

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3087, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT

PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

BY

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

MARCH 23, 2022

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans.

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor.

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 3087, SD1, HD1.

This measure, if passed would, create a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to reincorporate the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, and repeals chapter 128F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

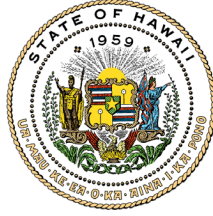
I support the logical alignment of the HI-EMA with best emergency management practices across the country. Moving EMAC terms and provisions into the emergency management series of HRS chapters provides concise, logical organization to the emergency management laws of Hawai'i.

In a previous hearing, this committee made an amendment to this measure's companion bill, House Bill 2119, HD2, modifying the existing Emergency Management Assistance Compact language to name the Adjutant General as the "designated state official who is assigned responsibility for emergency management." Those amendments were made in House Bill 2119, HD2 on p. 3 and p. 4 lines 19-21 and 1-4, respectively.

While the Adjutant General is the Director of Emergency Management for the state, after further discussion within our department, we suggest replacing the Adjutant General, with either "Administrator of the agency," or to use "Director of Emergency Management" (in lieu of the Adjutant General) if the Adjutant General language is still preferred.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of of SB 3087, SD1, HD1.

MG Kenneth Hara, kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001
Administrator Luke Meyers, luke.p.meyers@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3087, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

BY

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

March 23, 2022

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice-Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 3087, SD1, HD1.

Senate Bill 3087, SD1, HD1 Creates a new chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to reincorporate the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Repeals chapter 128F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Through the authority of the Governor, the EMAC is implemented by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, which is governed by chapter 127A, HRS. Having the EMAC terms and provisions moved into the emergency management series of HRS chapters provides concise, logical organization to the emergency management laws of Hawaii.

In a previous hearing, this committee made an amendment to this measure's companion bill, House Bill 2119, HD2, modifying the existing Emergency Management Assistance Compact language to name The Adjutant General (TAG) as the "designated state official who is assigned responsibility for emergency management." Those amendments were made in House Bill 2119, HD2 on p. 3 and p. 4 lines 19-21 and 1-4, respectively.

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact is codified U.S. Congressional language which is adopted by all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The HI-EMA would respectfully request you keep the language of this bill in its original form, thus keeping the EMAC language consistent across all participating partners.

The other option would be to replace The Adjutant General with the “Administrator of the agency”, who acts as the State Coordinating Officer for resources coming into State during an emergency. This also aligns with the other emergency management responsibilities that are identified in 127A HRS.

The HI-EMA believes that placing the EMAC within chapter 127A, HRS, which already designates the adjutant general as the state director of emergency management, makes the amendment added to HB2119, HD2, or any proposed similar amendments to this measure, unnecessary.

Senate Bill 3087, SD1, HD1 would align HI-EMA with best emergency management practices across the country. This measure is expected to have no fiscal impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 3087, SD1, HD1.

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