

OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
in consideration of
HB 955
RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

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

The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** this measure.

In April 2020, during the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Office of Planning's Director and State's Sustainability Coordinator were activated to provide statewide COVID-19 disaster planning assistance to the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) to reopen the state's economy. HI-EMA assembled a team of state planners and coordinators to provide emergency disaster recovery planning. The State's Sustainability Coordinator and the Planning Director provided this emergency planning and disaster recovery assistance; and the Office of Planning co-founded the creation of the State Unified Recovery and Resiliency Facilitation Team (SURRF Team) in May 2020.

As a result from this activation, one month later the State's [*Beyond Recovery: Reopening Hawai'i*](#) strategy was announced by the Governor on May 18, 2020. As a member of the SURRF Team, OP provided planning assistance to the development of the second installment of the State's COVID-19 Disaster Recovery efforts, the [*Beyond Recovery: Safe Travels Hawai'i*](#) strategy, announced and published in October 2020.

The creation and activation of the State Disaster Recovery Framework was modeled after the FEMA Disaster Recovery Framework for the state-level, utilizing state agencies toward statewide disaster recovery. The SURRF Team also designed the State's COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Support Functions. The development of State Recovery Support Functions was necessary to provide concurrent State COVID-19 Disaster Response and Recovery operations jointly utilizing state agencies through the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) model and the Recovery Support Function (RSF) model.

The Office of Planning supports HB 955, which codifies and officially establishes the State Disaster Recovery Framework and Program. With a changing climate, the Office of Planning anticipates the need for future disaster recovery; and as a co-founding agency of this framework, the Office of Planning is committed to support the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator and the HI-EMA toward the equitable, sustainable, and resilient recovery for the State of Hawai'i.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 955,
RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Before the House Committee on
PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

By

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

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

House Bill 955 establishes the Hawaii State Disaster Recovery Program and Framework and describes the role of the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

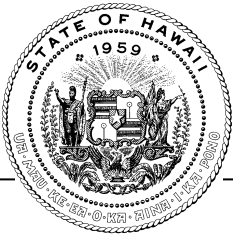
The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 955.

The enhancements provided by this measure to the State Disaster Recovery Program as well as the clarifications on the role of the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator (SDRC) will strengthen our State's preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities against both natural and human-caused disasters.

HI-EMA is responsible under HRS 127A for overall state emergency management coordination including recovery. HI-EMA works with federal partners including the Federal Emergency Management Agency after a disaster and this measure clarifies how the SDRC will work with HI-EMA and the HI-EMA Administrator in times of disaster on the long-term recovery items. The legislation also identifies connections to the state comprehensive emergency management plan and products produced by the SDRC.

Thank you.

Luke P. Meyers: Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

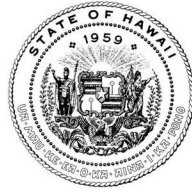
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In SUPPORT of
HB 955
RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

Chairs Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Eli, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) **supports** HB 955, an Administration bill, which enhances the capacity of the government, relevant agencies, and the community to recover from the impacts of disasters and seeks to build resilience and sustainability by establishing the framework for and the State Disaster Recovery Program, which includes the role of the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

State, public, and private organizations all share in providing for the public's health and safety, including when preparing for disaster response and recovery. It is essential that the response, recovery, and mitigation activities of all parties, including the energy assurance and resiliency activities of the HSEO, be fully aligned and effectively coordinated on a statewide basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of **Alexandra Slous**
State Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Office of the Governor

Before the
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness
February 9, 2021
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 309

In consideration of
House Bill No. 955
RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and committee members:

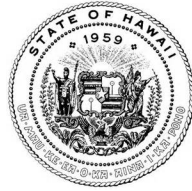
As the current State Disaster Recovery Coordinator (SDRC), I thank you for the opportunity to provide my perspective in Support of **House Bill 955**.

House Bill 955 proposes the institutionalization of a State Disaster Recovery Program and Framework, and further describes and codifies the role of the SDRC.

House Bill 955 reflects work under way since November 2019 to provide leadership and coordination for disaster recovery efforts statewide. This work has included: development and promulgation of a State Disaster Recovery Framework (structure); providing State support for recovery from 2018 disasters; COVID-19 pandemic recovery strategic planning and coordination; and building relationships, templates, and processes for future disasters.

The need for statewide recovery coordination was acknowledged following three major presidentially-declared disasters that severely affected Hawai'i's communities in 2018: the April Kaua'i flood; the Kīlauea eruption on the Island of Hawai'i; and Hurricane Lane that affected both the islands of Kaua'i and O'ahu. The SDRC position was originally established as a temporary appointed position in the Office of the Governor to meet this acknowledged need.

The 2018 Kīlauea eruption and Kaua'i floods displaced many residents from their homes and livelihoods. Recovery from these disasters is still ongoing as of January 2021 and is anticipated to take several more years. For example, over two years after these disasters, federal disaster recovery funds including FEMA Public Assistance and HUD Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery are still in process, and



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

will take a multi-year process to spend down on reconstruction projects such as road restoration and survivor relocation via property buyouts once available.

In addition to 2018 disasters, the COVID-19 global pandemic and its ongoing health, social, housing, and economic impacts accelerated the need for the State to build an effective and sustainable recovery operating framework. To bolster these efforts, key members of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, Office of Planning, and Office of Homeland Security established the State Unified Recovery and Resilience Facilitation (SURRF) team to serve as an advisory group to the SDRC and to provide subject matter expertise that informs planning processes and products. The SURRF team played a pivotal role in delivering the State's *Reopening Hawai'i Strategy, Safe Travels Hawai'i Strategy and Program*, and recently completed an outcome-driven economic recovery planning process.

The parallel efforts to build recovery capacity through the SDRC and SURRF team, stand up the recovery framework, and activate COVID-19 recovery operations were foundational actions to providing centralized disaster recovery coordination on behalf of the State. This level of coordination is essential to support our local communities in off-setting the long-term, complex nature of disaster recovery.

Through a State Disaster Recovery and Framework, as led and managed by the SDRC, the State will be empowered to engage and maximize intergovernmental coordination, contribute strategic guidance, and provide continuity throughout the duration of long-term recovery. These functions will also help to ensure programmatic consistency and effective use of available funds, and to identify and address recovery unmet needs, resulting in direct benefit to Hawai'i residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **House Bill 955**. On behalf of the Governor's Office and the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, we appreciate your attention and will be available to answer your questions, should you have any at this time.

Alexandra M. Slous
State Disaster Recovery Coordinator

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
COLONEL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 955,
RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
AND
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TOURISM

BY

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

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli and members of the Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness, and Chair Onishi, Vice-Chair Sayama and members of the Committee on Labor & Tourism:

I am Major General Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General, Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisor. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 955.

House Bill 955 establishes a Long-term Recovery Authority to work with the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator in enhancing the capacity of the government, relevant agencies, and the community to recover from the impacts of disasters and build resilience and sustainability in the State.

While the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator takes the lead regarding this measure, the Department of Defense and the state emergency management functions support House Bill 955.

Thank you.

MG Kenneth S. Hara, kenneth.s.hara.mil@mail.mil; 808-369-3455

LATE

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 10:28:01 AM

Testimony for PDP on 2/9/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alika Ke-Paloma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB955 and the need for a disaster recovery program.

LATE

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:27:51 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/9/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Want	Hawaii State Energy Office	Support	No

Comments:

I am available for comments.