

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018
10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1977
RELATING TO FLOOD MITIGATION**

House Bill 1977 proposes that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency develop a strategic regional flood plan that shall address flood mitigation, flood water retention, and flood diversion, and report findings back to the legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.**

The development of a strategic regional flood plan will require the participation of various County, State and Federal Agencies, and may also include participation from large private landowners. The Department suggest utilizing a working group comprised of the appropriate agencies and stakeholders that have authority or involvement in flood mitigation, flood water retention, flood diversion or flood preparation and recovery activities to develop a comprehensive report to the legislature. The Department also notes that funding will be needed to support the activities of such a working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1977
A BILL RELATING TO WATER

PRESENTATION RELATING TO
FLOOD MITIGATION

BY

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

Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

Aloha - I am Vern T. Miyagi, Administrator of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am submitting the following comments regarding House Bill 1977. I sincerely appreciate the measure's recognition and focus on the importance of community resilience and preparedness regarding our water and other critical resources needed during a disaster, however HI-EMA does not have the planning resources or expertise to undertake such a major strategic regional flood plan. This new major task will conflict with our ongoing disaster planning projects related to the post disaster restoration of critical systems - airports and seaports, power, fuel, food, potable water, shelters, and medical.

Due to the strategic regional scope of this plan perhaps a working group of various state agencies, counties, and first responders may be a better option, than just HI-EMA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 1977.

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

HB-1977

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 1:48:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane and members of the Committee on Water & Land

I urge your **support** on this bill which will help the Stae and County agencies plan for future flooding events based on current information and and infrastructure already in place, i.e. housing, drainages, canals, etc.

This information could help, in addition with weather change events that might occur, how best to address current contributing factors to flooding and to plan to mitigate those factors in the future.

Mahalo,

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

LATE

HB-1977

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:06:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments: