

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**REVISED TESTIMONY ON**  
**SENATE BILL 166, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

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

Thomas L. Travis  
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) ***supports the intent*** Senate Bill 166.

Senate Bill 166 Appropriates funds to the Office of the Governor, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health for disaster relief and recovery for the County of Hawaii.

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.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency 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 Senate Bill 166.

Thomas L. Travis: [Thomas.l.travis@hawaii.gov](mailto:Thomas.l.travis@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Acting Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture

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

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 12, 2019  
1:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 166  
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 166 that appropriates funds to the Office of the Governor, Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health for disaster relief and recovery for the County of Hawaii. The Department supports the intent of this bill and offers comments.

Section 6 of this bill allots \$4 million to the Department for economic recovery programs, including loans, to revitalize the impacted agricultural industry in the County of Hawaii. These funds will serve an important purpose in helping those affected by the natural disasters that hit the island of Hawaii. The long road to recovery requires the support from the State in order to help local agriculturalists get back into production.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 1:45 p.m.

By  
Nicholas Comerford  
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
And  
Michael Bruno  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 166 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 166 relating to disaster relief for Hawai'i County. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) wishes to testify on a portion of the bill, Section 6, which appropriates \$6,000,000 to support loans to revitalize the agriculture industry destroyed by volcanic activity. UHM/CTAHR supports the intent of this bill and we respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position.

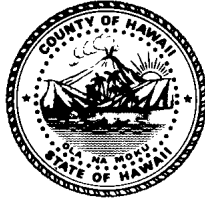
With approximately 50% of the papaya industry destroyed by volcanic activity, and a significant portion of other agricultural enterprises hurt by this activity, this bill provides needed loans to help the agricultural industry of the area recover and revitalize.

This bill also is related to a number of other bills in the legislature which include the development of an emergency disaster fund for agriculture and the development of a plan to double food production. The combination of these programs specific to agriculture show a strong commitment of the legislature for the economic and community health of the people and agricultural industry of the state.

With expressing that sentiment, UHM/CTAHR supports the intent of SB 166.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Diane L. Ley  
Director

Ron Whitmore  
Deputy Director

## County of Hawai'i

### DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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February 12, 2019

Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara & Committee Members  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Hawai'i State Senate  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

RE: SB166 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Honorable Chairperson Nishihara & Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB166, relating to the State Budget.

With the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and the Committee on Housing's joint passage of SB1302, relating to natural disasters, on February 8, 2019, the County of Hawaii does not believe that SB166 is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Ley".

Diane Ley  
Director & Kilauea Recovery Manager

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**S.B. 166**

**Relating to the State Budget**

Tuesday, February 12, 2019  
1:45 p.m., Agenda Item #2  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai 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 S.B. 166, Relating to the State Budget.

S.B. 166 appropriates funds to the Office of the Governor, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health for response, relief, and recovery activities in the County of Hawai'i in accordance with a Kilauea eruption recovery plan including:

- \$61,000,000 for regional infrastructure and public facilities projects to support resettlement patterns;
- \$55,000,000 for temporary or permanent housing projects to accommodate the impacted populations;
- \$23,000,000 for emergency operations, major equipment repair and maintenance, or construction of emergency bypass routes;



- \$10,000,000 for administrative support and establishment of implementation systems relating to relief and recovery from disaster damages, losses, and suffering caused by the extensive damage of the Kilauea eruption, and ongoing emergency response;
- \$4,000,000 for economic recovery programs, including loans, to revitalize the impacted agricultural industry in the County of Hawai'i; and
- \$2,000,000 for permanent air quality stations and mental health programs in the County of Hawai'i.

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 S.B. 166 which would appropriate funds to meet the needs for response, relief, and recovery activities in the County of Hawai'i. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**SB-166**

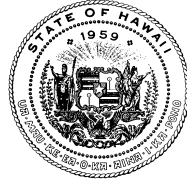
Submitted on: 2/11/2019 1:25:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/12/2019 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB166  
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: February 12, 2019

Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$2,000,000 General Fund appropriation the Department of Health, not
- 2 inclusive of other appropriations to other agencies.
  
- 3 **Department Testimony:** Regarding Bill Section 7 of SB166 only, the Department of Health
- 4 recognizes the potential long-term psychological and environmental impacts of the Kilauea
- 5 eruption. Additional funds would extend and improve the provision of mental health services
- 6 and support permanent air quality stations to help assure the recovery of residents.
  
- 7 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.
  
- 8



**LATE**

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February 12, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 166**  
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Room 229  
1:45 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 SB 166**, which appropriates funds to the Office of the Governor, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health for disaster relief and recovery for the County of Hawaii.

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 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.