

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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March 28, 2017

LATE

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Health
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members:

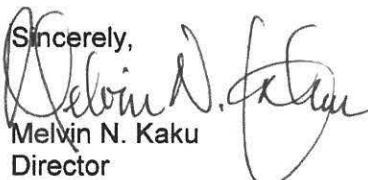
**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF H.B. 1435, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE
RELIEF FUND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS REDUCTION PLAN**

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

DEM strongly supports H.B. 1435, HD2, SD1 with an amendment, but disagrees with section 5. The original intent of HB 1435 was to establish a recurring systematic process to update the hurricane related standards of the State Building Code through the administrative rules process. As currently written, Section 5 of H.B. 1435 HD2, SD1 limits the Act to only one year, ending on June 30, 2018. Section 5 of this draft defeats the original intent of HB 1435. As a note, a separate bill, HB 1436, HD2, SD1 is proposing a one-time update of the State Building Code using FEMA Hazard Mitigation Reimbursement Grant funds received in November 2016. If HB 1435, HD2, SD1 passes, and the one-time update occurs, then HB 1435 would commence recurring updates of the hurricane related standards thereafter.

The updating of the State Building Code to IBC standards ensures that the State of Hawaii, the City, Kauai County, Maui County, and Hawaii County are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance funds to repair, replace, or construct facilities that were damaged or destroyed during a Presidentially-Declared Disaster.

I urge your committee to amend HB 1435, HD2, SD1 to reflect my comments above. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Melvin N. Kaku
Director