

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**LATE**

TESTIMONY ON  
**HOUSE BILL 457, RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF**

Before the House Committee on  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

by

THOMAS L. TRAVIS  
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Takayama and Vice-Chair Gates, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 457.

House Bill 457 Establishes a pilot program to retrofit various Department of Education buildings to withstand a category 5 hurricane. Requires the Department of Education to work in collaboration with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. Appropriates funds.

Note: My comments represent HI-EMA concerns at the state emergency management level only. I would defer to the separate comment/testimonies of the county emergency management agencies, as they would be the jurisdictions impacted by this legislation at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 457.

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**LATE**

**Date:** 02/08/2019

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 430

**Committee:** House Public Safety, Veterans,  
& Military Affairs

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0457 RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a pilot program to retrofit various Department of Education buildings to withstand a category 5 hurricane. Requires the Department of Education to work in collaboration with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports HB 0457 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Education approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



## O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 8, 2019

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 430, State Capitol

### HB 457 RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

To the Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair; the Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 457 relating to Disaster Preparedness.**

HB 457 establishes a pilot program to retrofit various Department of Education buildings to withstand a category 5 hurricane. HB 457 requires the Department of Education to work in collaboration with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. It also appropriates funds for this pilot program.

DPH demands the protection of the people of Hawai`i and their property against natural and man-made disasters. DPH believes in the science of climate change, affirm human activity as its primary cause and main driver, and support emergency preparedness and planning efforts to mitigate its impacts. This includes investment in early warning systems, emergency management and response systems and adequate emergency sheltering. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 20, ln. 28-32.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to invest in early warning systems, emergency management and response systems and adequate emergency sheltering to protect the people of Hawai`i and their property against natural and man-made disasters, OCCLP supports HB 457 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs.

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of  
Hawai`i

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