



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2918, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Before the Senate Committees on  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
and  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

by

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

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Kim, Vice-Chairs Wakai and Ruderman, and the Members of the Committees

SB 2918 prohibits the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) from issuing any alert or warning related to military matters without receiving prior approval for such an alert or warning from the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM). HI-EMA opposes the bill and offers the following comments:

- Under the current notification process for a military threat to the state of Hawaii, primarily an inbound missile, USPACOM will call the HI-EMA State Warning Point via a secure line and issue a pre-scripted message identifying the inbound threat.
- In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will issue a similar message via the National Warning and Alert (NAWAS) system to the state.
- Both USPACOM and FEMA are in the missile event conference that determines if there is a threat to the state.
- Only upon receipt of these messages will the SWP issue an alert or warning to the state.

Consequently, under the protocol already in place, HI-EMA will not issue any real-world alert or warning related to military matters without receiving notification from USPACOM and FEMA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 2918.

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**SB-2918**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 1:19:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/8/2018 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2918**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:35:08 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/8/2018 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charlene Mersburgh		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2918 that Prohibits the Hawaii Emergency Management agency from issuing any alert or warning related to military matters without receiving prior approval for such an alert or warning from the United States Pacific Command.

Thank you,

Charlene Mersburgh

**SB-2918**

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 10:55:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/8/2018 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louise Storm		Comments	No

Comments:

I thought I read in the newspaper or in Time magazine that the federal government is considering passing a law that only they are to announce alerts involving military threats. Shouldn't our state make sure that what we put in place is in agreement with what the federal government is doing?