

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 3, 2019
10:20 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

H.B. 993, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of this measure to develop a comprehensive State emergency management plan by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA). The DOT would like to work with HIEMA to ensure the plan conforms with existing state-wide transportation plans, complies with DOT's Federal obligations, and enables the DOT to continue the maintenance and operability of the State's transportation systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 993, HD2 SD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

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

APRIL 3, 2019

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

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 993 HD2 SD1.

House Bill 993 HD2 SD1 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.

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 SD1.

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