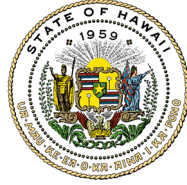


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 418 HD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **FINANCE**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Aloha Chair Yamashita Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

I am James Barros, Administrator of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

HI-EMA provides written testimony to **OFFER COMMENT** on HB418 HD1.

This measure appropriates an unspecified sum to repair sirens statewide that are part of the all-hazard statewide outdoor warning siren system.

HI-EMA appreciates the intent to designate additional resources to address siren maintenance issues. Multiple sirens across Hawai'i have been out of operation for various reasons, and the elected officials representing the areas served by those have been an invaluable resource in informing the community about HI-EMA's progress toward repairing them.

However, the challenges of vandalism, supply-chain delays, and scheduling repair visits have continued to hinder the needed timely repairs to sirens across the State. These issues will not be solved by supplemental appropriations alone, and HI-EMA is revising its management system for the siren network to improve oversight and reduce lag time in addressing identified repair needs, whatever the cause.

HI-EMA would like to note for the committee members that there is a Capital Improvement Project item under consideration by the Legislature that provides funding for siren modernization and maintenance. We recognize that this bill could be seen as addressing the same State need

and trust to the wisdom of the committee to identify the appropriate vehicle or vehicles to advance the objective of improved safety.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to develop a solution that delivers excellent siren maintenance services statewide. We are in favor of this bill provided that it does not conflict with or replace the priorities set forth in the administration's executive budget proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

HB-418-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:31:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

im inn strong support in hb418 beacuse people need to hear the outdoor warning system clearley or add strobe lights to the outdoor warning system who are hearing impaired