



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Thursday, February 4, 2021
1:00 PM
Via Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
SB 1107
RELATING TO HAWAII EMERGENCY MANGEMENT AGENCY.

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) **supports** SB 1107, which establishes the Hazard Mitigation Special Fund to allow the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency the ability to monitor its own hazard mitigation projects.

Ensuring that the state, through the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, has both the capabilities and funding mechanisms in place in advance of a disaster to address all forms of hazard mitigation will have a positive impact on government and private sector infrastructure preparedness planning, and can improve response times following a disaster impacting essential community lifelines, including energy. Having an established funding mechanism in place can reduce the amount of time between identification of relevant hazard conditions and mitigation actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1107,
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 Nishihara, Vice-Chair English and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 1107 establishes the hazard mitigation special fund for the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** Senate Bill 1107.

HI-EMA has had funding to implement entering property to remove dangers to public safety, after taking appropriate measures with the landowners. This funding is nearly exhausted, making the program mute.

This measure would provide funding and to slightly expand program authority to allow the agency to continue its work in cutting, trimming, or removing dangerous trees or branches that pose a hazard to public safety; stabilizing or removing unstable rock and soil hazards; and cleaning streams and waterways to mitigate or prevent flooding or other natural hazards. This measure would also create a special mitigation fund mechanism, which when funded will support state mitigation projects.

Thank you.

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The State Legislature
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
February 4, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

LATE

TO: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair

RE: **SB 1107, RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez. I am the State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i.

AARP supports SB 1107 which establishes the hazard mitigation special fund for the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

The elderly are disproportionate victims of natural disasters. That is why AARP has a keen interest in maximizing the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's (HI-EMA) mitigation management capability. HI-EMA's ability to be timely in its response to mitigation strategies during natural disasters is in the best interest of kūpuna and all Hawaii residents.

This bill will modify HRS 127A-18 HRS by creating a new special fund that meets the definition of such a fund as found in 37-62 HRS. There are no costs associated with this change. We believe that it will allow the agency to better monitor its hazard mitigation projects and improve fund administration within HI-EMA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1107.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keali'i Lopez".

Keali'i Lopez, State Director
AARP Hawai'i



February 4, 2021

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

*Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair; Sen. Kalani English, Vice Chair; and Members
Public Hearing, February 4, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Videoconference*

**TESTIMONY of WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC
IN SUPPORT of S.B. 1107**

My name is William Anonsen and I am the Managing Partner/Principal of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC and a former member and chair of the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management (HACEM). We strongly support SB 1107 which would establish the Hazard Mitigation Special Fund permitting the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency the ability to monitor its specific hazard mitigation projects and related programs.

Despite our ongoing vigilance and efforts to protect our multi-island state and its citizens, major accidents, and disasters, as well as deliberate attacks, will occur. The challenge for us as a community is to build the capacity of island communities' to be as resilient as possible in the face of disruptions, disasters, and other crises. Ensuring we have an appropriately funded and robust community emergency response programs in place is paramount to the protection of life and property.

The mitigation special fund will further help to support community resilience and emergency preparedness programs will further strength our remote island state's ability to implement systems, infrastructures, government services, business, and citizenry to help our communities resist, absorb, recover from, and adapt to an adverse occurrence that may cause harm, destruction, or loss of national significance.

These funding sources for these critical all hazard mitigation programs are vital elements that will help to ensure we have the necessary additional capacity needed as a community to recognize threats and hazards and make appropriate adjustments that will improve future protection effort and emergency risk reduction measures.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 1107

Respectfully,

William F. Anonsen

Managing Partner/Principal

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