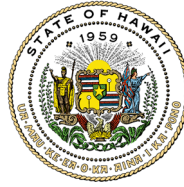


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA  
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
  
LUKE P. MEYERS  
ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
  
PHONE (808) 733-4300  
FAX (808) 733-4287

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 954,  
RELATING TO HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**FINANCE**  
BY

Luke P. Meyers  
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 954.

Even under the constant threats of hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and now pandemics, HI-EMA continues to strive to operate with an insufficient number of qualified staff. Finding applicants to fill the necessary and extremely, critical position vacancies with trained, experienced, and qualified personnel is a persistent challenge, which this bill will remedy.

Exempting certain key positions from civil service will set the conditions for a more responsive, flexible, and aggressive hiring system that will improve the filling of these vacancies, as well as improve competitive recruiting and retention of qualified and experienced emergency management professionals. There will also be a reduction of risk to the State, by having extended vacancies in these critical positions competently filled.

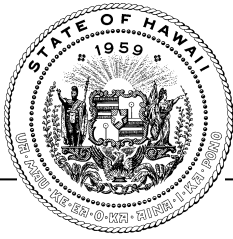
House Bill 954 converts the public information officer, civil defense administrative officer, branch chiefs, and emergency operations center state warning point personnel in HI-EMA from civil service status to exempt status via an amendment to Section 76-16 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The passage of this measure will give the State a fighting chance to attract the necessary talent and provide compensation that would be competitive with our City and County partners as well as other agencies nationwide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 954.

Thank you.

Luke P. Meyers: [Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov](mailto: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

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-3807  
Fax: (808) 586-2536  
Web: [energy.hawaii.gov](http://energy.hawaii.gov)

Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
**HB 0954, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) **supports** HB 0954, HD1, an Administration bill, which converts the executive officer, public information officer, civil defense administrative officer, branch chiefs, and emergency operations center state warning point personnel in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) from civil service status to exempt status.

Sufficient staffing of highly qualified, ready, and responsive HIEMA staff is crucial to improved public safety and disaster and emergency responsiveness. Having the capability to expedite the filling of vacancies for critical positions with trained personnel will create the conditions for a more responsive, flexible, and aggressive hiring system. Improved competitive recruiting and retention of qualified and experienced emergency management professionals will support a reduction of risk to the State.

The HSEO will be positively impacted in disaster management response during emergencies as a result of a high quality and fully staffed HIEMA workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.