



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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 954, HD1,
RELATING TO HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY

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

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair English, Vice-Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 954, HD1.

Even under the constant threats of hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and now pandemics, HI-EMA continues to strive to operate with an insufficient number of qualified staff. Finding applicants to fill the necessary and extremely, critical position vacancies with trained, experienced, and qualified personnel is a persistent challenge, which this bill will remedy.

Exempting certain key positions from civil service will set the conditions for a more responsive, flexible, and aggressive hiring system that will improve the filling of these vacancies, as well as improve competitive recruiting and retention of qualified and experienced emergency management professionals. There will also be a reduction of risk to the State, by having extended vacancies in these critical positions competently filled.

House Bill 954, HD1 converts the executive officer, public information officer, civil defense administrative officer, branch chiefs, and emergency operations center state warning point personnel in HI-EMA from civil service status to exempt status via an amendment to Section 76-16 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The passage of this measure will give the State a fighting chance to attract the necessary talent and provide compensation that would be competitive with our City and County partners as well as other agencies nationwide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 954, HD1.

Thank you.

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

HB-954-HD-1

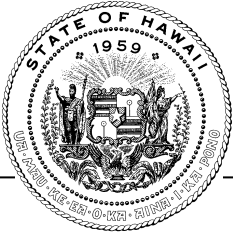
Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:02:01 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Want	Testifying for Hawaii State Energy Office	Support	No

Comments:

I am available for questions.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS**

Friday, March 19, 2021

3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In **SUPPORT** of
HB 0954, HD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.
(Written Testimony Only)

Chairs Nishihara and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs English and Ihara, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) **supports** HB 0954, HD1, an Administration bill, which converts the executive officer, public information officer, civil defense administrative officer, branch chiefs, and emergency operations center state warning point personnel in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) from civil service status to exempt status.

Sufficient staffing of highly qualified, ready, and responsive HIEMA staff is crucial to improved public safety and disaster and emergency responsiveness. Having the capability to expedite the filling of vacancies for critical positions with trained personnel will create the conditions for a more responsive, flexible, and aggressive hiring system. Improved competitive recruiting and retention of qualified and experienced emergency management professionals will support a reduction of risk to the State.

The HSEO will be positively impacted in disaster management response during emergencies as a result of a high quality and fully staffed HIEMA workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-954-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:43:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why do they need to be Exemp are they planning some thing Ellegal to take place in Hawaii. The people will not stand for any Crooked shit!!!



March 17, 2021

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair; Sen. Kalani English, Vice Chair; and Committee Members

COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Sen. Brian Taniguchi Chair; Sen. Les Ihara, Vice Chair; and Committee Members

Public Hearing, March 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

**TESTIMONY of WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL of THE MARITIME GROUP, LLC
In SUPPORT of the HB 954 HD1**

My name is William Anonsen and I am the Managing Partner/Principal of THE MARITIME GROUP and the former chair of the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management (HACEM). I strongly support this measure which would convert certain employees of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency from civil service status to exempt status by amending Section 76-16 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Converting these key senior leadership positions to exempt status will further enhance HI-EMA's ability and capacity to provide the flexibility and responsiveness necessary in managing emergency management tasks in a more effective and well-structured management manner.

Because exempt employees are compensated for the jobs they do and not the time it takes them, they often have a more flexible work environment than non-exempt employees, this is an important element in these key emergency management positions. The recruitment, retention and maintaining the appropriate staffing of knowledgeable, highly qualified, and passionate individuals are paramount to improved public safety and disaster and emergency responsiveness.

The passage of this bill will assist HI-EMA better manage and focus on their public safety mission that helps to ensure the safety of residents and visitors in the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure

Sincerely,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal