

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 954, HD1
A BILL RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM JURY DUTY

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS (PSM)

BY

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

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai 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 954, HD1. Having served as a juror on two separate felony cases, I do understand our civil responsibility as citizens of Hawaii to serve as jurors. However, I ask that the committee consider the following factors regarding emergency management.

In 2014, there were 3 tropical cyclones that threatened the state. Tropical Storm Iselle hit the Big Island and caused approximately \$6.3M in damages. In addition, the Puna Lava event in Pahoia caused approximately \$13.8M in damages. Both events received Presidential Disaster Declarations for Public Assistance. HI-EMA activated 4 times for these events and continued to support the ongoing disaster assistance coordination with FEMA after the events.

In 2015, there were 15 named tropical cyclones that formed in the Pacific with 8 that threatened Hawaii. The state was also put into a Tsunami Advisory condition by an earthquake in Chile. HI-EMA activated 9 times for these events.

In 2016, there were 18 named cyclones with 3 that threatened Hawaii. One storm, Darby caused significant flood damage on Oahu. Another un-named storm hit the Iao Valley in Maui and caused approx. \$8M in damages. A Presidential Disaster Declaration was received for the Iao Flood. HI-EMA activated 4 times for these events.

The county emergency management agencies have more activations since they also respond to county specific events, such as flooding, landslides, and wild land fires. In many of these cases, HI-EMA will monitor and standby to support without activating.

HI-EMA defines an "active member" as a full-time (permanent or temporary) employee of HI-EMA that is assigned to an Emergency Response Team (ERT) for an activation. We have two ERTs, A and B, to cover 12 hour shifts during an activation. At any time during the year, we will have approximately 5 to 10 employees deployed, on leave, training, sick, etc. that are not available for activation. Please also note that while these members are activated, their normal day-to-day emergency management work requirements are put on hold and must be done post event.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 954, HD1.
vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov; (808) 733-4300.

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

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members:

SUBJECT: H.B. 954 HD1, Relating to Exemptions from Jury Duty

I am Melvin Kaku, Director of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu (City). The DEM stands in strong support for the passage of H.B. 954 HD1, Relating to Exemptions from Jury Duty.

As you may be aware, DEM and other state and county emergency management agencies are tasked with preparing for, responding to and recovering from any type of disaster, whether natural or human-caused. Passage of this Bill would allow our DEM staff, active reservists, and other "essential emergency personnel" to be exempt from serving, to focus on our public safety mission.

Emergencies and other disasters happen at any time and often without warning; this requires our staff and reservists to report at a moment's notice to our Emergency Operating Center or a field location to coordinate and facilitate emergency operations. By exempting our personnel, it would ensure continuity of operations when disasters strike. While the initial impact of a disaster is short lived, the recovery operations that follow can be prolonged for weeks and even months. Due to the limited number of emergency managers and subject matter experts, serving on a jury will impede disaster operations thereby negatively impacting the ability to ensure an expedited recovery and ultimately impact the return to normalcy.

I urge your committee to pass H.B. 954 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Melvin N. Kaku
Director

Jeffrey K. Spencer
P.O. Box 235172
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96823

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Nishihara and Members:

I am Jeffrey Spencer, an Emergency Management Specialist with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support of House Bill 954 HD1, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

As you are aware, DEM as well as other state, and county emergency management agencies are tasked with preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters, whether natural or human-caused. As an example, the past two hurricane seasons have been extremely busy for us, tracking and preparing for 15 storms in 2015 and 18 in 2016. This of course doesn't include other incidents such as high surf, flooding, high winds, tsunami watches/warnings and other incidents.

Being an active member of DEM, it is my mission to immediately respond to the City Emergency Operations Center (EOC), or field location at a moment's notice as emergencies and disasters often happen without warning. Additionally, even though the initial impact of a disaster is short lived, the recovery operations that follow can last for weeks and even months.

While I fully understand that jury duty is my civic responsibility, it is also my responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents (and property) of the City and County of Honolulu when disaster strikes.

In closing, I strongly support the passage of House Bill 954 HD1, as this exemption will ensure the continuity of disaster operations, and would also like to thank this committee the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



March 14, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
415 Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am Terrance Castillo, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for House Bill 954 HD1, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

As an active member of the Department of Emergency Management, it is our mission to immediately respond to the City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or field location, when an emergency or disaster occurs. As you are aware, disasters are unpredictable and can strike at a moment's notice. While the initial impact of a disaster is short lived, the recovery operations that follow can be prolonged for weeks and even months.

The passage of this bill will allow DEM staff, active reservists, and other "essential emergency personnel" to be exempt from jury duty, to focus on our public safety mission. While jury duty is my civic responsibility, I also feel that it is my responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our citizens when disasters occur.

In closing, I strongly support the passage of H.B. 954 HD1 as this exemption will allow us to ensure continuity of disaster operations, and would like to thank this committee the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TC' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Terrance Castillo

March 14, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
415 Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am Christopher Date, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for House Bill 954 HD1, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

As an active member of the Department of Emergency Management, it is our mission to immediately respond to the City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or field location, when an emergency or disaster occurs. As you are aware, disasters are unpredictable and can strike at a moment's notice. While the initial impact of a disaster is short lived, the recovery operations that follow can be prolonged for weeks and even months.

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In closing, I strongly support the passage of H.B. 954 HD1 as this exemption will allow us to ensure continuity of disaster operations, and would like to thank this committee the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Date', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Date

March 14, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
415 Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

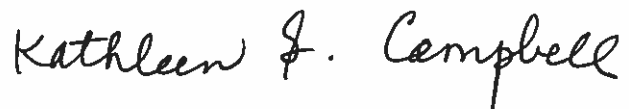
I am Kathleen S. Campbell, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for House Bill 954 HD1, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

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In closing, I strongly support the passage of H.B. 954 HD1 as this exemption will allow us to ensure continuity of disaster operations, and would like to thank this committee the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen S. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Kathleen S. Campbell

March 14, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
415 Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am Daniel Ohta, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for House Bill 954 HD1, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

As an active member of the Department of Emergency Management, it is our mission to immediately respond to the City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or field location, when an emergency or disaster occurs. As you are aware, disasters are unpredictable and can strike at a moment's notice. While the initial impact of a disaster is short lived, the recovery operations that follow can be prolonged for weeks and even months.

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In closing, I strongly support the passage of H.B. 954 HD1 as this exemption will allow us to ensure continuity of disaster operations, and would like to thank this committee the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Name Daniel Ohta

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
415 Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am DANIEL O. BUMANGLAG, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for House Bill 954 HD1, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

As an active member of the Department of Emergency Management, it is our mission to immediately respond to the City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or field location, when an emergency or disaster occurs. As you are aware, disasters are unpredictable and can strike at a moment's notice. While the initial impact of a disaster is short lived, the recovery operations that follow can be prolonged for weeks and even months.

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In closing, I strongly support the passage of H.B. 954 HD1 as this exemption will allow us to ensure continuity of disaster operations, and would like to thank this committee the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Daniel O. Bumanglag

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Senate

State Capitol

415 Beretania Street, Room 229

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am Wesley Seto, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for House Bill 954 HD1, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

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In closing, I strongly support the passage of H.B. 954 HD1 as this exemption will allow us to ensure continuity of disaster operations, and would like to thank this committee the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Wesley Seto

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 4:16 PM
To: PSMTTestimony
Cc: wmanonsen@consultant.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB954 on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM*

HB954

Submitted on: 3/13/2017
Testimony for PSM on Mar 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Anonsen	The Maritime Group, LLC	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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