

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON  
SENATE BILL 1420, RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF**

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

By

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

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

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill 1420.

SB 1420 proposes additions to Chapter 127A-3 to enable state and county emergency management agencies to coordinate with non-profit and private sector entities, and to allow counties to incorporate community disaster relief networks into plans.

The Department believes that coordination with non-governmental entities is already permitted by Chapter 127A-3 Section 2 (d), which states “*The director shall coordinate the activities of the agency with...all organizations for emergency management within the State, whether public or private...*” The Department regularly engages the private sector and voluntary agencies in all aspects of its emergency management program, including mitigation, planning, training, exercises, response and recovery activities.

Similarly, programs to encourage the formation and integration of community-based disaster relief networks exist in all counties. Programs such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Hawaii Hazards Awareness and Resilience Program (HHARP) are ongoing initiatives that recruit, train and engage community members in emergency preparedness and response. Each county also maintains an active relationship with a coalition of non-profit groups called Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster (VOAD). Each county has local plans that address how these groups will be incorporated into emergency response activities.

The bill further proposes authorizing state employees living in an impacted disaster area to be compensated for performing recovery and relief activities in their communities. The Department believes the bill's intent is currently addressed by existing language in Chapter 127A.

Chapter 127A-8 (b), addresses compensation for state employees engaged in emergency activities.

*If any state or county official, officer, or employee is engaged in carrying out this chapter in lieu of the official, officer, or employee's regular office or employment, the amount of the official, officer, or employee's compensation shall not be adversely affected, and the official, officer, or employee's rights in or under the laws relating to vacation and leave, the retirement system, civil service or the like, shall not be adversely affected.*

Chapter 127A-12 (b)(16) gives the Governor the authority to direct state employees to engage in emergency response activities.

*Order and direct government agencies, officials, officers, and employees of the State, to take action and employ measures for law enforcement, medical, health,*

*firefighting, traffic control, warnings and signals, engineering, rescue, construction, emergency housing, other welfare, hospitalization, transportation, water supply, public information, training, and other emergency functions as may be necessary, and utilize the services, materials, and facilities of the agencies and officers. All agencies and officers shall cooperate with and extend their services, materials, and facilities to the governor as the governor may request;*

The Department believes that Chapter 127A in its current form meets the intent of SB1420 and permits engagement of private sector, non-profit organizations, community-based groups and state employees in emergency management activities.

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 1420.

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**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 7, 2019

S.B. 1420 – RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO conceptually supports the intent of Section 4 of S.B. 1420 which enables the Governor to authorize payment to state employees for performing disaster relief activities within their communities.

Although the Governor's authority currently provides for the employment and training of employees as necessary to execute duties in times of emergency, Section 4 of S.B. 1420 specifically authorizes state employees to be compensated for recovery and relief activities in their communities. During times of severe disasters, we trust that government employees, like all residents in Hawaii, will do what they can to help their families and neighbors. It is important and necessary to fairly compensate employees for their efforts but it is unclear if work will be performed on a strictly voluntary basis, whether or not they will receive training, at what rate employees will be compensated, to whom they should report to, and what specifically they will be expected to do. We understand that prescriptive legislation seeking to address these concerns do not comport with the general powers currently enumerated in statute, therefore should this measure become law, we look forward to consulting with the Employer on how to best execute these provisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Section 4 of S.B. 1420.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019 AT 2:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair;  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and  
Members of Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs;

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1420 RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF**

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. I am writing share our support of SB 1420.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports this bill that would enable the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to coordinate with non-profit and business entities and create multi-sector disaster relief community networks. We appreciate this bill as it provides the opportunity for community partners to work together and create a plan and a network, which will be very beneficial to the community in the case of a disaster.

We feel local chambers of commerce can make a great contribution to this effort because they have access to connecting with businesses throughout their county through electronic media. Chambers can quickly alert members to emergency situations, as well as connect with retailers who can provide updates on available supplies, have businesses be the eyes and ears on changing conditions and help feed the information gathered back to a central location to have a better statewide picture. Better communication and updates will help to determine priority areas for more targeted responses.

If this bill moves forward, we would be happy to assist and serve.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and we hope you will move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

*Pamela Tumpap*

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

**SB-1420**

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 3:29:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/7/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kekai Quartero	Testifying for K&R Enterprises	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I DO NOT SUPPORT bill SB1420 because there is a clear attempt to place highly-skilled responsibility in the hands of an incompetent, untrained yet available and/or AFFORDABLE work force. The STATE OF HAWAII already has an emergency disaster unit known as the HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD who are well trained and well resourced to respond to large scale disasters and to be the community leaders for active intervention during times of disaster and/or war. This is an attempt to circumvent the citizenship's constitutional responsibilities to conduct themselves as a private MILITIA under the guidance of the HAWAII STATE NATIONAL GUARD. Please do not circumvent our Constitutional responsibilities. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Robert Quartero

**SB-1420**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:10:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/7/2019 2:00:00 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: