

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 571, HD1  
A BILL RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

VERN T. MIYAGI  
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members.

Aloha - I am Vern T. Miyagi, Administrator of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 571, HD 1 as long as it does not replace the Governor's priorities requested in the Executive Budget.

The University of Hawaii Sea Grant College's systematic and targeted education/outreach initiative continues to be a significant and critical part of HI-EMA's disaster preparedness outreach program. It enhances our primary message that each citizen, family, group, organization know three important things prior to a disaster: where to go; what to do; and when to do it. This knowledge saves lives. This program saves lives.

The editions of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College's *Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards* are highly effective components of our disaster preparedness outreach program. They are easy to read and understand by the public and enhance our citizen's resilience and ability to prepare appropriately for disasters. Included are important cost-effective measures citizens can take to retrofit their homes so that they can shelter in place and take care of their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in conditional **SUPPORT** of HB 571, HD1. [vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov](mailto:vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov); (808) 733-4300.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 9:35 a.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 Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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>

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

650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 723-8960 • FAX: (808) 524-3439

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU  
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 3, 2017

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 Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members:

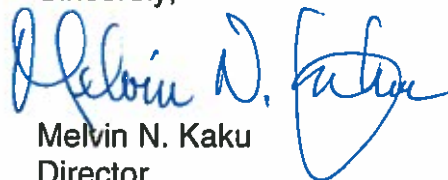
**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF H.B. 571, HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

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

DEM strongly supports H.B. 571, HD1 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

  
Melvin N. Kaku  
Director

I am submitting testimony IN SUPPORT OF HB571.

As a volunteer Department of Emergency Management volunteer instructor for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, coordinator for Kailua CERT, and chair of the nonprofit Kailua Alert & Prepared, I am part of a committed group of people in Kailua working to help Kailua residents, prepare for, respond to and recover from a natural disaster. Unfortunately, we see that many people in Kailua (and across the state) have become complacent in their preparedness efforts.

I support HB571 because it establishes a multi-prong approach to helping Hawaii residents be prepared for a major disaster. It presents a great opportunity for academia, communities and government to work together for a greater impact in reaching Hawaii residents.

It is not a matter of IF, but WHEN Hawaii will be hit with a major disaster. The more that can be done NOW to prepare the more resilient Hawaii residents will be. Thank you for your consideration.

Leslie Kahihikolo, Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2017 7:08 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** dotty.kellypaddock@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB571 on Apr 4, 2017 09:35AM

**HB571**

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dotty Kelly-Paddock	Hauula Community Association	Support	No

Comments: Please support small rural coastal communities to help us be prepared for disaster situations. Hauula Community has worked for the last 6 years to better prepare our community members. But we have no funding or support to do all that is needed. We know that when a major disaster strikes all resources will go to addressing the needs of folks in Honolulu, but outlying communities will be on their own. We are just asking for this small life-preserver to be shared with us so we can help our communities be more sustainable. Mahalo!

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)