

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
COLONEL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2329,  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
AND DIRECTOR OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEBRUARY 5, 2020

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

I am Major General Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General, Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisor. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2329.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 2329.

House Bill 2329 establishes the hazard mitigation special fund for the HI-EMA.

HI-EMA has had funding to implement entering property to remove dangers to public safety, after taking appropriate measures with the landowners. This funding is nearly exhausted, making the program mute. This measure would provide funding and to slightly expand program authority to allow the agency to continue its work in cutting, trimming, or removing dangerous trees or branches that pose a hazard to public safety; stabilizing or removing unstable rock and soil hazards; and cleaning streams and waterways to mitigate or prevent flooding or other hazards.

Thank you.

MG Kenneth S. Hara, kenneth.s.hara.mil@mail.mil; 808-369-3455



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2329,**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

Before the House Committee on  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS**

By

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

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 2329.

House Bill 2329 establishes the hazard mitigation special fund for the HI-EMA.

HI-EMA has had funding to implement entering property to remove dangers to public safety, after taking appropriate measures with the landowners. This funding is nearly exhausted, making the program mute. This measure would provide funding and to slightly expand program authority to allow the agency to continue its work in cutting, trimming, or removing dangerous trees or branches that pose a hazard to public safety; stabilizing or removing unstable rock and soil hazards; and cleaning streams and waterways to mitigate or prevent flooding or other hazards.

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 House Bill 2329.

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



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 723-8960 • FAX: (808) 768-1492

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



HIROKAZU TOIYA  
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER M. WALTER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 3, 2020

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair  
The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,  
Veterans, and Military Affairs  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Asuega Gates, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs:

SUBJECT: House Bill 2329 Relating to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

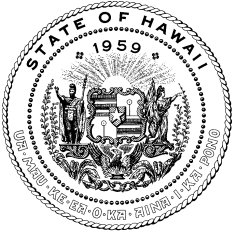
The Department of Emergency Management **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB2329 which would amend HRS 127A to establish the hazard mitigation special fund and appropriate moneys to the fund. As in medicine, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound in cure in emergency management. In 2018, the National Institute of Building Sciences published a study showing that the nation can save \$6 in future disaster costs for every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation. There are federal grants available to fund mitigation projects but they require matching funds for the state.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hirokazu Toiya".

Hirokazu Toiya  
Director



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5<sup>TH</sup> Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 | energy.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

In SUPPORT of  
**HB 2329**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Asuega Gates, and members of the Committee. The Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2329, which establishes the Hazard Mitigation Special Fund for the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. This measure will increase public health and safety by providing funds to support the management and implementation of state hazardous mitigation projects under Chapter 127A-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Positive impacts of mitigation projects could support more resilient energy delivery in a disaster by providing specific funding to address identified hazardous conditions that can improve response time to roads and utilities that may otherwise be affected by (1) cutting, trimming, or removing dangerous trees or branches that pose a hazard to other properties; (2) stabilizing or removing unstable rock and soil hazards; and (3) cleaning streams and waterways to mitigate or prevent flooding or other hazards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.