

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1344  
A BILL RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
February 24, 2015

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1344.

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 in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1344.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HB 1344

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

DOUG MAYNE  
ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
February 24, 2015

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee.

I am Doug Mayne and I am the Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA). I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of HB 1344.

House Bill 1344 provides for the establishment and funding of two positions to support Chapter 127A, Section 18 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as Act 76. This chapter allows the Governor to designate state employees to enter private property to mitigate hazardous situations impacting public safety. The mitigation is limited to hazardous trees, rocks and streams.

The work outlined in HRS 127A-18 / Act 76 is not eligible to be covered by the federal grant that pays for over half of the salaries of HI-EMA employees. I should not be using any of my current employees for this work. To effectively carry out the intent of HRS 127A-18, I need two 100% state-funded positions: an SR24 Civil Defense Planner and an SR13 Contracts Assistant I. Together, these positions will cost approximately \$89,124 per year in salaries. We cannot continue to meet the intent of HRS 127A-18 without these positions.

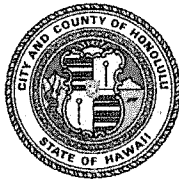
To date our agency has received 308 complaints about trees that have the potential to cause harm to the public. We have closed 184 cases by contacting the responsible property owner and informing him/her of their responsibility, and they have taken action to remove the threat to public safety. This leaves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

The legislature provided \$1 million to support this program during the 2014 session. Using this funding, HI-EMA has executed contracts to cut down three of the most dangerous trees at a cost of \$96,000. That leaves over 60 high priority sites, some with multiple trees, to evaluate and mitigate. Our current plan is to hire an arborist to develop a mitigation strategy and then contract with tree trimming companies to implement the mitigation strategy identified. This requires a great deal of travel, program and contract management, and public outreach. I need the two additional positions to carry out the Legislature's intent in keeping the public safe.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB 1344.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

MELVIN N. KAKU  
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
415 Beretania Street, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**LATE**

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill (H.B.) 1344, Relating to Mitigation of Hazardous Situations

I am Melvin Kaku, and I am the Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management (DEM). I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of H.B. 1344.

House Bill 1344 provides for the establishment and funding of two positions to support Chapter 127A, Section 18 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as Act 76. This allows the Governor to designate state employees to enter private property to mitigate hazardous situations impacting public safety. The mitigation is limited to hazardous trees, rocks and streams.

The work outlined in HRS 127A-18 / Act 76 is not eligible to be covered by the federal grant that supports the Hawaii State Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA). Funding is required to effectively carry out the intent of HRS 127A-18 at the state level.

Using past funding, HI-EMA has already mitigated some of the most dangerous situations; we hope they can continue this work. The state EMA's continued support to the City and County is critical to our collective public safety.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB 1344.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin N. Kaku".

Melvin N. Kaku  
Director

cc: Roy K. Amemiya, Jr., Managing Director