

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of **Alexandra Slous**
State Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Office of the Governor

Before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
February 4, 2020
1:30 p.m., Conference Room 229

In consideration of
Senate Bill No. 2887
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

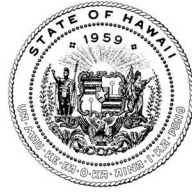
Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and committee members:

As the current state disaster recovery coordinator, I thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in Support for **Senate Bill 2887**.

Senate Bill 2887 proposes the establishment of a unified long-term recovery authority, inclusive of State and County government, community, and private sector representatives. Convened by the state disaster recovery coordinator, this leadership structure will help to facilitate recovery efforts statewide, beginning with support for recoveries currently under way and extending to mitigation of and building relationships and processes for future disaster scenarios.

In 2018, communities across the State were affected by major natural disasters, including Kaua'i and O'ahu flooding, the Kīlauea eruption and Hurricane Lane. Two out of three federally-declared disasters, primarily affecting Kaua'i and Hawai'i Counties, require long-term, complex planning and implementation involving many partners to recover.

Nearly two years after these incidents, federal recovery funds including FEMA Public Assistance and HUD Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery are still pending – and will take a multi-year process to spend down once available.



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Via **Senate Bill 2887**, the Governor's Office and the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency are prioritizing post-disaster coordination and pre-disaster planning to:

- Ensure holistic, inclusive and well-coordinated recoveries for past disasters; and
- Capture effective strategies and lessons learned for application via a repeatable, State-level framework for future disasters

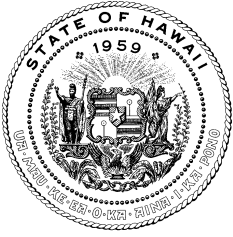
A State recovery framework, as a component of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is anticipated as an outcome of recovery planning and implementation in progress. The State framework will mirror frameworks currently in development at the County level with the goal of building complementary recovery leadership structures.

Centralized, clear, and well-organized coordination via the State is essential to support our local communities in off-setting the long-term, complex, and cross-jurisdictional nature of recovery.

Through the long-term recovery authority and the state disaster recovery coordinator, the State will be empowered to engage and maximize state agency and other relevant support, contribute strategic guidance, and provide financial oversight. These functions will help to ensure programmatic consistency and effective use of available funds, and to identify and address recovery unmet needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **Senate Bill 2887**. On behalf of the Governor's Office and the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, we appreciate your attention and will be available to answer your questions, should you have any at this time.

Alexandra M. Slous: Alexandra.M.Slous@hawaii.gov; 808-518-7428



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5TH 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
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

1:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Comments in consideration of
SB 2887
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee. The Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) appreciates the intent of and offers comments on SB 2887, which enhances the capacity of the government, relevant agencies, and the community to recover from the impacts of disasters and seeks to build resilience and sustainability by establishing the Long-Term Recovery Authority to work with the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

State, public, and private organizations all share in providing for the public's health and safety, including when preparing for disaster response and recovery. It is essential that the response, recovery, and mitigation activities of all parties, including the energy assurance and resiliency activities of the HSEO, be fully aligned on a statewide basis.

The HSEO appreciates the bill's objective of improving short-term restoration of essential community functions and long-term resilient rebuilding through improved coordination and collaboration.

The HSEO defers to state agencies on the budget considerations related to establishing the Long-Term Recovery Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2887,
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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

By

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

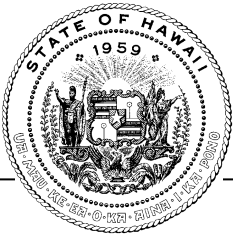
Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 2887 establishes a Long-term Recovery Authority to work with the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator in enhancing the capacity of the government, relevant agencies, and the community to recover from the impacts of disasters and build resilience and sustainability in the State.

While the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator takes the lead regarding this measure, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency **supports** Senate Bill 2877.

Thank you.

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



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL &
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 4, 2020
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

LATE

in consideration of
SB 2887

RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs.

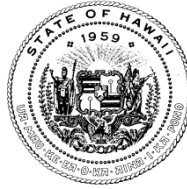
The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** the intent of this measure offers the following **comments** on SB 2887. In 2018, communities across the State of Hawai'i were affected by flooding, hurricane, and volcano disasters resulting in major damage to land, homes, infrastructure, and the economy. Three federally declared disasters, primarily affecting Kaua'i and Hawai'i counties, require long-term, complex planning and implementation to recover.

The Office of Planning supports the development of a long-term recovery authority to, among other responsibilities, recommend policy decisions and set strategic direction for resilient recovery planning. The Office of Planning finds that this long-term disaster recovery authority is complimentary to the long-range planning goals set in the purpose of the Hawai'i State Planning Act (HRS §226-1) and the long-range comprehensive planning and coordination responsibilities described in HRS §225M-1.

The Office of Planning notes that the Hawai'i State Legislature recently established the State's Sustainability Coordinator position within the Office of Planning, pursuant to the Supplemental Appropriation Act of 2016. The Office of Planning further finds that the 2018 State of Hawai'i's Hazard Mitigation Plan recommended:

"Develop a Sustainability Program at the state-level, headed by the Sustainability Coordinator. Currently, the Sustainability Coordinator position is funded, but has no operating budget. Task Coordinator with developing the program, establishing a clearing house for sustainability information and initiatives, coordinate with departments and agencies, and track implementation of projects and programs."

The Office of Planning's Sustainability Coordinator looks forward to assisting this proposed long-term disaster authority and working in collaboration with the State's Disaster Recovery Coordinator to recover from the impacts from disasters and build resilience and sustainability for the State of Hawai'i.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 4, 2020
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

S.B. 2887
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

House Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** establishing a long-term recovery authority (LTRA) to work with the state disaster recovery coordinator. The LTRA will be guiding policy decisions and setting strategic direction for recovery planning to enhance the capacity of government, relevant agencies, and the community to recover from the impacts of disasters. The policies and strategies developed by the LTRA should improve coordination and collaboration in restoring essential community functions, such as transportation infrastructure.

The DOT as the transportation component for disaster response, recovery, and mitigation activities supports this effort to have key agencies aligned and coordinated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
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DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2887,
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

BY

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

FEBRUARY 4, 2020

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

Senate Bill 2887 establishes a Long-term Recovery Authority (LTRA) to work with the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator (SDRC) in enhancing the capacity of the government, relevant agencies, and the community to recover from the impacts of disasters and build resilience and sustainability in the State.

While the SDRC takes the lead regarding this measure, the Department of Defense understands its importance in the recovery process and supports Senate Bill 2887.

Thank you.

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