



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SB2128
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BY

MOSES KAOIWI
Interim Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTRAGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and the members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 2128 would appropriate funds to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency for a hurricane shelter retrofit program that would prepare emergency public shelters and residential homes and buildings to withstand the impact of a hurricane.

The Department of Defense supports the intent of Senate Bill 2128 so long as it does not replace the Governor's priorities as requested in his executive budget and that the measure can support the other critical resources needed during a disaster.

The Department agrees with the intent of the bill, which is to increase the amount of emergency shelter space by retrofitting public buildings to address the significant deficit in shelter inventory that exists.

This measure also proposes to allow the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) to use appropriated funding to retrofit residential homes. Respectfully, the Department believes that home retrofits could more effectively be encouraged by providing tax credits to home owners. The direct distribution of funds to home owners potentially places HI-EMA in the difficult position of determining which citizens receive funding and which do not. In addition, there would be a large administrative and manpower component to administer funding that HI-EMA is not currently resourced to support. A tax credit for retrofits would encourage home owner investment in mitigation measures a more equitable and efficient manner.

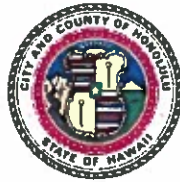
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 2128.

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February 5, 2018

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

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: Comments for Senate Bill 2128 Emergency Management

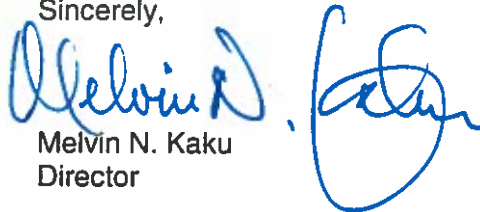
I am Melvin N. Kaku, director of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu (City). SB 2128 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency for a hurricane shelter retrofit program for the retrofitting of emergency public shelters and residential homes and buildings.

DEM wishes to offer comments on this bill because before a building can be designated a "shelter", the structure must undergo a structural evaluation and coordination with the appropriate State and County agencies who have responsibility for the building and for providing shelters. This collaborative evaluation includes a balancing of the potential shelter benefits with the expense of bringing the proposed building up to a Category 4 Hurricane standards. Additionally, the cost of retrofitting these buildings could be cost prohibitive due to its location in an inundation flooding zone or it may have embedded hazardous construction materials.

Because of these considerations, it is critical that close coordination with both State and County agencies be completed prior to proceeding with designating any building as a "shelter."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for this bill.

Sincerely,


Melvin N. Kaku
Director