



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 2 pm, State Capitol Room 325  
HB 825, HD 1  
Relating to Emergency Powers

**TESTIMONY**

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Nakashima and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii requests amendment of HB 825, HD 1.** Regardless of whether there is an “emergency”, neither the Governor nor any Mayor should be authorized to suspend the public’s statutory right to see public records. For that reason, we request that HB 825, HD 2 incorporate SB 134 by adding a new Section which reads as follows:

*SECTION . Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:*

*"§127A- **Suspension of certain record requests; prohibited.** The governor or the mayor shall not, through any proclamation or declaration of emergency or any rule or order adopted pursuant to this chapter, suspend requests for:*

- (1) Public records pursuant to part II of chapter 92F; or*
- (2) Vital records or statistics pursuant to sections 338-18 or 338-18.5."*

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA  
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
  
LUKE P. MEYERS  
ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
  
PHONE (808) 733-4300  
FAX (808) 733-4287

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 825 HD1,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; GOVERNOR**

Before the House Committee on  
**JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

By

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

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 825 specifies the Governor's emergency powers to include the authority to assume control, use, or operate any state facility at no cost or requirement of compensation. An administrative process could be established to further support the intent of this legislation.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency **opposes** House Bill 825 HD1. The Governor already had this authority under HRS 127A to take control of state facilities.

Thank you.

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