



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-3807
Fax: (808) 586-2536
Web: energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
Thursday, February 4, 2021
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room Number 309

In SUPPORT of
HB 953
RELATING TO HAWAII EMERGENCY MANGEMENT AGENCY.

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) **supports** HB 953, which establishes the Hazard Mitigation Special Fund to allow the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency the ability to monitor its own hazard mitigation projects.

Ensuring that the state, through the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, has both the capabilities and funding mechanisms in place in advance of a disaster to address all forms of hazard mitigation will have a positive impact on government and private sector infrastructure preparedness planning, and can improve response times following a disaster impacting essential community lifelines, including energy. Having an established funding mechanism in place can reduce the amount of time between identification of relevant hazard conditions and mitigation actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 953,
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Before the House Committee on
PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

By

Luke P. Meyers
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

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

House Bill 953 establishes the hazard mitigation special fund for the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 953.

HI-EMA has had funding to implement entering property to remove dangers to public safety, after taking appropriate measures with the landowners. This funding is nearly exhausted, making the program mute.

HB 953 would provide funding and slightly expand program authority to allow the agency to continue its work in cutting, trimming, or removing dangerous trees or branches that pose a hazard to public safety; stabilizing or removing unstable rock and soil hazards; and cleaning streams and waterways to mitigate or prevent flooding or other natural hazards.

This measure would also create a special mitigation fund mechanism, which when funded will support state mitigation projects.

Thank you.

Luke P. Meyers: Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300