



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3088  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS, and AGRICULTURE  
AND ENVIRONMENT**  
BY

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

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 3088.

Senate Bill 3088 Amends sections 127A-1(a), -2, -3(e), - 12(b), - 16(e), -19(a),  
(b), and (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be consistent with the current  
practices, policies, and procedures of the State Emergency Management  
Program and with the prevailing emergency management best practices; adds  
wordings that highlight the intent of the State, Governor, and emergency  
management agencies to address environmental and climate impacts on  
emergency management.

Recent incidents, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have proven  
that certain elements in chapter 127A, HRS, need to be revised to conform to  
current emergency management practices, policies, and procedures of the  
State Emergency Management Program and with the prevailing emergency  
management best practices.

Processes in the State regarding sheltering have changed and section 127A-  
19(a), (b), and (c), which address related functions, needs updating to clarify  
the roles of the county emergency management and civil defense  
agencies to identify, operate, and coordinate sheltering with private and  
nonprofit organizations.

Senate Bill 3088 would update wording to be in line with the state's, governor's, and emergency manager's focus on climate and environmental issues that impact Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 3088.

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3088  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRESENTATION TO  
THE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS, and AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

BY

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

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Chairs Nishihara and Gabbard, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Nishihara, and members of the Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, And Military Affairs, and Agriculture and Environment,

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 3088.

This measure, if passed would amend sections 127A-1(a), -2, -3(e), - 12(b), - 16(e), -19(a), (b), and (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to be consistent with the current practices, policies, and procedures of the State Emergency Management Program and with the prevailing emergency management best practices. It would also add wordings that highlight the intent of the State, Governor, and emergency management agencies to address environmental and climate impacts on emergency management.

Recent natural and human-caused incidents, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have proven that certain elements in chapter 127A, HRS, need to be revised to conform to current emergency management practices, policies, and procedures of the State Emergency Management Program and with the prevailing emergency management best practices across the nation.

These updates, which include adding language that highlight the state's, governor's and the HI-EMA's focus on climate and environmental impacts on Hawai'i, as well as address the roles of the counties in coordinating sheltering in the event of a disaster are very important to help our emergency management practices stay current and for the safety and security of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3088.

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



**SIERRA CLUB  
OF HAWAI'I**

**LATE**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

February 15, 2022 1:00 PM Via Video Conference

**In SUPPORT of SB3088:** Relating to Emergency Management

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Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Gabbard, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Nishihara, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB3088** Relating to Emergency Management.

Climate change is with us and its threats likely will increase with time. It is necessary to revise our statutes to recognize this reality. Accordingly, SB3088 amends the provisions governing emergency management to address protection of the environment and climate impacts in the development of emergency management plans. We agree this is necessary, and strongly support passage of this bill.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on **SB3088**.

Mahalo,

Dave Raney  
Co-Chair  
Sierra Club Climate Adaptation and Restoration Team

**SB-3088**

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 5:19:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/15/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Dictatorship!!



The Senate  
Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Committee On Agriculture and Environment  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
1:00 PM VIA Videoconference

### Testimony in Support for SB3088

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Gabbard, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Stephanie Easley and I am testifying on behalf of the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS). We **are in support of SB3088, *Relating to Emergency Management*** which highlights the intent of the State, Governor, and emergency management agencies to address environmental and climate impacts on emergency management.

As the Committees recognize, impacts from climate may result in substantial damage to the environment, separate from and in addition to damage to the population or property. That environmental damage is best responded to by the Governor and a mayor under emergency management authorities. We strongly support the amendments to chapter 127A of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to add damage to the environment as a criteria for using emergency authorities.

Further, CGAPS has worked to assist agencies and non-governmental organizations to [prepare for emergency response to high-impact invasive species](#). Some invasive species pose such a high risk that new detections require a broad and immediate response, including through Hawaii's emergency authorities, to prevent the establishment or spread of the species. There is a solid and growing body of research that shows the synergistic effects between climate change and invasive species, and mitigation plans, including emergency authorities, must include a clear mechanism for response.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of our comments.

Aloha,  
Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS  
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