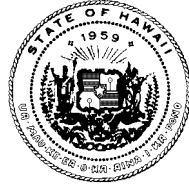


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 17, 2021

TO: The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 91/HR 76** – REQUESTING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
CONVENE A RESILIENCY HEALTH DISASTER TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A  
COORDINATED STATEWIDE RESILIENCY HEALTH DISASTER PLAN.

Hearing: March 18, 2021, 10:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and provides comments. DHS defers to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

**PURPOSE:** These resolutions request the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to convene a resiliency health disaster task force to develop a coordinated statewide resiliency health disaster plan.

DHS staff participates in a number of Emergency Support Functions and numerous coordination calls as part of the State's emergency management response system. DHS notes that the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and community based organizations, such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Hawaii Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, the Humane Societies, and the Food Bank and related food distribution networks, bring crucial expertise, experience, volunteers, and other resources to disaster response and recovery operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these resolutions.

**HCR-91**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:26:32 AM

Testimony for PDP on 3/18/2021 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joe Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. During this unprecedented pandemic the state looked very disorganized when trying to deal with it and it was not coordinated amongst the islands. Given that this was a new change for everyone, lets hope the state had learned from what happened and that they will create a plan that will better prepare for future health disasters, just as we do when physical disasters occur.