

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**KENNETH S. HARA**  
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
**HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2016,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**WATER AND LAND**

BY

**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **COMMENT** on HB 2016.

This bill would appropriate funds for the installation of a new emergency siren in the Pacific Palisades area of O'ahu.

Our concern with this bill is that appropriating funds for specific sirens may reduce resources for other sirens in the system that also require attention. It would be beneficial to have funds accessible for the entire system, which would benefit communities throughout Hawai'i based on statewide priorities.

HI-EMA recognizes the value of the siren system as an emergency alert tool, and the Pacific Palisades community's concern over having an inoperable siren. The existing siren requires replacing a frozen motor and a pole damaged by dry rot. A work order has been issued for the repair of the Palisades siren, forecasting site work and augering to begin in October 2024.

HI-EMA does have concerns and would like to provide the following comments:

- Certain places in the Honolulu through Ko'olina areas have already been designated for siren installations (7 ct), with work to be completed by 2025
- Once installed, siren specs are placed at a 300 feet distance, having 121 decibels; those within 150 feet will be able to clearly hear sirens being activated.

- The closest emergency siren is located at Pearl City High School.
- The next siren in close proximity is positioned at the Pearl City District Park.

Although sirens are the most recognizable means of providing emergency alerts, they are only one tool in the emergency notification toolbox, which includes alerts via multiple communication pathways such as television, radio, and mobile phones.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and comments on House Bill 2016.

James Barros: [james.barros@hawaii.gov](mailto:james.barros@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300

**HB-2016**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:03:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charmaine Doran	Neighborhood Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony submitted earlier. Mahalo to our elected officials for bringing this measure forward. This siren, which has been inoperable or malfunctioning for years, is the only siren in palisades. It is also located across the our elementary school. It will help to keep our neighborhood safe and is essential to emergency operations. On behalf of my community, please approve this measure.

**HB-2016**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 10:43:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fixing the siren in Palisades and modernizing/upgrading the siren system is essential for emergency preparedness. I strongly support the bill.

Daniel C. (Dan) Smith

Palisades resident and Neighborhood Board Member

**HB-2016**

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 12:17:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shawne Schmidt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important for sirens to work. We time to prepare.