

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 954, HD1, SD1  
RELATING TO HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
**JUDICIARY**  
**AND**  
**WAYS AND MEANS**

BY

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

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 954, HD1, SD1.

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, HD1, SD1 converts the executive officer, 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, HD1, SD1.

Thank you.

Luke P. Meyers: [Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov](mailto:Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov) ; 808-733-4300

**HB-954-SD-1**

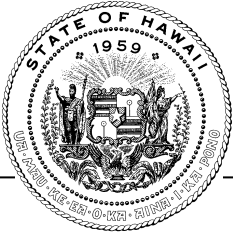
Submitted on: 4/5/2021 8:26:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                       | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark Want           | Testifying for Hawaii State Energy Office | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Available for questions on HSEO testimony.



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Tuesday, April 6, 2021  
10:00 APM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In **SUPPORT** of  
**HB 954, HD1, SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**  
(Written Testimony Only)

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) **supports** HB 954, HD1, SD1 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.

**HB-954-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 9:59:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2021 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gerard Silva        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments:

No of this people can be Exempt they are making desions that affect our lives this people must be helled liable. If not be you We the people will!!