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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 962
A BILL RELATING TO RELATING TO EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS RELATING TO
COVID-19 EXPENDITURES

PRESENTATION TO
COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Chair Linda Ichiyama, and Vice Chair Stacelynn K.M. Eli, and Members of the Committee.

I am Major General Kenneth S. Hara, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 962.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Department of Defense which supports HB962, Making Emergency Appropriations to the Department of Defense Relating to COVID-19 Expenditures.

Highlights of the Emergency Appropriation request funding for the States Safe Travels Program, Call Center Operations, National Guard state match requirements to federal funding, procurement, storage and distribution of personal protective equipment.

The department changes the overall request from our original Emergency Appropriation request from \$25, 545,290 to \$13,602,351. The following is the breakdown of the budget request:

The Safe Travels Hawaii funding of \$9,394,908 to \$8,413,549,

Call Center Funding from \$600,000 remains the same,

Funding for National Guard support from \$22,500 to zero,

Screeners tablets for \$90,000 to zero (Included in Safe Travels funding),

PPE/Warehousing/Distribution from \$15,427,882 to \$4,588,802

Reductions are based on new projection based on actual expenses and the anticipation that Hawaii National Guard funding through this state fiscal year will be 100% federally funded.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB962. If you have any questions or need additional information to our response, please contact our administrative services officer Rusty Spray at (808) 330-7744 or at rusty.spray@hawaii.gov



**Testimony to the House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness
Tuesday, February 9, 2021; 8:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0962, MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPENDITURES.

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

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0962, MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPENDITURES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, is part of the Administration's Package, and would appropriate in general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to the Department of Defense (DOD) for the continuation of various COVID-19 related relief and support programs.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

When our citizens first became infected with COVID-19 in February 2020, Hawaii's social safety net was not prepared. Basic necessities such as surgical and N-95 masks, gowns, shields, and other personal protection equipment (PPE) quickly became scarce. For our 15 FQHCs, very limited resources became stretched to the breaking point forcing providers to limit the provision of health care services in some instances.

I'm pleased to say that the system did not shut down because of the dedication and selfless actions of providers working with community leaders, legislators, the Governor and his Administration, and the Mayors and their Administrations to keep the safety net afloat.

It cannot be overstated that these actions saved countless lives in Hawaii.

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Tuesday, February 9, 2021; 8:30 a.m.
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The supply of PPE has stabilized due in large part to the efforts of the DOD and private partners, among others. Not only had the DOD helped to acquire large amounts of PPE, they were instrumental in storing and distributing these vital materials to health care providers situated across our islands.

This was a monumental job that the DOD did selflessly because it had to be done for the good of our People. For that, the HPCA wishes to thank them for truly being our heroes.

For these reasons, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this important measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 962,
RELATING TO MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPENDITURES.**

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 962 provides emergency appropriations in fiscal year 2020-2021 to the Department of Defense to continue funding for various COVID-19 response related programs and activities.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 962.

The support provided by this measure is necessary to provide the Department of Defense and other stakeholders with the critical funds needed to end the pandemic.

Thank you.

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