



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2156,
RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 2156.

Senate Bill 2156 appropriates moneys to the state Department of Defense for fiscal year 2021-2022 to provide relief from flooding events; provides for the lapse of the moneys on an unspecified date.

Recent incidents such as the March and December 2021 severe storms show that the state of Hawaii is vulnerable to many natural disasters; flooding events related to severe storms, in particular.

Senate Bill 2156 creates a legislative vehicle to appropriate funds to the Department of Defense should a severe storm or other incident occur during the legislative session. Creating such a vehicle would pre-position a fiscal tool to manage and deploy resources quickly and with a shortened set-up time in the event an emergency incident requires it.

While there is no guarantee such an incident will occur, HI-EMA sees value in such preparatory work to deliver assistance to the people of Hawaii as quickly and with as few obstacles as possible in the event that it does.

The HI-EMA is in support of this bill provided it does not conflict with the Governor's budget priorities. HI-EMA acting as the lead for the statewide coordination for the all-hazard incident management has successfully leveraged similar previous funding opportunities as result of incidents impacting the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2156.

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WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2156

February 8, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2156.

S.B. No. 2156 does the following: 1) appropriate unspecified amounts of general funds to the Department of Defense for FY 22 to provide relief from flooding events; and 2) provide for the lapse of the moneys on unspecified dates and exemption of the funds from Section 37-74(d), HRS.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.