

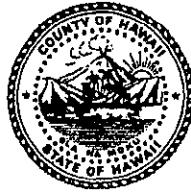
SCR 71

(PROPOSED SD1)

REQUESTING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO
CONDUCT A STUDY REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY AND COST OF
CONSTRUCTING A SMALL, RURAL LANDING SITE OR AIRSTRIP
FOR USE BY THE NATIONAL GUARD

PSM

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396
FAX: (808) 961-8912
EMAIL: donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 71, SD1, (Proposed), which the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is requested to conduct a study regarding the feasibility and cost of constructing a small, rural landing site or airstrip for use by the National Guard and emergency responders in south Puna and evaluate the possibility of using basalt rebar or lunar basaltic cement in the construction.

I support the intent of the proposed SD1, and agree that a study should be conducted so that all options are explored in regards to the health and safety of our residents.

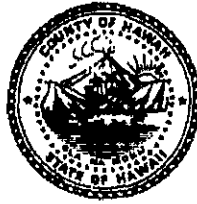
Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Onishi".

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi
Hawai'i County Council Member

Aaron S. Y. Chung
Council Member
District 2 South Hilo



Phone No.: (808) 961-8272
Fax No.: (808) 961-8912
aaron.chung@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 2, 2015

Dear Chairman Espero, Vice-Chair Baker and Members of the Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee:

Subject: **Testimony in Support of SCR 71 and Proposed SD 1**

Please accept this brief testimony in support of SCR 71 and proposed SD 1, which requests the State Department of Transportation to conduct a study regarding the feasibility and cost of constructing a small rural landing site or airstrip for use by the National Guard and/or emergency responders in South Puna, and to evaluate the possibility of using basalt rebar or lunar basaltic cement in the construction of the facility. The lava flow which threatens lower Puna has certainly highlighted the need for such facilities, but there are also other practical considerations which would tend to justify such facilities as well.

I can safely represent on behalf of my Hilo constituents, that we support any measures which serve to advance the security, and well-being of our neighbors in lower Puna. We join in with the rest of our island family in supporting the above legislation.

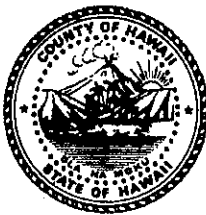
Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Chung".

AARON S. Y. CHUNG, Council Member
Hawai'i County Council

ASYC:awm

DANIEL K. PALEKA JR.
Council District 5 – Puna Mauka



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*County of Hawai'i
25Aupuni Street, Suite 1402
Hilo, Hawaii 96720*

Dear Representative Ruderman and Transportation Members of the Senate:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SCR 71.

This resolution requests funds for the Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study for a harbor and/or an airstrip to be designed and constructed for Lower Puna. An airstrip in the rural district of Puna could be used for a variety of reasons that include medical evacuations, freight and passenger transport, and even tour groups.

This is an important investment in our community's future and I ask that you recommend approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel K. Paleka Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Daniel K. Paleka Jr.
Hawai'i County Council Member

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: SCR 71, Proposed SD 1
Hearing Date: April 7, 2015
Time/Place: Conference Room 229, 1:15 p.m.

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports SCR 71, Proposed SD1, which request the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to conduct a study regarding the feasibility and cost of constructing a small, rural landing site or airstrip for use by the National Guard and emergency responders in south Puna and evaluate the possibility of using basalt rebar or lunar basaltic cement in the construction.

The district of Puna has been under the threat of the "July 27 lava flow" that has the potential future to severely impact services to thousands of lower Puna residents. Essentially, the lava flow will cut them off from critical transportation infrastructure, which is their lifeline to amongst other things, critical emergency services. The area of lower Puna, currently impacted by the lava flow is home to nearly 10,000 people who live scattered about the nearly 100 square miles predicted to be isolated by an expected impact to Highway 130. Access to critical emergency services and Emergency Medical Transport to the hospital will be severely delayed due to lengthened travel times. The current time from Pahoa to Hilo via highway 130 is approximately 30 minutes without traffic. Once the flow crosses highway 130 and the alternate Makai routes, travel by ground will then go through the Chain of Craters road and take approximately 2 hours without traffic. Given these challenges it is an absolute necessity to the well being of the residents within the flow to provide alternative travel measures by air and sea.

Retrospective data analysis from the Hawai'i Fire Department shows that approximately 220 emergency incidents are generated from within the impact area per month in which our department is responsible for (Fire, Rescue, EMS, Hazardous Materials).



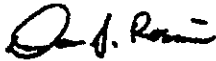
The Honorable Wil Espero, Chair
April 2, 2015
Page 2

The District of Puna is roughly the size of the Island of Kauai, has a population of 45,326 and has become one of the fastest growing districts in the State of Hawai'i with a population increase of 44% since 2000. Over the next 15 years the population of Puna is expected to grow to 75,000, nearly half the current population of Hawai'i Island.

The HFD supports SCR 71, Proposed SD1. This request is presented to meet the potential increasing demands for Emergency Services on Hawai'i Island specific to Puna in regards to its needs based on the impending lava flow induced isolation. A project of this magnitude takes time. However, the June 27th Lava flow event has already shown the need to prepare for the future of lower Puna.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 932-2903 or fire@co.hawaii.hi.us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 1:05 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: ttravis12@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR71 on Apr 7, 2015 13:15PM

SCR71

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for PSM on Apr 7, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Travis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support this measure. Although the immediate danger of lava crossing major thoroughfares into and out of lower Puna is diminished in the past weeks, the specter of restricted access in an emergency remains. Action of this resolution would address that restricted access.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 7:43 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: richard@bidleman.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR71 on Apr 7, 2015 13:15PM

SCR71

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for PSM on Apr 7, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Bidleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Should lower Puna be cut off by a lava flow, we need to have a small emergency airport.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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