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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1163 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO CIVIL AIR PATROL

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **FINANCE**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 28, 2023

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

I am James Barros, Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

HI-EMA provides written testimony to **SUPPORT** SB1163 SD1 HD1.

This measure would appropriate funds for operational expenses of the Hawaii wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

The CAP is a key partner in state emergency management. Their personnel regularly serve in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) Emergency Operations Center during emergency and disaster incident responses. They assist in the field with everything from spreading warnings in remote areas before an incident, providing pre-assessment aerial reconnaissance, to assessing the damages and impacts afterward.

CAP recently provided vital support and assistance during the Mauna Loa eruption on the Big Island, providing overflights that allowed for aerial photography to monitor the status of the lava flows and document damage to support a request for a federal disaster declaration.

SB1163 SD1 HD1 would reinstate funding which CAP previously received from the State. We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities in the Governor's budget proposals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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