



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

By
Darren T. Lerner, Director
Sea Grant College Program
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 571 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) supports the intent of HB 571 HD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

In 1982, Hurricane 'Iwa caused \$320 million in damages on Kaua'i and in 1992, the damage caused by Hurricane Iniki was \$1.8 billion with 7,000 homes damaged or destroyed. A 2010 FEMA Risk Assessment indicates a similar Iniki strike on O'ahu could be 8 times more damaging. Many Hawai'i residents are not prepared for these impacts as indicated by: (i) rushing to the stores for food and water where there is a threatening event; (ii) returning these supplies after the event; (iii) complaining and being unable to cope with short-term power outages; and (iv) failing to differentiate between tsunami and hurricane evacuation planning. With a record number of hurricane warning and misses in 2014, 2015, and 2016, the State has been very fortunate, but must take much stronger action to educate the public on emergency management and disaster preparedness.

HB 571 HD1 provides funding support to enable the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program to: (i) develop a formal Communication Plan and Outreach Strategy that will cover natural hazard risk and preparation, (ii) update and reprint the 4th Edition of the Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards, and (iii) conduct a Statewide Systematic and Targeted Education and Outreach Initiative that follows: the Communication Plan and Outreach Strategy, utilizes the updated Homeowner's Handbook, as well as other communication products and tools such as videos, workshops, and seminars.

The University of Hawai'i through Hawai'i Sea Grant is well positioned to carry this out and has demonstrated success through its Homeowner's Handbook publication (see website link below). In 2007, Hawai'i Sea Grant produced the *Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards* publication that provides useful tips regarding readiness for natural hazards that may affect Hawai'i, including tsunami and hurricanes. The

handbook lists local civil defense and emergency management agency information, provides guidance on evacuation planning, and explains various measures to reduce property damage through home retrofit. This publication is currently in its third edition with a little over 75,000 copies printed to date and distributed to Hawai'i residents and partners around the state. The 4th Edition will be a major update with more options on home retrofit, as well as new shelter in place guidance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

<http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/homeowners-handbook-prepare-natural-hazards>

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February 27, 2017

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Finance Committee

House of Representatives
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members:

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF H.B. 571 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

DEM strongly supports H.B. 571 which proposes funding to enable the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant college program to develop and implement a state-wide public preparedness outreach program which also includes the printing of the 4th edition of the Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Disasters. We appreciate the funding of the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant college program to help further spread the messages on preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against any actual or potential disaster to ensure the State's and each respective County's communities resiliency.

I urge your committee to pass H.B. 571. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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

Melvin N. Kaku
Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rab@opgilaw.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB571 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB571

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Rachel Baker and my husband and I purchased a double wall house built in 1985 in Mariner's Ridge. We have a copy of the Homeowners Handbook and find it is very easy to read and understand with the graphics and explanatory captions. We did not realize all the hazard risk in Hawaii until we read the book. As a result, we will be better prepared, especially during hurricane season. We also know how to address our concerns related to natural disasters when speaking with contractors. We will have our emergency supplies, work to strengthen our house with hurricane clips and window protection and get insurance discounts at the same time. I find the book very useful for the layperson, that knows nothing about this topic of hazard preparation. This is very important for the average citizen and thus I support HB571. Every homeowner and Hawaii resident would benefit from reading the book. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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HB571

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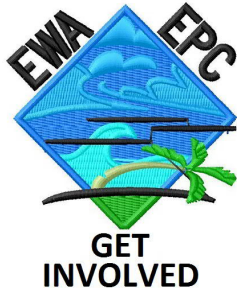
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rodney boucher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Comments: Dear FIN Chair, Vice Chair, and Members, I am Rodney Boucher and as an individual I strongly support HB571. As a Volunteer Leader in Ewa Beach and Oahu I have personally witnessed the substantial benefits that the UH Sea Grant Community Preparedness research, outreach, and Homeowners Handbooks have brought to our communities. Using the Handbook instructions on installing Hurricane Clips, I was able to save a substantial amount with my homeowners Insurance. For seven years, as a volunteer with the Ewa Emergency Preparedness Committee, I have given out Sea Grant Preparedness materials & handbooks to thousands of community members at the annual Get Ready Ewa Beach Preparedness Fair and multiple community presentations throughout Oahu. I have witnessed the outstanding outreach that UH Sea Grant staff put into conveying public preparedness goals. I am available to answer any questions. Respectfully, Rodney Boucher.

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LATE



January 27, 2017

Re: HB571

My name is Jackie Davison, I am Chair of the Island Preparedness Group and also the Ewa Emergency Preparedness Committee (Ewa EPC). I am also active as a Community Emergency Response Team member.

I am a strong supporter of HB571. Through my volunteer work and that of the committee members, our goal is to help the community to prepare for and respond to hazards such as hurricane and tsunami. We are successful in providing information and training by reaching the interested part of the population to build a kit for their emergency supplies, have an evacuation plan and secure their homes. Yet there is still a large portion of the population that is unprepared. When there is a warning, they rush to the store for supplies at the last possible moment and crowd stores and gas stations, never have thought of an evacuation plan and cannot cope with even minor power outages. HB571 will help to address this problem because it creates a Communication Outreach Plan and Strategy that targets all individuals and all organizations. There will even be a strategy and plan for the people that do not think a hazard will ever impact Oahu.

Respectfully,

Jackie Davison

Chair IPG-Ewa EPC

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