



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2120,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**  
BY

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

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

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

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

House Bill 2120 Amends sections 127A-1(a), -2, -3(e), - 12(b), - 16(e), -19(a), (b), and (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be consistent with the current practices, policies, and procedures of the State Emergency Management Program and with the prevailing emergency management best practices; adds wordings that highlight 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 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.

Processes in the State regarding sheltering have changed and section 127A-19(a), (b), and (c), which address related functions, needs 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 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.

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

Luke P. Meyers: [Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov](mailto:Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

Stephen F. Logan  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2120  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

BY

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

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli, and Members of the Committee on  
Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness:

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.

This measure, if passed, would amend sections 127A-1(a), -2, -3(e), -  
12(b), - 16(e), -19(a), (b), and (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to be  
consistent with the current practices, policies, and procedures of the State  
Emergency Management Program and with the prevailing emergency  
management best practices. It would also add wordings that highlight 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 COVID-  
19 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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

Stephen F. Logan  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

emergency management practices stay current and for the safety and security of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in Support of HB 2120.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation.

MG Kenneth S. Hara, [kenneth.s.hara.mil@mail.mil](mailto:kenneth.s.hara.mil@mail.mil); 808-672-1211  
Director Ron Han, [ronald.han@va.gov](mailto:ronald.han@va.gov); 808-433-0422

**HB-2120**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:23:29 AM

Testimony for PDP on 2/3/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Scott Glenn	Hawaii State Energy Office	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chief Deputy Officer Kirsten Baumgart Turner would also like access to this hearing.