

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, March 28, 2019  
10:20 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 329, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF**

House Bill 329, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to amend the Kauai flooding disaster relief appropriation made in Act 12, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, to include flood mitigation measures, extend the lapse date of the appropriation to June 30, 2020, and exempt the appropriation from certain restrictions on transfers of or changes to appropriations. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department sustained substantial damage to its facilities on Kauai due to the heavy rains and flooding events in April 2018. The Department received Act 12 funds for recovery response for several locations and facilities and is currently implementing these projects. The clarification of mitigation measures and additional time for our flood response work will be appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

HIROKAZU TOIYA  
DIRECTOR

March 27, 2019

DEM2019-019

The Honorable Donovan M. Del Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means  
The Senate, Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

SUBJECT: House Bill 329 H.D. 1, S.D. 1  
Relating to Disaster Relief

My name is Hirokazu Toiya, Director of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu (City). DEM is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of H.B. No. 329 H.D. 1, S.D. 1 which proposes to amend Act 12, Sessions Laws of Hawaii 2018. Act 12 appropriated disaster relief funds to Kauai and Oahu for flooding that occurred in April of 2018. Specifically, H.B. No. 329 H.D. 1, S.D. 1 clarifies the scope of the use of disaster relief funds for the County of Kauai and the City to include mitigation measures and extends the lapse date of the appropriation to June 30, 2020. Passage of this measure will allow for the continuation of recovery efforts and increase disaster resilience not only on Kauai but also on Oahu.

As the City continues our recovery from the damages caused by last April's flooding, we continue to be reminded of the vulnerabilities that we face as a community not only to flooding but to numerous other hazards. We will continue to recover and we will always work to improve our capabilities to respond to disasters, but we need to also reduce our long term vulnerabilities now so that we can reduce our future burden for response and recovery.

The Honorable Donovan M. Del Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means  
March 27, 2019  
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According to a report published in January 2018 by the National Institute of Building Sciences which reviewed results of federally funded mitigation grant programs from the past 23 years, every \$1 invested in mitigation can save \$6 in future disaster costs. While there continues to be federal funding available for mitigation, the availability of future funding remains uncertain and for those that are available, there are requirements to provide matching funds. I believe we have an opportunity to take action at the state and local levels to protect our people and communities.

The City is extremely grateful to the State Legislature and the Office of the Governor for providing the much needed support for our recovery efforts immediately after the floods that occurred in April of 2018. Should the Committee on Ways and Means authorize passage of H.B. 329, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, the City can continue to work deliberately and carefully with our partners to implement cost effective measures to reduce our future vulnerabilities to disasters.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hirokazu Toiya", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hirokazu Toiya  
Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**LATE**

**Testimony of Derek S.K. Kawakami  
Mayor, County of Kaua'i**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
March 28, 2019; 10:20 am  
Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
House Bill 329 HD1  
Relating to Disaster Relief**

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

The County of Kaua'i is in **strong support** of HB 329 HD1 which proposes to amend the Kaua'i flooding disaster relief appropriation made in Act 12, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2018, to include flood mitigation measures. This measure also extends the lapse date of the appropriation to June 30, 2020, and exempts the appropriation from certain restrictions on transfers of or changes to appropriations.

As I previously expressed when I testified before the joint hearing of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Finance in January, I would like to acknowledge that Kaua'i County would not be where we are today without the support of Governor David Ige and the State Legislature. Act 12, which provides the funding of Kaua'i's flood recovery efforts, served as a beacon of hope when we needed it most.

As we remain in the midst of these important repairs, we believe now is the time to address further mitigation efforts for the long-term health, safety, and well-being of our community rather than rebuild at a level which may not be sufficient to withstand future emergency disaster scenarios. For this reason, we are asking the Legislature to broaden the scope of Act 12 to include mitigation efforts to prevent the same destructive effects from reoccurring.

As you may know, four months after our April floods, Kaua'i was hit by the remnants of Hurricane Lane causing more flooding and damage to our island and increasing the needs of infrastructure recovery. We humbly request that you also broaden the scope of Act 12 to also include recovery measures from this storm.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of the island of Kaua'i.

