

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY

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

Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair San Buenventura 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. 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.  
[vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov](mailto:vern.t.miyagi@hawaii.gov); (808) 733-4300.

**Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.**  
Mayor



**Robert F. Westerman**  
Fire Chief

**Wallace G. Rezendes, Jr.**  
Managing Director

**Kilipaki K. F. Vaughan**  
Deputy Fire Chief

**KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i**  
4444 Rice Street, Suite 315, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
The State House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 325  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto:

Subject: HB 954 Relating to Exemptions from Jury Duty

I am Robert Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD). The KFD supports HB 954, which proposes to exempt active members of the Hawai'i emergency management agency and county emergency management agencies from jury duty.

In 2016, there were 18 named cyclones with 3 that threatened Hawaii. 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.

The Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) also responds to county specific events, such as flooding, landslides, and wild land fires.

KEMA has only five (5) employees barring any deployed, on leave, training, sick, etc. that are not available for activation. An exemption from service as a juror will enable KEMA to prepare for, respond to and recover from a major disaster.

The KFD urges your committee's support on the passage of HB 954.

Please contact me at (808) 241-4975 or [rwesterman@kauai.gov](mailto:rwesterman@kauai.gov) should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Westerman  
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Members,

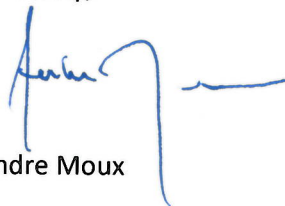
I am Andre Moux, Accountant, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

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, it is also 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 as this exemption will allow us to ensure continuity of disaster operations, and would like to thank this committee the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Andre Moux

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members:

I am Karen Epenesa, Secretary, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, 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 any time. 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, it is also 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 as this exemption will allow continuity of disaster operations. I thank this committee for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Karen M. Epenesa  
1239 Akamai St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Members,

I am Mari Masuoka, Administrative Specialist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, 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, it is also 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 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 'Mari Masuoka', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mari Masuoka

**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 6, 2017

The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair, Joy A. San Buenventura, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee.

State House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF H.B. 954 RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM JURY DUTY**

Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair San Buenventura and Members of the Committee:

I am Elton Ushio, Administrator of the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA), testifying in strong support of H.B. 954.

State and County Emergency Management entities, per H.R.S. §127A, serve essential, critical and unique roles and functions that affect life/safety, property and environmental concerns, oftentimes requiring immediate actions with little to no prior notice. Associated actions, particularly when response shifts to recovery, can last for weeks or even longer.

Moreover, local Emergency Management Agencies are the lead county-level entity in coordinating and integrating efforts among all levels of government and the private sector to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other threats and hazards – All hazards.

Updating H.R.S. §612-6 to include a jury duty exemption for State and County Emergency Management Agency employees will enhance our collective ability to consistently perform our functions, per H.R.S. §127A.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elton S. Ushio  
Emergency Management Administrator

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am Crystal van Beelen, Disaster Preparedness Officer, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, 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, it is also 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 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 'Crystal van Beelen', written in a cursive style.

Crystal van Beelen

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

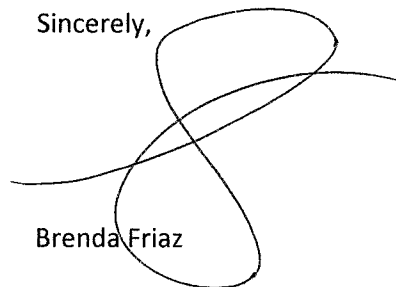
I am Brenda Friaz, Operations Technician, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

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, it is also 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 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 'Brenda Friaz', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name 'Brenda Friaz'.

Brenda Friaz



## JUDtestimony

---

From: Seto, Wesley <wseto@honolulu.gov>  
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:20 PM  
To: JUDtestimony  
Subject: Testimony of H.B. 954

[X]

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary

House of Representatives

State Capitol

415 Beretania Street, Room 325

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 H.B. 954, 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 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 Y. Seto

JUDtestimony

---

From: clikzio@yahoo.com  
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:44 PM  
To: JUDtestimony  
Subject: Support for H.B 954

February 7, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

As an active member of the Department of Emergency Management, I have been called out on less than 10 hrs notice to respond to the field when an emergency has occurred. 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 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 Koga

Sent from my iPad

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

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Members,

I am Jeff Spencer, Volunteer Services Coordinator with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for House Bill 954, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

As you are 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.

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 be prolonged for weeks and even months.

While I understand that jury duty is my civic responsibility, it is also my responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of life and property when disasters occur.

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

Sincerely,



February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am James Arola, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, 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 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 "James J. Arola". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal tail.

James J. Arola

Thomas Fake  
605 Inuwai Place  
Honolulu, HI 96825

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

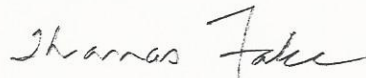
I am Thomas Fake, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

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 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 cursive script that reads "Thomas Fake".

Name

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am Colin S. Watanabe, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, 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 as this exemption will allow us to ensure continuity of disaster operations, and would like to thank this committee the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Colin S. Watanabe  
Deputy Coordinator, District 1/5

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

I am Laura Weaver, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, 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 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 "Laura Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Weaver".

Laura Weaver



February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
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 H.B. 954, 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 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 long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Date

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

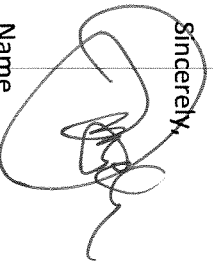
I am Jerry BODNAR, an emergency management reservist, with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu. I stand in strong support for H.B. 954, Relating to Exemption from Jury Duty.

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 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

Jerry Bodnar DEM 304



**February 7, 2017 at 2:00 PM**  
**Conference Room 325**

**House Committee on Judiciary**

To: Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto  
Vice Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura

From: Paige Heckathorn  
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 954, Relating to Exemptions from Jury Duty**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 160 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** HB 954, which seeks to exempt active members of the Hawaii emergency management agency and county emergency management agencies from jury duty. Many health care providers play a critical role in cases of emergency and we appreciate that State Legislature is considering legislation to help ensure that individuals who play in active role in providing needed services are available.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii has a division, HAH Emergency Services, that provides emergency preparedness and operations management services to over 100 healthcare coalition members throughout Hawaii. The division works closely with federal, state and county agencies to respond to emergencies. Their core mission includes coordinating healthcare response operations during emergencies; deploying emergency response teams; mobilizing needed healthcare delivery systems; providing logistical support; and supporting planning and preparedness.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 3:22 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB954 on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM\*

**Categories:** Blue Category

**HB954**

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

LATE TESTIMONY

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

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members:

**Subject: H.B. 954, Relating to Exemptions from Jury Duty**

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

As you are 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 Operations Center (EOC) or field location to coordinate or 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 jury duty will impede disaster operations thereby negatively affecting the ability to ensure an expedited recovery and ultimately delay the return to normalcy.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melvin N. Kaku". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Melvin N. Kaku  
Director

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