

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2120, HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
**AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS**
BY

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

MARCH 23, 2022

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and DeCoite, and
Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB2120,
HD1.

House Bill 2120, HD1 Clarifies current practices, policies, and procedures of
the state emergency management program and updates it to reflect the
prevailing emergency management best practices. Highlights the intent of the
State, governor, and emergency management agencies to address
environmental and climate impacts on emergency management.

Recent incidents, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have shown that certain
elements in chapter 127A, HRS, need to be revised to conform to current
emergency management practices, policies, and procedures of the State
Emergency Management Program and with the prevailing emergency
management best practices.

Sheltering processes in the State have changed and section 127A-19(a), (b),
and (c), which address related functions, need updating to clarify the roles of
the county emergency management and civil defense agencies to identify,
operate, and coordinate sheltering with private and nonprofit organizations.

House Bill 2120, HD1 would update wording to be in line with the state's,
governor's, and emergency manager's focus on climate and environmental
issues that impact Hawai'i.

In addition, House Bill 2120, HD1 revises 127A-16 (e) to clarify that up to \$2.5 million in the Major Disaster Fund may be rolled over to be used in future budget years for current emergencies, as well as the “future emergencies” already listed in the statute.

It should be noted that this rollover provision conflicts with language in another bill, House Bill 1586, HD 2, which would eliminate the rollover provision entirely. That bill was considered March 22 by the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2120, HD1.

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2120, HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRESENTED TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

MARCH 23, 2022

Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Nishihara and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees on Agriculture And Environment, and Public Safety, Intergovernmental, And Military Affairs:

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 2120, HD1.

This measure, if passed would, clarify current practices, policies, and procedures of the state emergency management program and updates it with the prevailing emergency management best practices. Highlights the intent of the State, governor, and emergency management agencies to address environmental and climate impacts on emergency management.

Recent natural and human-caused incidents, including the COVID19 pandemic, have proven that certain elements in chapter 127A, HRS, need to be revised to conform to current emergency management practices, policies, and procedures of the State Emergency Management Program and with the prevailing emergency management best practices across the nation.

These updates, which include adding language that highlight the state's, governor's and the HI-EMA's focus on climate and environmental impacts on Hawai'i, as well as address the roles of the counties in coordinating sheltering in the event of a disaster are very important to help our emergency management practices stay current and for the safety and security of Hawaii.

In addition, House Bill 2120, HD1 revises 127A-16 (e) to clarify that up to \$2.5 million in the Major Disaster Fund may be rolled over to be used in future budget years for current emergencies, as well as the "future emergencies" already listed in the statute.

It should be noted that this rollover provision conflicts with language in another bill referred to the House Committee on Finance, House Bill 1586, HD 2, which would eliminate the rollover

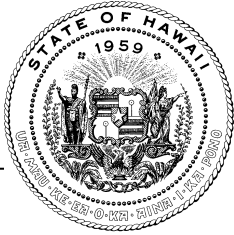
provision entirely. That bill was considered March 22 by the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of of HB 2120, HD1.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation.

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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
AND
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Wednesday, March 23, 2022
1:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
HB 2120, HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Nishihara and DeCoite and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2120, HD1, which clarifies current practices, policies, and procedures of the state emergency management program and updates it with the prevailing emergency management best practices; and highlights the intent of the State, governor, and emergency management agencies to address environmental and climate impacts on emergency management. updates several sections under Section 127A—1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Ensuring that Section 127A—1 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes that specifies the responsibilities and authorities of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is up to date with current practices and updated threats and hazards is important. It will have a positive impact on government and private sector infrastructure preparedness planning; and it will streamline the response following a disaster that impacts essential community lifelines, including energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2120-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 10:08:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2022 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't forget that there are many management practices that do not pull heavy weight on finance and budgeting, such as climate control mitigation. While the state is willing to spend millions of dollars to move roads, the best practice would be to plant coastal trees along the coastline. Many, many nonprofits and reforestry initiatives have plenty of trees to donate - but State micromanagement makes that not feasible, and prefers to spend millions on destroying more land instead.



The Senate
Committee On Agriculture and Environment
Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 1:45 PM

Testimony in Support of HB2120 HD1

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Stephanie Easley and I am testifying on behalf of the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS). We **are in support of HB2120 HD1, Relating to Emergency Management** which seeks to update and clarify language including how the State, Governor, Counties, and emergency management agencies address emergencies. As the Committees recognize, impacts from climate may result in substantial damage or loss to the environment, separate from and in addition to damage to the population or property. In certain circumstances, that environmental damage is best responded to by the Governor or a mayor under emergency management authorities. We strongly support the amendments to chapter 127A of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to add damage to the environment as a criteria for using emergency authorities.

Further, CGAPS has worked to assist agencies and non-governmental organizations to [prepare for emergency response to high-impact invasive species](#). Some invasive species pose such a high risk that new detections may require an immediate response using some of tools available through Hawaii's emergency authorities, to quickly contain and eradicate an invasive species because it is likely to cause unacceptable impacts on the environment. One hypothetical example is if the coral-killing disease known as “Stony Coral Tissue Loss” appears on Hawai‘i reefs. This disease was first seen on a reef in Florida in 2014 and is now killing more than 30 different species of reef-forming coral across 330 miles of Florida reef, and has also spread to other reefs in the Caribbean area. To date, tens of millions of coral have been killed, changing nearshore marine environments, local economies, and the ability of those reefs to protect shorelines from storms. It is not clear whether we could eradicate this disease, even if we detected it early. However, CGAPS and its partners strongly believe that every effort should be made to eradicate it if it does appear. The proposed language in this bill could really help.

We ask that the Committees consider clarifying that the intention of the amendments made by HB2120 HD1 include permitting the Governor and, when appropriate, the mayor of a county to use emergency authorities to respond to a particularly damaging invasive species. In summary, there is a solid and growing body of research that shows the synergistic effects between climate change and invasive species. Therefore, mitigation plans, including emergency authorities, must include a clear mechanism for response.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of our comments.

Aloha,
Stephanie Easley
CGAPS
pseasley@hawaii.edu

HB-2120-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 5:30:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2022 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Morita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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