



**Testimony to the House Joint Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness and
Economic Development
Thursday, February 4, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Ichiyama, Chair Quinlan, 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, 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.

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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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 wouldn't 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.

Testimony of Ku'uhaku Park
On Behalf of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
Support of HB724
Before the Committees on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness and
Economic Development
February 4, 2021

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Eli, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committees,

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. supports HB724, Relating to Emergency Management, and respectfully requests amendments. 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.

Amending the measure to specifically include maritime workers within the definition of essential workers 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. Including such an amendment would reduce the workload of processing travel quarantine requests while ensuring goods continue to arrive in the State on time.

We suggest including the following language at page 12, line 10: "(23) Commercial maritime workers, including but not limited to stevedores, longshoremen, crew members of intrastate tugs and barges, and harbor pilots, to ensure the flow of commerce into the State."

Thank you for considering our suggested amendment.



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February 4, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 724
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Conference Room 309
11:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Ichiyama and Quinlan, Vice Chairs Eli and Holt, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports the intent of HB 724, 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 and defines essential workers for this purpose.

HFB respectfully requests that agriculture and food are included in HB 724. The Governor and County Mayors all deemed Food and Agriculture as Essential Businesses through their Executive Orders. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security lists Food and Agriculture workers as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers along with Healthcare & Public Health, Emergency Services, Government Facilities, Water, Critical Manufacturing, Energy, Transportation Systems, Communications, IT, Financial, Chemical, and Defense.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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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
PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

By

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

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli 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.

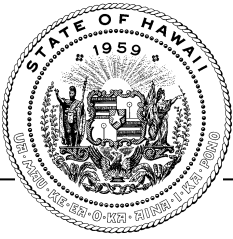
The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **offers comments on** House Bill 724.

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



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
And
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, February 4, 2021
11:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room Number 309

In SUPPORT of
HB 724
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANGEMENT.

Chairs Ichiyama and Quinlan, Vice Chairs Eli and Holt, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) **supports with comments** HB 724, 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.

Ensuring that essential workers have the ability to travel without restriction to perform their jobs safely is critical to our State's ability to maintain resilience and operation of critical infrastructure and community lifelines, including energy.

As noted in the widely referenced U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) December 16, 2020 "*Advisory Memorandum on Ensuring Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Ability to Work During the COVID-19 Response*"¹, essential workers include those workers supporting the energy sector, regardless of the energy source. In Hawaii these essential workers perform services that support the continuous production and distribution of energy and

¹ https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ECIW_4.0_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_Final3_508_0.pdf

are necessary for the continued reliable operation of the energy systems and markets which the state relies upon.

In addition, the energy sector is identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as one of the seven² which “enables the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and is essential to human health and safety or economic security”.

For these and other reasons, we request that the definition of “Essential workers” under §127A-13 (c) be amended to include:

“Workers performing or supporting the services and operations of the energy sector”.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

² <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/lifelines>



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

Re: HB 724 – Relating to Emergency Management

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 724, 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. In which it defines essential workers for this purpose.

HMSA supports the intent of this measure. We do suggest an amendment to the language that defines workers and lists applicable populations to which are deemed essential. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) lists “Healthcare and Public Health” as a population based on guidance from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) that is essential. We respectfully suggest that workers supporting the operations of healthcare and public health in our community be considered in HB 726.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on HB 726. Your consideration of our comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew W. Sasaki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Matthew W. Sasaki
Director, Government Relations