

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 598  
A BILL RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PRESENTATION TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR JOSEPH LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
January 28, 2019

Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs.

I am Major General Arthur Joseph Logan, Adjutant General and Director of State Emergency Management Agency. I am providing written testimony in **SUPPORT** of the intent of Senate Bill 598.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Department of Defense which supports the intent of Senate Bill 598, Relating to the Department of Defense which appropriates funds for both the Department of Defense's Executive Branch Fiscal Biennium 2019-21 Capital Improvement Project budget.

The Governor has submitted his version of the Department of Defense's Executive Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget and I stand by his submittal.

We are hopeful moving forward to continue to collaborate with your committee and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means in developing a fiscally responsible budget that enhances state government's ability to improve its operations and keeps us on the path toward meeting our shared goals to protect our citizens and property of people of Hawaii. We appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON  
**SENATE BILL 598, RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Before the Senate Committee on  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM)**

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* Senate Bill 598.

SB 598 appropriates crucial funds for the much-needed modernization of HI-EMA's Birkhimer emergency operating center (EOC) at the Diamond Head State Monument. Although the project is needed, it did not meet the cut for funding recommended by the Governor.

This project would involve renovation and restructure of the current Hawaii Emergency Management facilities, Birkhimer EOC and Bldg 303 Operations Support Center (OSC), both located within Diamond Head Crater, into a Joint Emergency Management Center (JEMC). As currently configured, these facilities fall short as an emergency operations center during the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery phases of a major incident or disaster. The existing Birkhimer Tunnel EOC is nearly 100 years old. The Bldg 303 Operations Support Center is over 40 years old.

When the State is hit with the next major incident or disaster our primary facilities for coordination will be a major challenge to the State response and recovery. During our preparation and response to Hurricane Iselle in 2014, Hurricane Lane in 2018, and Tropical Storm Olivia in 2018, many key emergency management staff members from state, federal, private, and other public organizations had to be placed in buildings outside of Diamond Head Crater. This separation of key staff challenged our ability to coordinate and communicate our efforts efficiently. This separation increases operational risk.

Previous studies focusing on new construction came up with projected costs of more than \$75M. A review of potential State surplus lands on Oahu could help reduce this project amount, but further research would be needed. HI-EMA has also identified grant funding to help move this effort along.

If the project is deferred again, restoring the State's ability to efficiently respond to and recover from a major incident or disaster will continue to be delayed.

The renovated Birkhimer EOC to a JEMC will be a long term, low cost alternative to partially mitigate the challenges with the current facilities. If the renovation and restructure of the current facilities were to be completed, the State's emergency management operations would be centralized in a protected location and the coordination among the state, federal, private, and public stakeholders would be improved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 598.

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