

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



TESTIMONY ON
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 161
URGING THE GOVERNOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO IMPROVE HAWAII'S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
AND HAZARD MITIGATION MEASURES.

Before the Senate Committees on
WAYS AND MEANS

by
THOMAS TRAVIS
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 161, which calls upon HI-EMA to improve our state's emergency preparedness. An Enhanced Mitigation Plan will benefit our state from identifying our most vulnerable infrastructures.

Hawaii has been fortunate, having not experienced severe, widespread damage from a hurricane or tsunami for decades. Events in the recent past have not called for widespread evacuations or the activation of numerous shelters. However, we should not doubt that such catastrophic events will occur. We cannot avoid that reality, or say when or where to expect the most serious impacts. Our most effective weapon is adequate planning.

The availability of federal grant funding to support our preparedness and mitigation efforts would enhance our ability state's ability to prepare and offer our residents and visitors the security they desire and deserve. We will gladly join all efforts necessary to support applications to any and all appropriate grants and will assist in those efforts to the maximum of our ability.

In addition, preparing an FEMA-approved Enhance Hazard Mitigation Plan would provide Hawaii with access to additional federal grant funding following a disaster declaration. To join the 12 states that have already received FEMA approval of their Enhanced Mitigation Plans, Hawaii would have to demonstrate that it has developed a comprehensive mitigation program and is capable of managing increased funding to achieve its mitigation goals. HI-EMA is prepared to take the lead in managing the planning process and producing a plan that is eligible for FEMA approval.

I would also like to emphasize that the planning called for in SCR 161 is not solely a matter of the availability of federal funds. HI-EMA is committed to providing the best security and preparation possible to the people of Hawaii, and stands ready to respond to any call for additional planning and preparation.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SCR 161.

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SCR-161

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:35:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

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SCR-161

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:45:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS BILL.