



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 1:15 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

Chairs Kahele and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Kidani and Wakai, and members of the committees:

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>

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 COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION (HRE) AND PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM)

BY

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

Chairs Kahele and Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Wakai 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 **SUPPORT** of HB 571, HD1. vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov; (808) 733-4300.

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

March 14, 2017

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
State Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 414
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kahele, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 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.

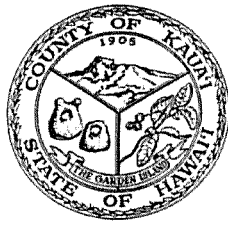
I urge your committee to pass H.B. 571, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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

Melvin N. Kaku
Director

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Elton S. Ushio
Emergency Management
Administrator

Wallace G. Rezentes, Jr.
Managing Director

KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

3990 Kaana St., Suite 100, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-1800 FAX (808) 241-1860

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair, Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair and Members, Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs;

The Honorable Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair and Members, Committee on Government Operations

State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

SUBJECT: Testimony on House Bill 571, HD1 a bill relating to the University of Hawaii

Chairs Nishihara and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Hashem, and Committee Members:

I am Elton Ushio, Administrator of the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA). KEMA is in **SUPPORT** of HB571.

In Kauai, many citizens recognize the importance of disaster preparedness, because we were hit by Hurricanes Iwa in 1982 and Iniki in 1992. Yet, many people have come to our island since then, and others don't remember these disastrous events. Continuous systematic education and outreach for everyone is vital. The need is equal, if not greater, on the more populated islands, especially Oahu, because of the weaker, older housing and the lack of any history for what these events can truly be like.

HB571 is needed because it creates a plan to do systematic education and outreach throughout the State and then implements it. The bill also funds the fourth edition of the "Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards," which has made a valuable contribution to KEMA public outreach efforts. We have worked with Sea Grant since 2007 and have confidence in their ability to carry this task forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Per: Elton S. Ushio
Emergency Management Administrator

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE &
THE SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**

HB 571, HD 1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Thursday, March 16, 2017

1:15 pm

**Kaanoi Clemente
Manager, Emergency Planning & Preparedness
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

Chairs Kahele & Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kaanoi Clemente and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaiian Electric, Maui Electric, and Hawaii Electric Light Companies. The Companies support HB 571, HD 1.

It is critically important that our community and customers be educated about emergency preparedness. The more that our community is prepared, the more effective our emergency response agencies and our Companies can be in the execution of our unified restoration plans. We have supported the Sea Grant College in their publication of the Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards, as it perfectly complements Hawaiian Electric's own Handbook for Emergency Preparedness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



March 15, 2017

To the Committee on Higher Education
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

To the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Re: HB 571 Relating to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program

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 HB 571. 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
808-352-0988c
GetReadyEwaBeach@gmail.com
GetReadyEwaBeach.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 5:57 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB571 on Mar 16, 2017 13:15PM*

HB571

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Mar 16, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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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THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Kaiali‘i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

House Bill No. 571, HD 1

Hearing Date: March 16, 2017

This year, my husband and I purchased a double-wall house built in 1985 in Mariner's Ridge. Given the current state of the climate both globally and in Hawaii, my husband and I are extremely concerned with protecting our home from natural disasters. We received 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 the topic of hazard preparation. It is also extremely helpful for homeowners who may not be aware of entitlement to tax deductions or lower insurance premiums for improvements. This is very important for the average citizen and thus I support HB571.

I strongly support HB 571. The Homeowners Handbook provided us with thoughtful, effective ways to make our home more safe while saving money on insurance premiums. Every homeowner and Hawaii resident would benefit from being more knowledgeable and proactive in preparing for natural disasters. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rachel Baker
1118 Kaluanui Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 6825

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 571, HD1
A BILL RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF Hawai'i
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS;
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII; SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION (HRE) AND PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM)
Thursday March 16, 2017 1:15pm

BY

DARLENE KILOGLU

Chairs Kahele and Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Wakai and Committee Members.

Aloha - I am Dolan Eversole, testifying as a public constituent of Senate District 9.
I AM TESTIFYING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB571 HD1.

The University of Hawaii Sea Grant College's long history (10+ years) of community outreach and education has provided critical information on natural hazard preparedness. This outreach effort will develop new outreach methods and products for Hawai'i as well as support ongoing efforts to provide updated hazard and preparedness information to the Hawai'i's vulnerable communities. The University of Hawaii Sea Grant (Hawai'i Sea Grant) routinely carries out community hazard outreach and has a demonstrated capacity to carry out such an effective outreach effort.

The University of Hawaii Sea Grant College's [Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards \(Handbook\)](#) is a highly effective component of disaster preparedness outreach. The Handbook is easily understood by the public and enhances 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.

I have personally utilized the recommendations provided in the Handbook to prepare for natural disasters. Even though I am not a homeowner, the handbook has a lot of useful information to help prepare anyone for an emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 571, HD1.

Darlene Kiloglu



Graduate student, Urban and Regional Planning
University of Hawaii, Manoa
dkiloglu@hawaii.edu