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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2885,
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

Before the House 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** Senate Bill 2885.

Senate Bill 2885 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.

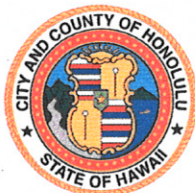
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2885.

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

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



HIROKAZU TOIYA
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER M. WALTER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 3, 2020

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2885 Relating to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

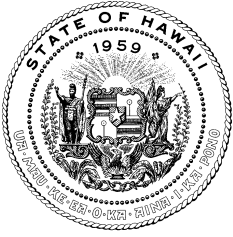
The Department of Emergency Management **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB2885 which would amend HRS 127A to establish the hazard mitigation special fund and appropriates moneys to the fund. As in medicine, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound in cure in emergency management. In 2018, the National Institute 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

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

1:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

LATE

In SUPPORT of
SB 2885
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee. The Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2885, 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.