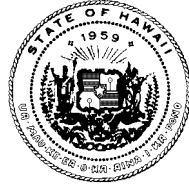


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON HCR91/HR76,  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

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:

HCR91/HR76 requests that the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency convene a resiliency health disaster task force to develop a coordinated statewide resiliency health disaster plan.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **offers comments** on HCR91/HR76.

The HI-EMA operational structure already has in place a very robust after-action reviewing process. This system of evaluation has repeatedly proven highly beneficial to the state in refining methods, actions, and standard procedures to deal with any disaster coordination, response, and recovery efforts.

This existing process also utilizes the state's experts in emergency management and related fields in analyzing the incident unto which it is applied, and thus anticipate any future coordination. This proposed task force must also utilize this same pool of knowledge and experience if it is to succeed. HI-EMA recommends that the Administrator of HI-EMA also be included in the task force if this proposal is implemented.

Thank you.

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

**HR-76**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:21:18 PM

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>
Ruston Utu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this resolution. If a coordinated statewide resilience health disaster program was developed it would help everyone to respond the same way when these disasters arise. This would also lessen issue, complaints and comparisons in how some would have responded differently.