



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of **Ford Fuchigami**
Administrative Director, Office of the Governor

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 25, 2019
11:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

In consideration of
House Bill No. 1180 HD1
RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **HB 1180 HD1 Relating to Natural Disasters** which appropriates \$60 million to the County of Hawai'i for disaster relief for FY 2018-2019. The bill specifies that the county will receive a total of \$20 million in subsidies as well as up to \$40 million in loans, provided that the director of finance negotiate the terms of the loan and receive monthly expenditure reports from the county. The Office of the Governor strongly supports state relief for the County of Hawai'i, insofar as the amount set for the relief is balanced against the overall state financial plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE WAYS & MEANS

MARCH 25, 2019
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 1180 HD1
RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1180 HD1. This bill provides an appropriation to the County of Hawaii to support the disaster relief efforts from the Kilauea eruption. The Department supports this bill and offers comments.

The agricultural industry suffered great losses due to the Kilauea eruption. With nearly \$28 million in losses to the agricultural industry in the County of Hawaii, the State must find ways to support agricultural recovery and revive production on Hawaii Island. The Department supports the efforts of the County of Hawaii in its agricultural recovery from the Kilauea eruption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



ARTHUR J. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

KENNETH S. HARA
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON
HOUSE BILL 1180 HD1, RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS

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

by

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

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

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 1180 HD1.

House Bill 1180 HD1 Appropriates funds for disaster relief, recovery, mitigation, and remediation activities for the county of Hawai'i.

The unprecedented volcanic eruptions on the island of Hawaii from May 3, 2018 to August 14, 2018 destroyed hundreds of homes, communities, businesses, farms, schools, cultural sites, water systems, electrical grid, and roadways.

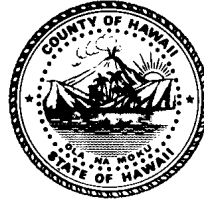
HI-EMA deployed several personnel to assist the Hawaii County during the Kilauea eruption and continues to provide support to the long-term recovery and hazard mitigation efforts.

Note: My comments represent HI-EMA concerns at the state emergency management level only. I would defer to the separate comment/testimonies of the county emergency management agencies, as they would be the jurisdictions impacted by this legislation at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1180 HD1.

Thomas L. Travis: Thomas.L.Travis@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

Harry Kim
Mayor



Diane L. Ley
Director

Ron Whitmore
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205
E-mail: chresdev@hawaiicounty.gov

TESTIMONY OF DIANE LEY

KĪLAUEA RECOVERY MANAGER & COUNTY OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

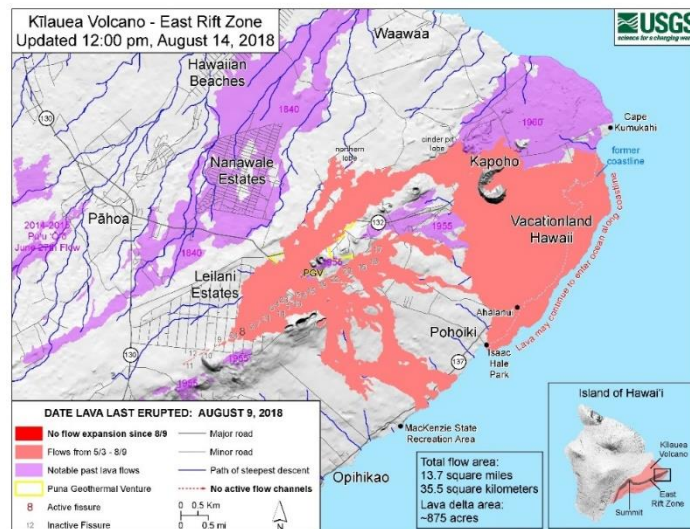
March 25, 2019

HB1180, HD1, RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS

Honorable Chairperson Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony for HB1180, HD1, relating to natural disasters. The passage of this bill will significantly assist communities in recovering from an estimated \$800 million in impacts from the recent eruption of Kīlauea by assuring critical resources will be in place to support those impacted and the federally required local match is available for critical infrastructure replacement. State personnel and leadership were present from start of the eruption providing the County of Hawai'i with significant support over the course of 100+ days, and the Governor provided financial support for both response and to kick-start the recovery process. **Now the County is requesting the Legislature's financial support in assuring families, businesses and communities can move forward with recovery to rebuild in a safer, healthier and more resilient manner.**

The Kīlauea eruption began on May 3, 2018, in the lower East Rift Zone in the Puna district on the island of Hawai'i, 24 fissures opened and poured forth massive volumes of lava resulting in more than 8,000 acres of land covered with lava. More than 700 homes were lost, and more than 50 homes remain isolated. Significant island-wide economic disruption occurred with 921 small business jobs lost, 1,700 acres of farm and ranch lands impacted, one of the island's most productive marine fisheries was cut off from access and tourism revenue dropped in excess of \$200 million.



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The eruption resulted in the loss of \$236.5 million in critical infrastructure including primary roads and domestic waterlines to an area comparable to a little more than the combined communities of Waianae and Makaha. Access to basic roads are critical to the successful recovery of farmers, ranchers, fishermen/women and those whose homes were left standing but isolated. Also, necessary will be the availability of financial resources to redirect critical infrastructure to communities that families choose for relocation. Fortunately, FEMA can provide a 75% cost share for roads, waterlines and public facilities such as parks. **The County is asking the Legislature to provide appropriate resources to meet the required 25% local match for roads and other public infrastructure.**

Because so many residents lost their homes exacerbating an existing affordable housing crisis, the County is taking steps to ready a range of housing assistance programs – from continued rental assistance and re-establishment of a rental rehabilitation program; to expedited home and wastewater permitting and a proposed down-payment revolving loan fund; to exploratory efforts to stand up a community land trust and financial literacy program that would expand the capacity of families to secure affordable replacement homes. **The County is asking the Legislature to provide resources to assist the impacted families and communities; thus, empowering their successful recoveries.**

The County initiated recovery steps while emergency response was on-going; however, experts project that full recovery will take 5-10 years due to the significant disruption of families' lives and the economy, and the destruction of the environment. Recovery is complex and must address immediate needs while giving due consideration to future risks, community planning and the response capacity of families, businesses, communities and all levels of government. **It is critical that we learn from the past and plan for a more resilient future; hence, the County recognizes the need to provide critical information for decision-makers – families, businesses and government – to make informed long-term decisions.** Hence, efforts are on-going to gather information as to a broad range of federal funding sources and to prepare a risk assessment, hazard mitigation studies and a financial analysis so that decision-makers will be equipped to assess and determine what public assets and services should be returned to the impacted area and those assets and services to be redirected to other areas. Thoughtful and comprehensive dialogue, planning and implementation are key to a full recovery that results in healthier and more resilient communities.

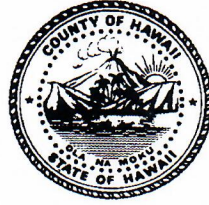
The County has been proactive working with partners in planning and implementing short-term, intermediate and long-term recovery efforts. To date FEMA has provided over \$10 million in Individual Assistance directly to impacted households, and the County has secured over \$2.1 million in a mix of federal and private grants to support housing case management, financial literacy and economic recovery planning. Potential future funding includes federal Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief and a wide range of disaster assistance programs pending before Congress. At the State level, the Governor and the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau have been responsive in providing resources to assure recovery is moving forward. All of which will go toward recovering from the estimated \$800 million in impacts as a result of the eruption. **The Legislature's favorable consideration of HB1180, HD1 is requested to support long-term recovery efforts for our families, businesses, and communities and would be sincerely appreciated.**

Sincerely,



Diane Ley
Director

From the office of -
Council Member
District 3



Office: (808) 961-8396
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov

SUSAN L.K. LEE LOY

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

March 22, 2019

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to your committee in support of HB 1180, as amended to HD1, and to ask that you recommend its approval.

I will do my part on the County Council to ensure that the money appropriated in this bill will be used efficiently and effectively, and that it will do the most good for the greatest amount of people.

I thank you for recognizing that the magnitude of this disaster extends beyond the ability of the Puna District and Hawai'i County alone. This bill pending in your Committee will help the beleaguered citizens of our State, in the District in Puna, recover and move forward.

Aloha Piha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Lee Loy".

Sue Lee Loy
Council Member, District 3



200 North Vineyard Boulevard, B140
Honolulu, HI 96817
Ph: 808-587-7886
Toll Free: 1-866-400-1116
www.hawaiiancommunity.net

March 22, 2019

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, March 25, 2019, 11am
Conference Room 211

HB1180, HD1 – SUPPORT

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members:

I am submitting testimony in my capacity as Executive Director of Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA), the State's largest HUD-approved housing counseling agency and a community development financial institution (CDFI), to **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1180, HD11.**

HCA is the only HUD-approved housing counseling agency on Hawaii Island providing financial education, housing counseling, and match savings grants to assist low- and moderate-income households secure and sustain housing. HCA has partnered with its subsidiary loan fund and CDFI, Hawaii Community Lending, to take a lead role in accessing capital to assist low- and moderate-income households impacted by the lava eruptions secure loans to obtain rentals, rebuild homes, and ultimately recover from the national disaster.

HB1180 would provide the resources necessary for our public and private partners to mobilize along with the communities of Puna and Kau to achieve the goals of long-term disaster recovery. Being on the ground in the disaster area, HCA staff have had to work hard to locate families displaced by the lava and recognize first-hand the value State resources in HB1180 would bring to our collective efforts there.

Please help our Hawaii Island communities recovery from the lava eruptions. **PASS HB1180, HD1.**

Mahalo for your time, leadership and consideration. Please contact me directly at 808.587.7653 or jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Gilbreath".

Jeff Gilbreath
Executive Director

HB-1180-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2019 8:22:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Donoho	Testifying for Kohala Coast Resort Association	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1180-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2019 6:20:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Please facilitate the passing of this Bill. The residents of the lava disaster zone need relief.

I lost a 10 acre farm, my livelihood, my home and 95% of my personal belongings. I cannot get my insurance to pay the claim because I have a mortgage and the mortgage company wants the insurance money!!! FEMA won't directly help because I have insurance. This is a catch-22 and many people are in the same canoe. Mahalo for your consideration.

KAPOHO LAND PARTNERSHIP
(A Hawaii limited partnership)
Kapoho Management Company, Inc.
(General Partner)
Kapoho Land & Development Co. Ltd.
(808) 282-0448 (808) 935-5810
P. O. Box 374
Hilo, Hawaii 96721-0374

March 24, 2019

Subject: House Bill 1180 HD1 Relating to Natural Disasters

Aloha Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz Chair; Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and Committee Members

I am testifying in support of House Bill 1180 HD1 which appropriates funds for disaster relief, recovery, mitigation, and remediation activities for the County of Hawaii. The funding that this bill would provide is essential for the relief of those directly impacted by the 2018 Kilauea Lower East Rift Zone (KLERZ) eruption.

I ask that the Committee Report explicitly state that the funds are to directly benefit those who were directly impacted by the KLERZ eruption. I make this request because I have already heard of aspirations to use the funds for secondary and unrelated impacts, such as parks outside the Puna district and tourism promotion.

During the 2018 Kilauea Lower East Rift Zone (KLERZ) eruption, others lost everything and many more lost proportionally more than the Kapoho Companies. I have attached a map showing the Kapoho companies' lands and the area impacted by the 2018 KLERZ eruption. My family is the largest landowner impacted by the 2018 KERZ eruption. Based on the County of Hawaii's geographic information system, we had 1,265 acres covered by lava, including two of the fissures on our lands. Our direct losses are estimated to be in the low-eight figures, over \$10,000,000.00. The County estimates that total losses were \$800,000,000.

In October 2017, you and your committee visited the Kapoho Companies papaya fields and met with the papaya farmers. Those fields are now gone, but adjacent areas are part of a unique micro-climate and soil zone best suited for orchard crops, and these areas have hundreds of acres that have such crops on them now, and additional lands are available that farmers are asking to use. During the eruption, and in the vicinity of the flow, we had papaya farmers who asked to expand their acreage, and we allowed them to do so without seeking any compensation from them.

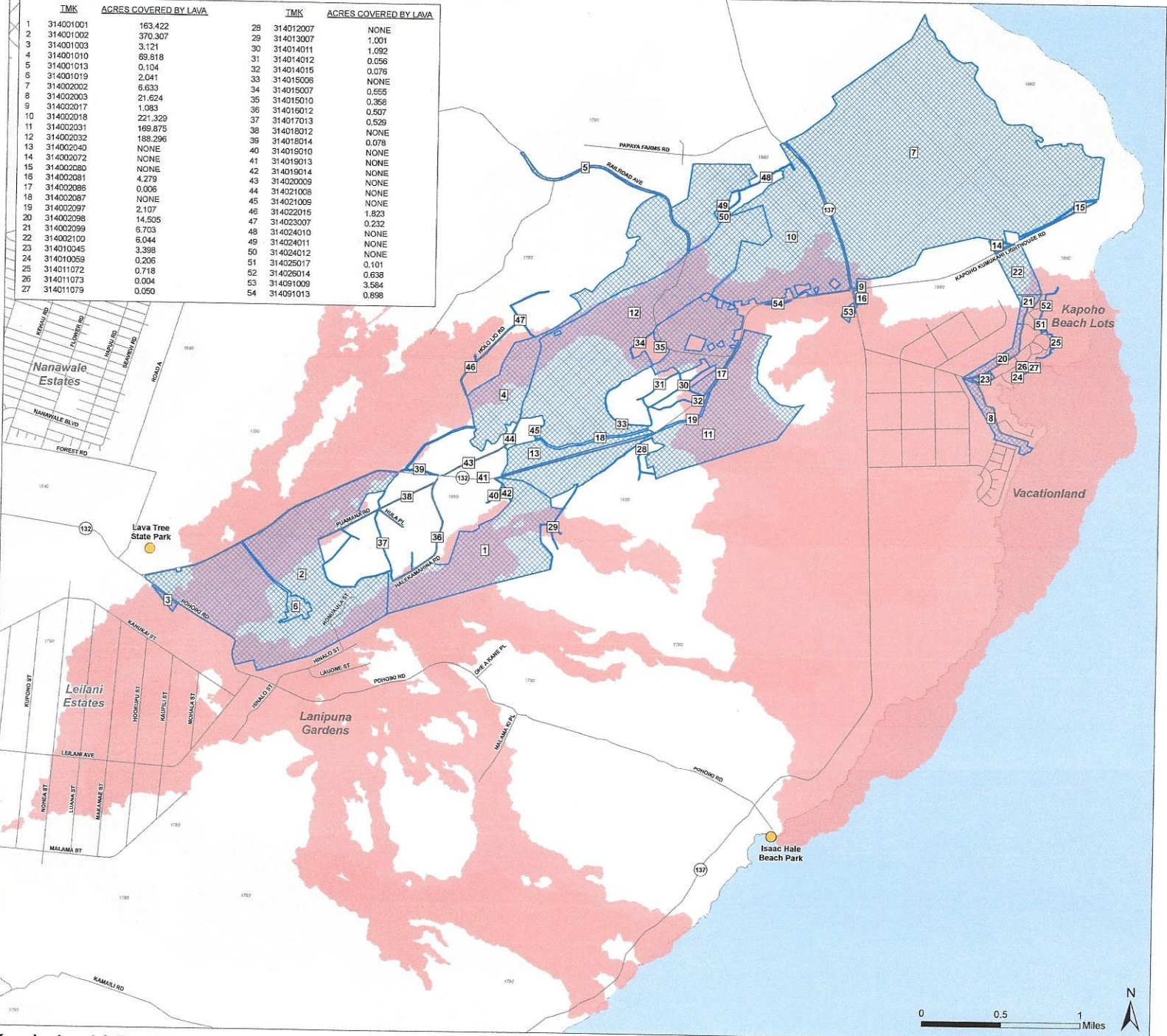
Mahalo a nui loa
Malama Ke Kanaka O' Kapoho



A. Lono Lyman, Manager KLP and KLDC President KMC



IMK	ACRES COVERED BY LAVA	IMK	ACRES COVERED BY LAVA		
1	314001001	163.422	29	314012007	NONE
2	314001002	370.307	29	314013007	1.001
3	314001003	3.121	30	314014011	1.092
4	314001010	69.818	31	314014012	0.555
5	314001013	0.104	32	314014015	0.076
6	314001019	2.041	33	314015006	NONE
7	314002002	6.633	34	314015007	0.555
8	314002003	21.624	35	314015010	0.358
9	314002017	1.093	36	314019012	0.507
10	314002018	221.329	37	314017013	0.529
11	314002031	169.875	38	314018012	NONE
12	314002032	188.296	39	314018014	0.078
13	314002040	NONE	40	314019010	NONE
14	314002072	NONE	41	314019013	NONE
15	314002280	4.279	42	314019014	NONE
16	314002081	0.006	43	314020009	NONE
17	314002086	NONE	44	314021008	NONE
18	314002087	2.107	45	314021005	NONE
19	314002097	14.505	46	314022015	1.823
20	314002098	6.703	47	314023007	0.232
21	314002099	9.044	48	314024010	NONE
22	314002100	3.398	49	314024011	NONE
23	314010045	0.206	50	314024012	0.101
24	314010059	0.718	51	314025017	0.638
25	314011072	0.004	52	314026014	3.584
26	314011073	0.050	53	314091009	0.898
27	314011079		54	314091013	



Kapoho Land & Development

- Kapoho Land & Development Parcels
- Lava Flow Outline (HVO)
- Historic Lava Flows



HB-1180-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 12:33:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes! I'm a Hawai'i Island resident and this is important. Please support.

HB-1180-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 8:42:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Burrows	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Delacruz,I am the steward of Kapoho Crater for 25 years.Our property was directly impacted by the 2018 eruption.I am very grateful that this bill has made it this far.I know this eruption has impacted the whole state.I've lived on Oahu on Kaillua Beach and Maui in Hana,But Puna is where my heart is,it's a unique place.We ran a beautiful farmer's market and shared our mountain as an educational center for many school organizations.Thousands of children got to experience the beautiful lake and visit our community gardens.Kapoho's climate is key for extremely successful farms and I am hopeful we will restore our business ,thank you to all of our legislators that I have seen question the challenges,but still supported the recovery of Puna.Mahalo nui loa,Smiley Burrows

March 23, 2019

Nancy L. Seifers
14-4318 Kapoho Paho Highway
TMK 1-4-012-008-0000

To: Hawaii State Legislature WAM
Re: Bill 1180

Aloha, I am writing in **support of Bill 1180**. I have been a taxpaying resident and farmer in Kapoho, as well as serving as an educator in our local schools, for over 30 years. I lost 1 house on my 13 acre farm to the brush fire yet my main residence stands pristine waiting for my return. We need this disaster recovery money to be prioritized and focused on Lower Puna where the disaster took place! We need this budget to include road recovery, access to Highway 132, 137 and upper Pohoiki Road- temporary roads, up and over the lava. We displaced residents, families and farmers are still in a state of emergency/disaster. A temporary road has been done for Pohoiki Beach access, open to the public, and PGV has successfully completed the road in to their plant. This must be done for the many residents isolated off of 132 (more than 100+TMKs provided and petitions with over 3000 signatures in support), as well as upper Pohoiki Road and Hwy. 137, where taxpayers also want to return home. Resolution 732-18 was passed unanimously by the County Council in Nov. and states “Be it further resolved that building Highway 132 and identifying funding sources, obtaining road easements, planning and engineering road construction should be the highest priority for the County Administration.” Aaron Chung was passionate about the road recovery for residents in his inaugural address as incoming Chair of the County Council! Our newly elected Council members for Puna are also strong advocates. Let us turn that Resolution in to action! Waiting until April 5 for our Mayor to even begin access discussions or July 2019 for State funding is an incredible challenge for the residents of Kapoho.

I had to fly in by helicopter in October and again in December, to secure and maintain my homestead, which I can no longer afford while having to relocate and start my life over. I also hiked over the fissure in November for the first time, at 70 years old, to ensure that my home is still safe. The field is no hotter than the vents have always been in my orchards. A major portion of Highway 132 still exists. My memories, fruit trees, family member’s ashes, treasures and life’s work remain isolated and I want to go home. I had to come out of retirement and return to work as an educator in order to handle the financial hardships of relocation.

We residents believe it is our government’s civic responsibility and duty to protect and serve its constituents. We ask that the Disaster Recovery money be granted and focused and prioritized on the AFFECTED disaster area of Lower Puna! The funds are there to help us in the ROAD to recovery by giving us a ROAD. We want to go home and begin to contribute to our local economy once again.

Please fund Bill 1180!

With respect and gratitude,
Sincerely,

Nancy L. Seifers. MEd.

(808) 217-6628
nancyseifers@gmail.com

HB-1180-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2019 10:33:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

As I'm sure you are all aware, over 70% of disaster victims lived along Rt. 132 and Rt. 137. Imua Lower Puna coalition which represents several hundreds of property owners whose homes and properties directly impacted by the disaster, was created to ensure that tax-payer's disaster dollars are allocated and prioritized to disaster victims and disaster areas.

I understand the entire island felt the impact of the disaster. But imagine, now that the eruption has been officially declared over, you cannot easily return to your home. As we all know, the elements of Hawaii are not kind to our homes and plants without proper care and attention.

Imagine your home is still standing and your farm is still viable, but now you hike for 45 minutes over cooled a'a lava just to get home and tend to your farm. Imagine carrying 50 pounds of supplies over a lava trail because this is the home you built, lived in for decades, paid taxes for decades (\$4M a year to the County alone from this area) and shared bountiful fruits, vegetables and flowers with your community. Imagine that your primary source of income was from farming or growing beautiful orchids, and now, you are displaced, your employees are displaced, your children are displaced and your spouse now works in Kona to support the family. You now via helicopter fly in fertilizer to ensure your crops are taken care of, at your own expense and time. Crops that contributed to the entire island's economy. Imagine your children had once attended Kua O Kala, the public charter school, and now, as a parent, you have to drive to various school locations for your children to continue to receive the education they deserve.

All of this takes a toll on the disaster victims. Not only have some of us lost our homes, but some of us continue to be burdened unable to reach our homes via road access, paying rent to temporary homes, without FEMA support. This is the story of Adam Harms and Felicia Frazier, David and Ingrid Webb, Oshi Simsarian, Michael Hughes, Larry and Linda Lani Morris and many, many more. Now, I am here to testify as I have finally settled in a new home – I still want to return to Kapoho when the roads are rebuilt. I still own property there and have property rights. But for now, I have the energy, time and resources to support my neighbors and my community, as they are

already over-burdened, still grieving and still simply just trying to stay afloat. Some equate this post-disaster experience to PTSD – and do not want to relive the trauma through talk stories. Some cannot even attend talk stories as they have been displaced to the mainland, Molokai and other islands.

We cannot predict where the lava will flow. No one can. No risk assessment or any other assessment will be able to determine what is the likelihood of future disasters on the population and the island of Hawaii. Even last year's eruption, no one could have predicted Pele's path. Some scientists consider Hualalai more dangerous than Kilauea due to its unpredictability. Some could argue Mauna Loa to be an even larger threat. Disasters are a threat to many areas of the world – California fires, coastal areas on the mainland from floods and hurricanes. Kapoho is now safe from flooding, the area does not have fire dangers associated with the west coast of Hawaii, no potential health risk from air pollution, no risk of landslides. We live on the Big Island. We choose to live here. We choose to buy property here, raise our children here and retire here. We do NOT choose to live here because it is the only place we can afford. Many of my neighbors had several properties not only in Vacationland and Beach Lots but all over the islands and on the mainland. There were doctors, lawyers, investors, teachers: all highly-skilled residents that came from all over the world to live and contribute to Kapoho and the Big Island.

Senator Ruderman has stated that "Access to homes is surely one of the most basic government services. the current failure to provide access is inhumane. They have survived a geological crisis but are now further harmed by a fixable political disaster." I urge the State and County to prioritize the hundreds of millions of dollars in disaster funds and immediately allocate funds to road and infrastructure recovery in Kapoho and Leilani.

I urge the State and County to be transparent in the allocation of funds and the logic of decisions made. Announcing an "arbitrary" six-month moratorium is frustrating when there is no sound reasoning behind the timeline shared with the community AND the six-month moratorium is selectively placed on disaster victims, while PGV has built a driveway (right next to where residents need access) and Pohoiki Road to a recreational area. We have heard PGV offered to pay for the recovery of Rt. 132, I would request from the Council, to provide an explanation of why this offer was not accepted. I trust there is a sound explanation that the community would benefit from hearing. I also urge the State and County to provide consistent messaging. Initially, we heard the preliminary risk assessment would be shared in January, then were told February and now it is March. Some County employees told us that the risk assessment would weigh heavily on future planning. Others said that this was not the only assessment but other factors would be equally considered. This type of mixed communication adds to confusion and frustration.

FEMA communicated \$177M is being allocated to this disaster. I am told Federal community development block grant will amount to \$350-\$480M. Hawaii County received \$12M immediately from Governor Ige of which we are told there are several

million remaining. I thank these individuals and organizations for these funds. Simultaneously, each association is pursuing their own funding for private infrastructure, we ask the County urgently restore public infrastructure. Many Americans do not distinguish between Hawaii County and Hawaii so actions taken at the County level can impact the entire State. A year anniversary is not far off. Hawaii cannot be seen to having done nothing for disaster victims.

One of the greatest blessings that has come out of this disaster, for me, is experiencing the unity and support of the community. If the State and County is willing to support the recovery of the disaster areas, I believe our community will be stronger, thrive and add tremendous value not only to the island of Hawaii, but to the entire state, as it once did and continues to do.

M. Eileen O'Hara, Ph.D.
15-2782 Papio Street
Pahoa, HI 96778
(808) 965-1981 / (808) 896-1902

March 23, 2019

Esteemed Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee and Members

RE: HB1180, Draft 1 – WAM Hearing, March 25, 2019

Aloha Esteemed WAM Chair Senator Dela Cruz and Members;

I strongly support this disaster relief package for Hawaii County. As the former Hawaii County Council Member for Lower Puna that was devastated by the recent volcanic eruption, this assistance is desperately needed to restore roads and rebuild other critical public infrastructure so Puna can recover economically. Prior to the eruption, the three biggest economic drivers in Puna were its fishery at Pohoiki, agriculture (primarily papaya, orchids and cattle), and tourism in the form of short-term vacation rentals. One thing that needs to be understood is that a good percentage of the structures lost were short term vacation rentals (STVR), thus the impact on, and need for, housing has been overstated by Hawaii County. Furthermore, the STVRs provided good paying income for many residents who no longer have those jobs and recovery of the industry has been severely hampered by the grandfathering based STVR ordinance recently adopted by the Hawaii County. Thus, we turn to fishery and agriculture to help recovery and for that assistance we need roads and a functioning boat ramp.

HB1180 Draft 1 makes substantive and reasonable changes over the original bill. Housing is NOT the primary need for recovery. We have many vacant homes in the Puna subdivisions that have absorbed many who lost homes, and we have ~40,000 subdivided and buildable lots between Upper and Lower Puna. Funding is needed to help road recovery so that people can access their homes now isolated by lava, and to provide assistance in recovering our agriculture and fishery. We need economic opportunities to replace the jobs lost due to the demise of the STVR industry in Lower Puna. We need mechanisms to support tourism such that local shops and restaurants can remain open. We've lost 40% of the clientele because even though the lava event attracts tourists, we have no lava viewing site or accommodations in the area to take in those tourist dollars.

People, by and large, prefer to remain in Puna. Many are self-sufficient, others retired, and some, like myself, work from home. We have no interest in moving to Waikaloa, Kohala or even Keaau which is on the boundary of Puna with S. Hilo. I'm working with the affected communities to conduct a survey of homeowners of the worst hit area of Lower Puna - Kapoho Beach Lots and Vacationland - where only a dozen properties of the 516 parcels were not completely inundated with lava. While that survey is still in progress, there have been sufficient responses to meet a 90% confidence interval with 10% variance. Over 80% of the respondents want to have Hwy 132 and portions of Hwy 137 restored to have access to their properties. This

response acknowledges that the residents will have to restore their own private road network and they are overwhelmingly expressing a willingness to pay for that restoration.

Another result of the loss of public roadways is that one of our largest providers of cinder, Kapoho Cinder Pits, is still operative but trucks now must traverse a 10' wide, 4-mile long corridor known as the Government Beach Road, then roll over a narrow private road to reach a substandard County road built with no paved shoulders. Currently, 50-60 thirty-yard cinder trucks, each weighing in excess 65,000 lbs., traverses this route M-S which takes it six miles through the large residential neighborhood of Hawaiian Beaches/Shores consisting of 6,500 residents. Not only is this a serious public safety issue as the trucks do NOT maintain the 15, 25, and 35mph zones along this new "commercial truck" access route, the extra time it now takes to access the Cinder Pits is passed on to customers in much higher prices for loads of cinder at a time when we're trying to recover.

Please pass this measure and if there can be any language added to ensure these funds are spent on actual recovery projects and not used to fund a wish list of projects that might be of some benefit, but not directly related to recovery, please amend. As it reads now, it appears that the language is much more on track to accomplish the task than the previous version.

Again, thank you for your consideration and please support this measure.

M. Eileen O'Hara, Ph.D.

M. Eileen O'Hara

Resource Economist

(808) 896-1902

HB-1180-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2019 5:37:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mojo Mustapha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am requesting a hearing for Bill HB1180.

I am the Community Director of [Hedonisia Hawaii Eco-Community](#). Our community practiced a unique, community-based form of [Agricultural Tourism](#) for 14 years. We have been a tax paying community for that entire period.

The Hedonisia community was completely destroyed in the recent Kilauea Lava eruption.

Our community was located on Hinalo St which is off Pohoiki Road. These are both public roads which were destroyed by the flow.

As long term taxpayers bringing eco-tourism to the region we would like to see these public roads restored so we can return.

Please help to support this bill so that one day we can return and rebuild.

Wishing you much aloha,

Sincerely,

Mojo Mustapha

HB-1180-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2019 9:39:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/25/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am asking for your support on HB1180. Also, we need to insure these funds go to the areas of highest impact, Lower Puna. As an evacuee with property remaining in Kapoho Vacationland Farmlots, we need access restored. We need to be able to work on our remaining fruit trees and get our remaining greenhouse going again. It's been 10 months since we had to evacuate, we are in limbo until we can return home. Highway 132 needs to be restored to get everyone back home with property and homes remaining. Also, we need to take the pressure off of Government Beach Rd, it is not conducive to the amount of traffic it now has, and is creating a dangerous situation.

Thank you for your support.

Debra Smith

LATE

**TESTIMONY BEFORE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

H.B. 1180, HD 1

Relating to Natural Disasters

Decision-Making Only

Monday, March 25, 2019

11:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Sharon Suzuki
President, Maui County and Hawai'i Island Utilities
Hawai'i Electric Light Company & Maui Electric Company

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

My name is Sharon Suzuki and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company Inc. and its subsidiary utilities Maui Electric Company, Limited and Hawai'i Electric Light Company, Inc. ("the Hawaiian Electric Companies") in support of H.B. 1180, HD1, Relating to the Natural Disasters.

H.B. 1180, HD1 provides for funds to meet the needs for relief, recovery, mitigation, and remediation assistance from disaster damage, losses, and suffering caused by the extensive damage of the Kilauea eruption in the County of Hawaii including:

- \$40,000,000 in loans to the County of Hawai'i as may be necessary to obtain non-state funds, including federal funds. The loan terms shall be negotiated by the Director of Finance.
- \$20,000,000 in subsidies to the County of Hawai'i.

The funds shall be released to the County upon the Hawai'i County Council adopting a resolution requesting the release of the funds.

The Kilauea eruption permanently altered large portions of the landscape, communities, and the economy, with losses tallying in the hundreds of millions for Hawai'i island. The eruption caused permanent displacement that involves complex recovery planning and implementation. Over eight thousand acres were inundated by lava, covering neighborhoods, farms, a school, cultural sites, recreational destinations, roadways, water systems, and large portions of the electrical grid. Over three thousand parcels were destroyed or made inaccessible, which resulted in \$4,000,000 in annual county real property tax revenue losses.

Economic losses included the unprecedented closure of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, the County's largest tourist attraction and economic engine, and an estimated \$27,900,000 in agriculture losses. Puna Geothermal Ventures, a thirty-eight megawatt geothermal plant was shut down and isolated, resulting in a loss of approximately one-third of the Island's power production, and about half of its renewable energy portfolio.

The scale of the recovery exceeds the County of Hawai'i's capacity. The County's \$500,000,000 annual operation budget has been stretched to its limit. Even with federal disaster assistance, the county will need this additional assistance to provide the local match to federal funding and to address recovery needs beyond what federal programs cover.

Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Companies support H.B. 1108, HD1 to assist the County of Hawai'i in its response, relief, recovery and mitigation efforts. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 25, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1180, HD1
RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS

Room 211
11:00 AM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1180, HD1, which appropriates funds for disaster relief, recovery, mitigation, and remediation activities for the County of Hawaii to assist ranchers and farmers negatively affected by the Kilauea eruption.

2018 was a particularly difficult year for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. The historic torrential rains and disastrous floods on Kauai and Oahu in April, the Kilauea eruption which caused devastation from lava and ash on Hawaii Island, Hurricane Lane and Tropical Storm Olivia were major natural disasters that had a drastic impact to Hawaii's agriculture industry. Unfortunately, Hawaii farmers and ranchers have been and will continually be impacted by damaging weather or natural disasters such as epidemic disease, pest outbreaks, high wind, thunderstorms, hurricanes, fire, flood, earthquakes, lava flow, vog or other volcanic activity, droughts, and tidal waves.

Big Island farmers and ranchers impacted by the Kilauea eruption need assistance with funding to help repair damaged infrastructure, replant crops, or replace equipment and supplies allowing them to continue farming or ranching.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.