January 10, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the response by Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) to being called on to develop a vendor list for disaster subsistence response as required by Senate Resolution No. 23 2018. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at

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Sincerely,

Arthur J. Logan  
Adjutant General
August 16, 2018

Senator Ronald Kouchi, President
Hawai‘i State Senate

Representative Scott Saiki, Speaker
Hawai‘i State House of Representatives

Re: Senate Resolution 23(2018) – Request for extension of time to submit report

Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

The Hawaii State Senate in the Regular Season of 2018 passed Senate Resolution 23, which called upon the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) to develop a list of organizations willing to contract with the State to immediately provide food, beverages, and ice to residents during a natural disaster; and then to submit that list of organizations, along with the Agency’s findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019. That places the due date for the specified list, report, and guidance on or about December 27, 2018.

Under normal circumstances, the period of roughly seven months between the adjournment of the 2018 session and the commencement of the 2019 session may well have been sufficient to perform the review called for in Resolution 23. However, 2018 was not a normal year.

Severe flooding on the islands of Oahu and Kauai during the month of April, followed by an unprecedented volcanic eruption in Hawaii Island’s East Rift Zone have severely tested HI-EMA’s response capacity, eventually calling for not only the activation of state- and county-wide response resources, but also the activation of FEMA personnel and other resources from across the nation.

While the emergencies themselves appear to be winding down, allowing HI-EMA to plan for the next phase of recovery, these rare, all-hands-on-deck occurrences have left HI-EMA without the manpower required to undertake the review in a meaningful way. In short, we have been too busy to give SR23 the attention it deserves.

As such, we would like to request an extension in the deadline to submit to the legislature the list of organizations, findings and recommendations, and proposed legislation called for in SR23 until December 1, 2019. This will give HI-EMA adequate to perform a meaningful review and submit appropriate legislation, while also giving the legislature time to review the report and recommendation prior to the start of the second session of the biennium.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any comments, questions, or concerns. Otherwise, I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request.

Sincerely,

THOMAS L. TRAVIS
Administrator of Emergency Management