



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 30,  
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 Resolution 30.

House Resolution 30 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 Resolution 30.

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

**HR-30**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:43:23 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: I am writing in support of HR 30. This bill would required the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to develop an evacuation plan for areas within certain lava zones. There are numerous reasons why citizens may have to evacuate an area: tsunami, hurricanes, earthquakes, lava flow. With the onset of climate change severe weather patterns will be on the increase and coastal flooding will become common. It is important that we have a plan to move people safely and quickly to shelters. Let's not compound a natural disaster with a man-made disaster due to lack of preparation.

Mahalo for your consideration. Barbara Cigainero, Keaau 96749

**HR-30**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 6:16:54 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith Ann Tang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HR 30. I live in Pahoia which has had devastating lava flows. I do not quite understand why Hawaii's Emergency Management Agency does not have an evacuation plan in effect to keep its citizens safe. Kilauea is erupting right now. Mauna Loa has an extreme possibility of erupting. What is the state waiting for? Please pass HR 30 ASAP!

Judith Tang - Resident

**HR-30**

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Judith Tang - Resident

**HR-30**

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 3:34:21 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jimmy Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public Safety is top priority. A driving route to safety into Hilo is a must. Even though Lava in several incidents moves very slow which means more time to get out.

**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

**HR-30**

Submitted on: 3/24/2022 9:20:33 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Esteban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Esteban De Hoyos support this bill