

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of **Alexandra Slous**
State Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Office of the Governor

Before the
Committee on Ways and Means
February 17, 2021
10:00 a.m., Via videoconference

In consideration of
Senate Bill No. 1109
RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

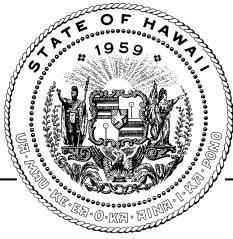
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

As the current State Disaster Recovery Coordinator (SDRC), I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **Support** of **Senate Bill 1109**, which codifies and officially establishes the State Disaster Recovery Framework and Program, and further describes the role of the SDRC.

Senate Bill 1109 reflects work in progress since Nov. 2019 to provide leadership and coordination for disaster recovery efforts statewide, including: development and promulgation of a State Disaster Recovery Framework modeled after FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework; COVID-19 pandemic recovery strategic planning and coordination; and building relationships, templates, and processes for recovery from future disasters.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing socio-economic impacts accelerated the need to create an effective and sustainable recovery operating framework for the State of Hawai'i. To meet this need, key members of the Governor's Office, Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, Office of Planning, and Office of Homeland Security founded the State Unified Recovery and Resilience Facilitation (SURRF) team. The SURRF team played a pivotal role in delivering the State's [Reopening Hawai'i Strategy](#), [Safe Travels Hawai'i Program](#), and designed and completed an outcome-driven economic recovery planning process. In parallel, the SURRF team developed a Recovery Support Function (RSF) for Hawai'i to complement the existing Emergency Support Function (ESF) structure.

The collaborative planning and coordination demonstrated by the SDRC and SURRF team during the COVID-19 pandemic is essential to offsetting the complex, long-term nature of disaster recovery. Moving forward, the SDRC and SURRF team are focused on actualizing near-term economic recovery progress by advancing near-term economic recovery initiatives and facilitating opportunities to secure federal funding. In aggregate, and as reflected in **SB 1109**, these efforts seek to build capacity for equitable, sustainable, and resilient recovery for the State of Hawai'i.



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MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
10:00 AM

in consideration of
SB 1109, SD 1
RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** SB 1109, SD 1, which codifies and officially establishes the State Disaster Recovery Framework and Program.

In April 2020, during the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Office of Planning's Director and State's Sustainability Coordinator were activated to provide statewide COVID-19 disaster planning assistance to the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) to reopen the state's economy. HI-EMA assembled a team of state planners and coordinators to provide emergency disaster recovery planning.

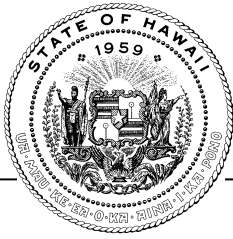
The State's Planning Director and Sustainability Coordinator provided this emergency planning and disaster recovery assistance; and the Office of Planning co-founded the creation of the State Unified Recovery and Resiliency Facilitation Team (SURRF Team) in May 2020.

As a result from this activation, one month later the State's [*Beyond Recovery: Reopening Hawai'i*](#) strategy was announced by the Governor on May 18, 2020. As a member of the SURRF Team, OP provided planning assistance toward the development of the second installment of the State's COVID-19 Disaster Recovery efforts, the [*Beyond Recovery: Safe Travels Hawai'i*](#) strategy, announced and published in October 2020.

The creation and activation of the State Disaster Recovery Framework was modeled after the FEMA Disaster Recovery Framework for the state-level, utilizing state agencies toward statewide disaster recovery.

The SURRF Team also designed the State's COVID-19 Disaster Recovery Support Functions. The development of State Recovery Support Functions was necessary to provide concurrent State COVID-19 Disaster Response and Recovery operations jointly utilizing state agencies through the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) model and the Recovery Support Function (RSF) model.

With a changing climate, the Office of Planning anticipates the need for future disaster recovery; and as a co-founding agency of this framework, the Office of Planning is committed to support the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator and HI-EMA toward the equitable, sustainable, and resilient recovery for the State of Hawai'i.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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SCOTT J. GLENN
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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

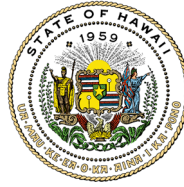
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
10:00 AM
Via Videoconference

In Support of
SB 1109, SD1
RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.
(Written Testimony Only)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) **supports** SB 1109 SD1, an Administration bill, which enhances the capacity of the government, relevant agencies, and the community to recover from the impacts of disasters and seeks to build resilience and sustainability by establishing the framework for and the State Disaster Recovery Program, which includes the role of the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

State, public, and private organizations all share in providing for the public's health and safety, including when preparing for disaster response and recovery. It is essential that the response, recovery, and mitigation activities of all parties, including the energy assurance and resiliency activities of the HSEO, be fully aligned and effectively coordinated on a statewide basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1109 SD1,
RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

By

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

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 1109 SD1 establishes the Hawaii State Disaster Recovery Program and Framework and describes the role of the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** Senate Bill 1109 SD1.

The enhancements provided by this measure to the State Disaster Recovery Program as well as the clarifications on the role of the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator (SDRC) will strengthen our State's preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities against both natural and human-caused disasters.

HI-EMA is responsible under HRS 127A for overall state emergency management coordination including recovery. HI-EMA works with federal partners including the Federal Emergency Management Agency after a disaster and this measure clarifies how the SDRC will work with HI-EMA and the HI-EMA Administrator in times of disaster on the long-term recovery items. The legislation also identifies connections to the state comprehensive emergency management plan and products produced by the SDRC.

Thank you.

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