

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1417 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO WATER

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM) AND WATER AND LAND (WTL)

BY

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

Chairs Nishihara and Rhoads and Vice-Chairs Wakai and Gabbard and Committee Members.

Aloha - I am Vern T. Miyagi, Administrator of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. This bill provides funding to HI-EMA to prepare a post-disaster fresh water drinking water security plan. My previous testimony supported the intent of this bill with the caveat that its passage would not take away from the Governor's priorities as presented in his administrative package. I also requested the inclusion of other critical resources, in addition to drinking water.

After reviewing ongoing planning efforts being conducted by HI-EMA, I am offering the following updated comments instead on House Bill 1417 HD 1.

I sincerely appreciate the measure's focus on community resilience and preparedness regarding potable water and other critical resources needed after a disaster. However, HI-EMA is already working on a comprehensive plan, with existing resources and staff, to address post disaster recovery from a major disaster event. This planning effort involves close coordination with the counties, state agencies, private and non-profit entities, and the Federal government (including active military) to produce and deliver needed resources after a disaster. Potable water, in addition to food, power, fuel, transportation, medical supplies, and other key commodities are identified as key resources. Our role is to return the people of Hawaii back to normalcy by restoring the delivery, production and distribution of these resources.

HI-EMA will be able to provide an update of this planning effort to the legislature if so desired.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to House Bill 1417 HD 1. Again, I sincerely appreciate the appropriate attention given to community resilience and preparedness in this bill.

Vern T. Miyagi; vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



March 16, 2017

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair; Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair; and Committee Members

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair; Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and Committee Members

Public Hearing, March 16, 2017 at 2:15 p.m., Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY of WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC
In SUPPORT of the INTENT of H.B. 1417 HD1**

My name is William Anonsen and I am the Managing Partner/Principal of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC. We support the intent of HB 1417 HD1 which would require the development of a post-disaster fresh drinking water security plan. The responsibilities of ensuring the integrity of a safe water system are shared responsibilities of many entities.

It will be helpful to have in place an emergency response plan that incorporates the results of vulnerability assessments that are essential in maintaining system wide access to safe drinking water. The emergency response plan should include, but not be limited to; plans, procedures, and identification of equipment that can be implemented or utilized in the event of a terrorist or other intentional attack on the public water system.

The emergency response plan should also include actions, procedures, and identification of equipment which can obviate or significantly lessen the impact of terrorist attacks or other intentional actions on the public health and the safety and supply of drinking water provided to communities and individuals.

The need for collaboration and shared responsibility by many partners throughout the various island counties to ensure an adequate potable water supply in the aftermath of an event.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on the intent of this measure.

Sincerely,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 6:02 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: mamaupin@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1417 on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM*

HB1417

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for PSM/WTL on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:15 PM Room 229

LATE

In SUPPORT HB 1417 HD1 Relating to Water

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and members of the respective Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members throughout the islands, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1417 HD1, which will require the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to develop a post-disaster fresh drinking water security plan and report to the legislature on the progress of that plan prior to next year's regular session.

This bill will aid the State in carrying out its Constitutional duty to protect Hawai'i's water resources for the benefit of the people, while at the same promoting the utilization of our water resources in furtherance of the State's self-sufficiency.¹ In defining the State's affirmative duty to protect all water resources, the Hawai'i Supreme Court adopted the precautionary principle.² By adopting this principle, the Court made clear that, when "there are present or potential threats of serious damage" to the Hawai'i's water resources, the State must act prudently to protect these resources from damage, even where firm scientific data regarding the exact extent of the damage is absent.³

The rising sea levels and increased ocean temperatures caused by climate change will leave us extremely vulnerable to tsunamis, tropical storms, and hurricanes.⁴ Sea level rise and potential hurricanes or tsunamis threaten our groundwater aquifers with saltwater encroachment, and could devastate the main container port on Sand Island, leaving us with a shortage of food and water.⁵ In light of the challenges that climate change is going to pose to Hawai'i in the very near future, along

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XI §§ 1, 7.

² *In re Water Use Permit Applications (Waiahole I)*, 94 Hawai'i 97, 154-55 (Haw. 2000).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Mike O'Sullivan, *Hawaii, Vulnerable to Tsunamis, Prepares for the Worst*, Voice of America News (Feb. 5, 2015) available at:

<http://www.voanews.com/a/hawaii-vulnerable-vo-tsunamis-prepares-for-the-worst/2631262.html>; Andrew

Freedman, *Hawaii at Growing Risk of Hurricanes, Studies Show*, Climate Central (May 8, 2013) available at:

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/hawaii-at-risk-for-more-hurricanes-studies-show-15966>.

⁵ Freedman, *supra* note 4; Paul Berry, *Water for Thought*, Honolulu Weekly (Mar. 28, 2012) available at:

<http://honoluluweekly.com/cover/2012/03/water-for-thought/>.

with the State's affirmative duty to protect our water resources for present and future generations,⁶ it is imperative that the State have a post-disaster fresh drinking water security plan in place.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Martha Townsend
Director

⁶ Haw. Const. Art. XI § 1, 7.