



LATE

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 22, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS, AND MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

House Concurrent Resolution 97/House Resolution 82 – Requesting the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to Conduct a Systemic, Transparent, and Data-Driven Assessment to Determine Where Any New Warning Sirens are Needed in the State, Based on Hazard Risks, Population Density, Vulnerable Populations, and Other Relevant Criteria

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of HCR 97/HR 82 and provides comments. This measure requests the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to conduct a systemic, transparent, and data-driven assessment to determine where any new warning sirens are needed in the state, based on hazard risks, population density, vulnerable populations, and other relevant criteria.

DCAB is requesting two amendments to the resolutions:

1. A definition is not mentioned regarding “vulnerable populations.” DCAB believes it is important that if this means “people with disabilities (as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act)” and “others with access and functional needs” (as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency), then please change the wording to indicate that; and
2. Warning sirens cannot be heard by everyone, so we recommend adding that any area designated for a new siren also needs to have text capabilities to send people in that area a text alert at the same time the sirens are sounded, for equal access.

The sirens are crucial to protect the public, including people with disabilities and access and functional needs. They also ensure that everyone in the community will receive the alert about disasters that may impact the areas in which they live in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

HCR-97

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 9:11:24 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/22/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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HCR-97

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 6:07:13 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/22/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Aloha State Association of the Deaf	Support	No

Comments:

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HCR-97

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 6:13:52 PM
Testimony for PBS on 3/22/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: