

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2708
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BY

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

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

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Vice-Chair Wakai:

SB 2708 appropriates \$100,000 to the Department of Defense for the installation of new outdoor sirens in the Salt Lake area of Honolulu. The Department of Defense offers the following comments:

- Much of the siren coverage in the Salt Lake area was being provided by 7 each US Army outdoor sirens located on Tripler Army Hospital, Aliamanu Military Housing, and Fort Shafter Flats areas. The Army was unable to maintain their fleet of siren equipment and turned them off in 2015.
- The State has conducted a site visit to the Salt Lake area to supplement the single siren located at Salt Lake District Park. This initial assessment shows the need to add 4 additional sirens to effectively cover the entire Salt Lake area. Since each siren costs approximately \$100,000 the amount identified by the SB 2708 would be insufficient.
- The ongoing Statewide Siren Modernization CIP Project which is part of the administration's budget is based on the need to upgrade existing sirens which are not logistically supportable, and the requirement to add sirens in areas where siren coverage is lacking.
- Since the state modernization project did not include upgrading or adding sirens in the Salt Lake area, these additional sirens will need to be added to the ongoing project.
- Funding for the modernization project is done in annual partial increments each biennium. Priority of effort remains on tsunami inundation zones, followed by non-tsunami zones.
- It should be emphasized that the outdoor siren system is only one part of a three-part public alert/notification system that also includes the wireless emergency alert system (iPhone/cell) and the emergency alert system (TV and radio broadcast).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 2708.

Moses Kaoiwi: Moses.Kaoiwi@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300
George Burnett: George.F.Burnett@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300