

Testimony of Ku'uhaku Park
On Behalf of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
Support of HB724 HD1
Before the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
February 11, 2021

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committees,

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. ("Matson") supports HB724 HD1, Relating to Emergency Management. This measure prohibits the application of travel restrictions implemented during a state of emergency to essential workers unless the application of those travel restrictions have first been approved by the Governor.

Over ninety percent of our State's goods, including food and medical supplies, come in through our commercial harbors. Hawaii's extreme geographic isolation, reliance on imported goods, and adherence to the just-in-time inventory system highlight how sensitive our supply chains are. The slightest rumor of an adverse impact such as a labor shortage on the waterfront results in immediate, widespread panic buying and unnecessary shortages of food and supplies.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has designated as essential workers in the transportation and logistics sector. With respect to the maritime transportation and logistics sector, this designation recognizes Stevedores/Longshoremen, vessel crew members who fly in from Neighbor Islands or from out of state to join their vessels, and contractors flown in for highly specialized work such as repairs to and maintenance of vessels, cranes, and terminal handling equipment.

Matson appreciates the amendments the prior committees made to the measure to specifically include maritime workers within the definition of essential workers. This is especially important for the Neighbor Islands. Our employees must travel interisland to ensure the timely offloading of cargo from our barges. They must frequently book interisland flights after 3:30 PM for travel on the first flight the following morning to be at the Neighbor Island harbors before our barges arrive for offloading. Although Governor Ige's Office, the Department of the Attorney General, and the Department of Defense have recognized the importance of our maritime industry to the State and have been very responsive in processing our requests, Matson recognizes it is unreasonable to expect that requests should be processed in such a tight timeframe. This amendment reduces the workload of processing travel quarantine requests while ensuring goods continue to arrive in the State on time.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, February 11, 2021; 2:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0724, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0724, House Draft 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would prohibit the Governor from implementing travel restrictions during a state of emergency on essential workers unless the application of travel restrictions to essential workers was first approved by the Governor.

This bill would also take effect on July 1, 2020, to facilitate further discussion on this issue.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

COVID-19 has drastically changed how health care is provided. The threat of infection, the enormous economic ramifications, and the subsequent disruptions in normalcy have greatly compounded the difficulties that health care providers experience in caring for the sick and injured.

This is especially true for rural and underprivileged communities. For years these areas have struggled to find qualified health care professionals to serve. That is why FQHCs have been so important in our State. We serve as the last line of defense in the social safety net.

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Thursday, February 11, 2021; 2:00 p.m.
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Because of the difficulties experienced in recruiting and retaining health care providers in these rural areas, FQHCs have sometimes relied on hiring staff living on other islands who commute to work. While telehealth and telephonic services have helped to bridge these distances, there isn't anyone who would disagree that an in-person consultation would benefit a patient best.

The establishment of the 14-day quarantine for persons travelling interisland has served as a barrier for health care providers. It has prevented them and the organizations they work for from maximizing the use of their limited human resources for the benefit of patients. While any kind of travel poses a risk during a pandemic, if a way isn't found to get essential workers to where they are most needed, everyone suffers even more.

For this reason, we strongly urge your favorable consideration of this important measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



February 11, 2021

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: HB 724 HD1 – Relating to Emergency Management

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 724, HD1, which prohibits the application of travel restrictions implemented during a state of emergency or local state of emergency to essential workers unless the application of those travel restrictions to essential workers has first been approved by the governor. Defines essential workers for this purpose. Effective 7/1/2050.

HMSA supports the intent of this measure which allows for the safe travel of our community's essential workforce under emergent situations.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of HB 724 HD1. Your consideration of our comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Sasaki
Director, Government Relations



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 724,
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Before the House Committee on
JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

By

Luke P. Meyers
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 724 prohibits the application of travel restrictions implemented during a state of emergency or local state of emergency to essential workers unless the application of those travel restrictions to essential workers has first been approved by the governor. Defines essential workers for this purpose.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **offers comments on** House Bill 724.

This has been addressed in the emergency proclamations for this incident. While HI-EMA understands the challenges of the COVID-19 emergency, the coronavirus may be too specific an incident to make these changes regarding essential workers.

Defining essential workers is important and should be part of a larger discussion for the continuity of governmental and operational functions in the State, as well as in coordination with the counties.

Thank you.

Luke P. Meyers: Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

