



# LATE TESTIMONY

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

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## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of

**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

before the

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

Tuesday, April 07, 2015

1:15 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

**SCR71, 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 AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS IN SOUTH  
PUNA AND EVALUATE THE POSSIBILITY OF USING BASALT REBAR OR  
LUNAR BASALTIC CEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION.**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism supports the intent of this resolution to evaluate the possibility of using basalt rebar in constructing an airstrip for use by the National Guard and emergency responders in South Puna.

The Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) referenced in the resolution has recently installed a basalt sidewalk in downtown Hilo and is leading the State's effort in evaluating basalt rebar as a substitute for steel/iron rebar for civil engineering construction. This resolution aligns with PISCES' interest in conducting an engineering study to assess the properties of basalt rebar for State construction (basalt rebar is stronger and lighter than steel or iron rebar, and does not rust).

DBEDT defers to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency on the impact of this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

# LATE TESTIMONY

**VALERIE T. POINDEXTER**

*Council Vice Chair  
Council District 1*



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## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

April 6, 2015

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental  
and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Email: [senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Email: [senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Subject: Testimony Supporting SCR 71 Proposed SD 1, Relating to a Study for a South Puna  
Airstrip or Landing Site

Hearing: April 7, 2015, 1:15 p.m., Room 229

Dear Chair Espero and Vice Chair Baker:

On behalf of myself and the constituents of Council District 1 in Hamakua, County of Hawai'i, I would like to express our support of SCR 71 Proposed SD 1, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

This resolution requests 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 and emergency responders in South Puna and evaluate the possibility of using basalt rebar or lunar basaltic cement in the construction.

I strongly support and urge the enactment of SCR 71 Proposed SD 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie T. Poindexter".

Valerie T. Poindexter, Council Member  
District 1, Hamakua

VP/sc

William P. Kenoi  
Mayor

Walter K.M. Lau  
Managing Director



## County of Hawaii

### CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

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# LATE TESTIMONY

Darryl J. Oliveira  
Civil Defense Administrator

April 6, 2015

Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Room 206  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero,

I would like to take this opportunity to submit this letter of support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 71 SD1 requesting the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to conduct a study regarding the feasibility and cost of constructing a small emergency use airport in South Puna.

With the ongoing volcanic eruption and previously ensuing lava flow that threatened to inundate and isolate portions of the Puna community on Hawaii Island; transportation and access was identified as a critical need and priority to maintain. As proposed in the aforementioned resolutions, a feasibility and cost analysis of developing emergency air transport capability on a limited scale to address the possible isolation impact would provide clarity and confirm the viability of this transportation option.

I realize and appreciate the cost and resources that may be necessary to complete such a study however, in light of what has and may transpire with respect to the eruption activities, the proposed study would lay the foundation for future discussions as to the potential options and assist with the managing of expectations based on sound evidence and a comprehensive analysis.

I humbly request your support of SCR 71 SD1 and would welcome the opportunity to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darryl J. Oliveira".

Darryl J. Oliveira  
Administrator

Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency

