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**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR OF  
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STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
**HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
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STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1930,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**WATER AND LAND**

BY

**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

JANUARY 30, 2024

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **SUPPORT HB1930**.

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency agrees with the legislature's intent found in HB1930. It is vitally important for the state and its citizens to be prepared for all natural or human-caused disaster or emergency and to be able to respond in an effective, timely manner.

HI-EMA strongly supports HB1930 that calls \$1,500,000 for the issuance of general obligation bonds. The DoD supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Governor's Budget. HI-EMA eagerly awaits the planning, design, and construction of warehouse facilities to store and deploy life-saving supplies and equipment to all counties within the State in the event emergencies on one or more of the Hawaiian islands.

Given Hawai'i's distinctive geographical features, it is imperative that we equip our state with the necessary tools and resources to quickly meet the needs of all our counties and citizens combined. Issuing general obligation bonds for fiscal year 2024-2025 will assist development of plans, designs, and eventual construction of the facilities to meet the demands associated with emergency threats. The appropriation authorized by this Act will go a considerable distance to develop the necessary plans to handle emergencies large or small.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1930.

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TO: Committee on Water and Land

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 30, 2024

TIME: 9am

PLACE: Conference Room 430

RE: HB1930 Relating to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Food Industry Association to express our strong support for House Bill No. 1930, which proposes the authorization of general obligation bonds and the appropriation of funds for the planning, design, and construction of a warehouse to expand the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's (HI-EMA) capacity to store and deploy life-saving supplies and equipment across all counties in the State.

Our organization recognizes the critical role that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency plays in ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities during natural or human-caused disasters. The proposed expansion of HI-EMA's warehouse facilities aligns with our shared commitment to preparedness, response, and recovery efforts that safeguard both residents and businesses across the Hawaiian islands.

The ability to store and deploy essential supplies and equipment efficiently is paramount in times of crisis, especially considering the unique geographic challenges of our state. As part of the food industry, we understand the importance of a well-coordinated emergency response system to ensure the timely distribution of food, water, and other necessities to affected areas. By supporting this legislation, the Hawaii Food Industry Association believes that the State will be better equipped to address the challenges posed by emergencies and disasters, thereby

enhancing the resilience of our communities. We commend the Legislature for its foresight in recognizing the need for infrastructure improvements that directly contribute to the safety and well-being of our residents.

We urge the Committee to approve H.B. No. 1930 and move it forward for further consideration. The proposed appropriation for the planning, design, and construction of the warehouse is an investment in the overall preparedness and resilience of our state, and we believe it is a crucial step toward ensuring the continued safety and security of our residents. Mahalo for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to the well-being of the people of Hawaii.

**HB-1930**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:26:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zhantell Lindo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1930.

I have been a member of the Molokai EOC for 22 years. HIEMA is a critical part of our ability to successfully protect and respond to our people in times of disaster and emergencies. I understand the importance of establishing strong and stable protocol that support quick deployment of resources to our island communities. I know the critical need for those support systems to be well stocked and have the ability implement strategies that are both dependable and time efficient.

The construction of a warehouse that will contain necessary and critical provisions for neighboring islands during an emergency or disaster is a necessary component to the kuleana and effectiveness of HIEMA and its supporting agencies statewide. By funding this project, we make a valuable investment in our island communities to get the support and aid they will need in some of the most difficult and challenging times.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB1930. I appreciate your time and consideration and mahalo you for your willingness to serve our great State of Hawaii.

Warmest Aloha

Zhantell Dudoit Lindo - Molokai, Hawaii

**HB-1930**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:28:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha 'aina kakou!

Mahalo to the Water and Land Committee for providing and facilitating this space for community engagement through public testimony.

My name is Keomailani Hanapi Hirata, a keiki o ka 'aina o Molokai and I am submitting written testimony in support for HB1930 relating to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HEMA).

Molokai, as a remote island, relies on getting resources from HEMA in a timely manner. Having a warehouse stocked with supplies and equipment is very important.

Mahalo,

Keomailani Hanapi Hirata