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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 993, HD2
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

THOMAS L. TRAVIS
ADMINISTRATOR, HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (HI-EMA)

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 993 HD2.

House Bill 993 HD2 improves and enhances the effectiveness of the State Emergency Management Program through modifications and additions to the Hawaii Revised Statute Chapter 127-A.

In 2018, the State of Hawaii has experienced challenges and opportunities in the sustainment and development of the State Emergency Management program. From the false missile alert notification in January, through the April flooding on Kauai and Oahu, unprecedented Kilauea eruption in the Big Island, through the state-wide impacts of tropical storm Lane in August, and most recently through the state-wide impacts from tropical storm Olivia in September, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) has balanced incidents both natural and human-caused to help protect lives, property, and the environment. During this time, HI-EMA has been through a leadership change and has set a path ahead to build morale throughout the organization, public confidence in the State emergency management program, and strength in partnerships with our public and private sector stakeholders. Multiple areas in current law under Chapter 127-A Emergency Management have been identified to improve and strengthen the State Emergency Management Program.

- Changes to Chapter 127 A-3 Strengthens the role of Administrator and HI-EMA.
- Changes to Chapter 127 A-5 Strengthen the local emergency capabilities and enhance planning development and implementation.
- Changes to Chapter 127 A-6 Establishing an emergency management reserve corps to include a comprehensive application to support mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities.
- Chapter 127 A-16 Major disaster fund. Increases the potential allotment in the trust fund to \$10 million for incident response and recovery activities, increases funding for Emergency Management Reserve Corps to \$250,000, allow for unspent funding under \$2.5 million to be rolled over.

HI-EMA has several recommended amendments that should be included and are attached. Sections 127 A-3 and 127 A-16 help clarify the roles and responsibilities of HI-EMA considering the other changes being made to HRS 127-A. The last amendment is to allow a roll-over of up to \$2.5 million of the major disaster fund to build a reserve for incidents that are impacting the State on a more frequent basis.

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 in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 993 HD2.

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PROPOSED:

SECTION 3. Section 127A-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

"(e) The agency shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the State~~]; support county emergency management agencies as requested; coordinate all resource support to the counties; ensure that emergency management plans across the State are coordinated with each other and other state, federal, and local organizations; oversee and coordinate the statewide outdoor siren warning system; monitor and issue alerts and warnings; and coordinate emergency and disaster response and recovery activities]~~. In performing its duties, the agency shall:

(1) Prepare a state comprehensive emergency management plan, which shall be integrated into and coordinated with the emergency management plans of the federal government. The plan shall be integrated by a continuous, integrated comprehensive emergency management program. The plan must contain provisions to ensure that the state is prepared for emergencies and minor, major and catastrophic disasters. The agency shall work closely with and agencies and organizations with emergency management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the plan.

(2) Assign lead and support responsibilities to state agencies and personnel for emergency support functions and other support activities.

(3) Adopt standards and requirements for county emergency management plans. The standards and requirements must ensure that county plans are coordinated and consistent with the state comprehensive emergency management plan.

(4) Make recommendations to the Legislature, building code organizations, and counties for zoning, building, and other land use controls; and other preparedness, prevention, and mitigation measures designed to eliminate emergencies or reduce their impact.

(5) Anticipate trends and promote innovations that will enhance the emergency management system.

(6) Institute statewide public awareness programs. This shall include an intensive public educational campaign on emergency preparedness issues, including, but not limited to, the personal responsibility of individual citizens to be self-sufficient for up to 14 days following a natural or human-caused disaster.

(7) Coordinate federal, state, and local emergency management activities and take all other steps, including the partial or full mobilization of emergency management forces and organizations in advance of an actual emergency, to ensure the availability of adequately trained and equipped forces of emergency management personnel before, during, and after emergencies and disasters.

(8) Implement training programs to improve the ability of state and local emergency management personnel to prepare and implement emergency management plans and programs. This shall include a continuous training program for agencies and individuals that will be called on to perform key roles in state and local post-disaster response and recovery efforts and for local government personnel on federal and state post-disaster response and recovery strategies and procedures.

(9) Adopt standards and requirements for state agency emergency operating procedures. Review periodically emergency operating procedures of state agencies and recommend revisions as needed to ensure consistency with the state comprehensive emergency management plan and program.

(10) Coordinate, in advance whenever possible, such executive orders, proclamations, and rules for issuance by the Governor as are necessary or appropriate for coping with emergencies and disasters."

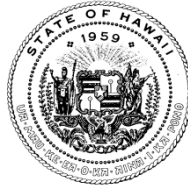
SECTION 4. Section 127A-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

127A-16, Major disaster fund. a) The ~~director~~ administrator shall submit requests to the legislature to appropriate from the general revenues of the State sufficient moneys as may be

necessary for expenditure by or under the direction of the governor for immediate relief in response to an emergency or disaster in any part of the State; provided that

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d), federal reimbursement moneys for disaster relief shall be deemed to be trust moneys and may be deposited into a trust account with and under the control of the ~~[department of defense]~~ Hawaii emergency management agency. These moneys and any interest earned thereon shall be used for the purpose identified in subsection a) and shall not lapse to the general fund.

(e) Any unspent funding under \$2,500,000 will be rolled over to the next fiscal year to support future emergencies and disasters



TESTIMONY BY:

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February 28, 2019
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

H.B. 993, H.D. 2
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of this measure to improve the State of Hawaii emergency management program. However, this measure as currently written seems to enable Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) authority to mobilize DOT personnel and equipment before, during, and after emergencies.

During civil emergencies, the DOT serves as Emergency Support Function 1 which provides support by assisting local, state, Federal governmental entities, voluntary organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector in the management of transportation systems and infrastructure during domestic threats or in response to actual or potential incidents. This partnership requires the DOT have the ability to direct and mobilize our personnel and equipment at all times to continue the maintenance and operability of the State's transportation systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-993-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 7:23:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: