

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1214
A BILL RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

February 12, 2009

Chair Hanohano and Committee members:

I am Major General Bob Lee, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony in opposition to House Bill 1214.

House Bill 1214 appropriates federal funds received under the Homeland Security Grant Program in the amount of \$390,000 as a grant for the American Red Cross pursuant to HRS Chapter 42F. The funds are to be used for hurricane and flood abatement measures and for emergency back-up generators.

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Red Cross has applied for and received Homeland Security Grant Program funds for various emergency preparedness initiatives. The Hawaii Chapter of the American Red Cross is encouraged to apply for FY 2009 Homeland Security Grant Program funds. We will work the organization to develop an investment strategy. Grant applications are due on March 20, 2009.

We believe that House Bill 1214 is an inappropriate method to allocate federal funds for the American Red Cross.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony that opposes this bill.