



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
And
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & TOURISM

Tuesday, February 9, 2021
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In SUPPORT of
HB 954
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

Chairs Ichiyama and Onishi, Vice Chairs Eli and Sayama, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) **supports** HB 954, an Administration bill, which converts the 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.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
AND LABOR AND TOURISM

BY

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

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Aloha Chairs Ichiyama and Onishi, Vice-Chairs Eli and Sayama, 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 coverts 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.

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LATE

HB-954

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 4:42:21 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/9/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
BG Neal Mitsuyoshi - DOD	Department of Defense	Comments	No

Comments:

I am available for comments.

LATE

HB-954

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:27:18 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/9/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Want	Hawaii State Energy Office	Support	No

Comments:

I am available for comments.

LATE

HB-954

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 5:16:38 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/9/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Hara	Department of Defense	Comments	No

Comments:

MG Kenneth Hara - I am available Department Testimony