations or entering an area closed pursuant to this section; provided that the State and counties and any employee of the state or county shall not be held liable for any injury or damage to person or property arising from covering the mitigation of hazardous situations and entering of the area and chapter 137 is specifically made applicable for any and all costs associated with any related search and rescue operation. ~~News media~~ Journalists or newscasters shall be given all reasonable access and assistance in covering the mitigation of hazardous situations and accessing the area closed pursuant to this section. When full access cannot be reasonably granted, a pool writer, pool photographer, and pool videographer, subject to the provisions of this section applicable to any journalist or newscaster, shall be designated to gather and disseminate information. For purpose of this section, a journalist or newscaster means an individual who has regularly and materially participated in the reporting or publishing of news or information of substantial public interest for the purpose of dissemination to the general public by means of tangible or electronic media.

Additionally, this measure provides for the establishment and funding of two positions in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) that will support Act 76 (Chapter 127A-18 of HRS).

Currently HI-EMA support Act 76 activities "out of hide". There is a restriction to use HI-EMA employees who are funded by federal grant money.

HI-EMA provides the following statistics:

To date our agency has received 308 complaints about trees that have the potential to cause harm to the public. We have closed 184 cases by contacting the responsible property owner and informing him/her of their responsibility, and they have taken action to remove the threat to public safety. This leaves 124 cases to investigate.

The mitigation of dangerous situations to the public will be better served by the establishment of these two positions.

Thank you for allowing me to testify to **support the intent** of House Bill 1344 SD1.