

FOLLOW ON TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY



IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2016 HD1
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
RELATING TO EMERGENCIES

March 9, 2024

Aloha, Chair Senator Wakai, Vice Chair Senator Elefante and Committee members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I am submitting this testimony representing our board as a whole and the over 6,000 residents and families that live in Pacific Palisades in Pearl City. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB2016 HD1, that would acquire funding to replace the Pacific Palisades emergency siren that has been inoperable for an unsatisfactory period of about two years.

I most strongly request that you approve funding to replace this siren with the most advanced technology siren that allows direct verbal audible commands from the Emergency Management Offices to alert and warn our Pearl City residents in Pacific Palisades during emergency preparedness exercises and potential disasters. The nearest next siren to Pacific Palisades is at the Pearl City High School a great distance from the Palisades residential area. Our residents may not be using their cell phones, radio or watching TV during an emergency event; **OUR RESIDENTS REQUIRE THIS FUNDING TO SUPPORT THIS SIREN REPLACEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

We most strongly urge you to pass HB2016 HD1. The residents in Pacific Palisades desperately require this new technology siren that will provide our residents with advanced warning. **Your decision could be life saving for our residents.** Mahalo, respectfully,

Larry S. Veray

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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2016 HD1,
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 11, 2024

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **COMMENT** on HB 2016 HD1.

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 HD1.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

LATE

HB-2016-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 11:23:20 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendon Kalei'aina Lee	Testifying for Pearl City Neighborhood Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was born and raised in Pacific Palisades. It has been decades since our emergency siren has been operational. Given the recent disaster in Lahaina, and the fact that Pacific Palisades is classified as a wild fire danger zone, it is imperative that our siren be made operational. The nearest siren is at Pearl City High School and can not be heard throughout all of Palisades.

LATE

HB-2016-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 12:25:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charmaine Doran	Testifying for Pearl City Neighborhood Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for considering this bill in support of a new siren for the Pacific Palisades community. This is a public health and safety matter. This siren is our only state emergency siren. Located across our only elementary school, it has been inoperable and unfixable for many years now. As a community next to a state forest area with a single roadway, this siren is essential to keeping our residents safe. This siren is the first line of defense against threats for our school and our community.

Our community has reported this inoperable siren many times to no avail. The Pearl City Neighborhood Board has acted on two separate occasions and held countless discussions in support of replacing this siren. The lack of action by state emergency agencies has brought us here requiring intervention by the state legislature. At some point, it is essential that the state legislature explore why this siren has yet to be replaced. But that investigation should not be at the expense of the 6,000 residents that call Pacific Palisades home.

By passing this bill, you will signal to our community, state agencies, and the public, that the state legislature has learned from the Lahaina fires the significance of emergency alerts and sirens during disasters. Emergency facilities delayed is public health and safety put in jeopardy.

Mahalo for considering this bill and for making the Pacific Palisades community a priority.

LATE

HB-2016-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 9:56:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/11/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Personally and as a member of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board I strongly urge you to pass HB2016 HD1. The residents in Pacific Palisades living higher up deserve immediately a working replacement siren for warning. I live at the low spot in Palisades and can hear a siren in the Momilani area although it is not very loud.

In addition, I most strongly urge you to approve funding to later replace this siren with the most advanced technology siren that allows direct verbal audible commands from the Emergency Management Offices to alert and warn Pearl City residents in Pacific Palisades during both emergency preparedness exercises and potential disasters. This is an opportunity to pilot new technology after meeting the immediate need.

Please pass HB2016 HD1. Mahalo.

Daniel C. Smith