

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2120, HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE
BY

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

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, 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 referred to the House Committee on Finance, House Bill 1586, HD 2, which would eliminate the rollover provision entirely.

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

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2120, HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

BY

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

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

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.

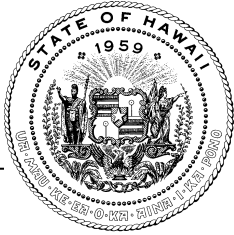
It should be noted that this rollover provision conflicts with language in another bill referred to the House Committee on Finance, House Bill 1586, HD 2, which would eliminate the rollover provision entirely.

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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Administrator Luke Meyers, luke.p.meyers@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, February 25, 2022

11:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
HB 2120 HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANGEMENT**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2120 HD1, which updates several sections under Section 127A—1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to reflect current practices, policies, and procedures of the State Emergency Management Program and prevailing emergency management best practices and adds wording that highlights the intent of the State, Governor, and emergency management agencies to address environmental and climate impacts on emergency management.

It is important to ensure the chapter 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. Bringing this chapter up to date will improve government and private sector infrastructure preparedness planning and help streamline the response following a disaster impacting essential community lifelines, including energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.