



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35,
REQUESTING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO DEVELOP A
PRELIMINARY DRAFT EVACUATION PLAN FOR THE AREAS WITHIN LAVA ZONES 1,2,3,4,
AND 6

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
BY

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

MARCH 24, 2022

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony offering **COMMENTS** on House Concurrent Resolution 35.

House Concurrent Resolution 35 requests the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to develop a preliminary draft evacuation plan for the areas of Hawai'i County within lava zones 1,2,3,4, and 6.

While an evacuation plan is a necessary element of comprehensive emergency management strategy and tactics, it cannot be developed in isolation. The HI-EMA maintains a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and does all-hazard planning including Alert & Warning.

As dictated by the National Incident Management System, which guides emergency management across the nation, all emergency response begins and ends at the local level. Evacuation plans are best laid out by the county responsible for the roads, emergency and public safety response personnel, and sheltering, with the support and coordination of state emergency management.

Since the approval of Senate Resolution 51 in the 2021 legislative session HI-EMA has participated in multiple meetings with Hawai'i County Civil Defense, the United States Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Park Service to discuss numerous aspects of an eruption affecting Hawai'i island.

The HI-EMA provided a report to the legislature in regards to SR 51, citing – among other things – a lack of financial and personnel resources to sufficiently coordinate, study, and develop an evacuation plan outside of its CEMP and all-hazards planning. This has not changed for the current legislative session as the HI-EMA continues to manage response and recovery for multiple incidents with limited financial and personnel resources. As part of the State CEMP, the HI-EMA is developing a Volcano Operational Support Plan that should meet the intent of this request. Due to the continued COVID-19 Incident and the upcoming hurricane season, current resources will be challenged to provide a detailed document by the date requested.

If passed, the time and effort used to respond to this measure could negatively impact emergency management efforts and response for ongoing and future emergencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony offering comments on House Concurrent Resolution 35.

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

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 2:40:59 PM

Testimony for PDP on 3/24/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution. We need to have an evacuation plan in place prior to a disaster. I live in lava zone 3.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:48:47 PM

Testimony for PDP on 3/24/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 35. This resolution would call for the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to develop an evacuation plan for residents living in certain lava zones. In the event of a disaster such as a tsunami, hurricane, volcanic eruption it will become necessary to move people quickly and safely to shelters. An evacuation plan would help provide order to what could become a chaotic and dangerous situation. Let's not compound a bad situation by being unprepared.

Mahalo for your consideration. Barbara Cigainero, Keaau 96749

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:16:48 AM

Testimony for PDP on 3/24/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Lindbergh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this concurrent resolution with HR 30. Thank you.

Julia Lindbergh, RN

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 6:07:12 AM

Testimony for PDP on 3/24/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Ann Tang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HCR 35. I live in zone 3 and thought it was safe. If there is a possibility of a lava flow in my area, why would there not be an evacuation and emergency plan in effect? This is the government's responsibility to protect and keep its citizens safe. Please get it together and pass HCR 35 ASAP!

Judith Tang - resident of Pahoa

LATE

I have personally been through 4 lower Puna Pele lava flows.

2018 left my black sands Beach subdivision home due to the poor air quality.

An evacuation plan is and has been in the works for 15+ years.

Tremors and small quake's are still on GOING.

To create an alternative route is essential.

To evacuate, with the new population numbers is essential

This testimony is the TRUTH re: smooth and necessary plan needed ASAP.

Please 🙏🙏🙏 legislators including ige, for the safety of thousands of Puna district 4 taxpayers voters citizens of MOKU O KEAWE- we the people of Puna district request, immediately, your KULEANA.

KE AKUA BLESSINGS TO ALL.

MAHALOS,. HOPE ALOHALANI CERMELJ FROM LOWER PUNA

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/24/2022 9:17:02 AM

Testimony for PDP on 3/24/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esteban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Esteban De Hoyos support this bill