

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
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GOVERNOR

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

Before the  
Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness  
March 16, 2021  
9:00 a.m., Via videoconference

In consideration of  
**Senate Bill No. 1109**  
**RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and committee members:

As the current State Disaster Recovery Coordinator (SDRC), I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **Support of Senate Bill 1109**, which codifies and officially establishes the State Disaster Recovery Framework and Program, and further describes the role of the SDRC.

**Senate Bill 1109** reflects work in progress since Nov. 2019 to provide leadership and coordination for disaster recovery efforts statewide, including: development and promulgation of a State Disaster Recovery Framework modeled after FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework; COVID-19 pandemic recovery strategic planning; and building relationships, templates, and processes for recovery from current and future disasters.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing socio-economic impacts accelerated the need to create an effective and sustainable recovery operating framework. To meet this need, key members of the Governor's Office, Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, Office of Planning, and Office of Homeland Security founded the State Unified Recovery and Resilience Facilitation (SURRF) team. The SURRF team played a pivotal role in delivering the State's [Reopening Hawai'i Strategy](#), [Safe Travels Hawai'i Program](#), and designed and completed an outcome-driven economic recovery planning process. In parallel, the SURRF team developed and launched a Recovery Support Function (RSF) structure for Hawai'i to complement the existing Emergency Support Function (ESF) structure.

The collaborative planning and coordination demonstrated by the SDRC and SURRF team during the COVID-19 pandemic is essential to offsetting the complex, long-term nature of disaster recovery. Moving forward, the SDRC and SURRF team are focused on actualizing near-term economic recovery progress by advancing near-term economic recovery initiatives and facilitating opportunities to secure federal funding. In aggregate, and as reflected in **SB 1109**, these efforts seek to build capacity for 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 SENATE BILL 1109, SD2,**  
**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:

Senate Bill 1109, SD2 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** Senate Bill 1109, SD2.

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.

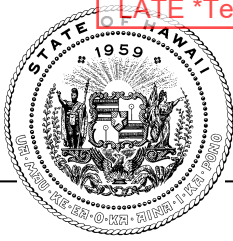
HI-EMA is responsible under HRS 127A for overall state emergency management coordination including recovery. HI-EMA works with federal partners including the Federal Emergency Management Agency after a disaster and this measure clarifies how the SDRC will work with HI-EMA and the HI-EMA Administrator 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.

HI-EMA recommends that the last sentence of Section 2. be removed to keep consistency with comprehensive emergency management planning direction and guidance in HRS 127 A.

Thank you.

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# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
9:00 AM

in consideration of  
**SB 1109, SD 2**  
**RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.**

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

The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** SB 1109, SD 2, which codifies and officially establishes the State Disaster Recovery Framework and Program.

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 Planning Director and Sustainability Coordinator 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 toward 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.

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 HI-EMA toward the equitable, sustainable, and resilient recovery for the State of Hawai'i.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
COLONEL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1109, SD2,  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

BY

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

MARCH 15, 2021

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

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 SB 1109, SD2.

Senate Bill 1109, SD2 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 **supports** Senate Bill 1109, SD2.

Thank you.

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

**SB-1109-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:01:34 AM

Testimony for PDP on 3/16/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Want	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Available for questions.

**SB-1109-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:19:50 AM

Testimony for PDP on 3/16/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephen	DEF	Support	No

Comments:

I'll testify for the Department of Defense.