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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1321, HD1,
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Before the House Committee on
TRANSPORTATION

By

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

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

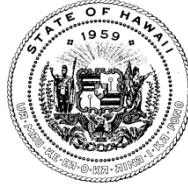
HB1321, HD1 requires the posting of depth gauge signs, in a manner consistent with the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, on any portion of a public highway that lies within a special flood hazard area and is prone to flooding. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 1321, HD1.

As the recent severe weather and resulting flooding that has afflicted the state clearly demonstrates, the need for accurate information and signage to keep the public informed is imperative. Installing depth gauge signs along public highways that lie within a special flood hazard area and is prone to flooding would be significant yet simple step to take. According to the manual on uniform traffic control devices, each flood hazard location would require two depth gauges and two warning signs. Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is committed to helping the Hawai'i Ohana prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies. This bill will help to ensure that result.

Thank you.

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TESTIMONY BY:

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March 18, 2021
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

H.B. 1321, H.D. 1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill to install depth gauge signs along public highways that lie within a special flood hazard area and are prone to flooding.

According to the manual on uniform traffic control devices, each flood hazard location would require two depth gauges and two warning signs. The total cost would be \$4,000.00 for each of these locations. Methods of signage and alerting the public through electronic devices are being considered.

Flood hazard sites as well as coastal road erosion and rockfall zones are currently being prioritized as part of DOT's resiliency study. Additionally, Light Detection and Ranging scan data will be reviewed to further analyze and measure the flood zone site to insure optimum installation. A prioritized list of flood hazard sites will be uploaded to the DOT website within nine months from the passage of this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1321-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:01:15 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Having depth gauge signs will be beneficial to inform and identify special flood hazard areas and areas that are prone to flooding.