

**University of Hawai'i System  
Legislative Testimony**

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
February 7, 2017 at 2:01 pm

by

David Lassner, Interim Chancellor,  
Darren T. Lerner, Director  
Darren Okimoto, Associate Director  
Dennis Hwang, Faculty (808-542-7263)  
Sea Grant College Program  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 571 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) supports the intent of HB 571 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 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://seagrantsoest.hawaii.edu/homeowners-handbook-prepare-natural-hazards>



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 2:01 p.m.

By

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

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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION (HED)

BY

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

Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee.

Aloha - I am Vern T. Miyagi, Administrator of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 571, 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 **SUPPORT** of HB 571.  
[vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov](mailto:vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov); (808) 733-4300.

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

650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU  
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair  
Committee on Higher Education

House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, 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.

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 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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melvin N. Kaku".

Melvin N. Kaku  
Director

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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** dylanarm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB571 on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM\*

**HB571**

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 10:38 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** rwbworld@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB571 on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM

**HB571**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017  
Testimony for HED on Feb 7, 2017 14:01PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
rodney boucher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear HED 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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