

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 825 HD1,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; GOVERNOR**

Before the House Committee on  
**FINANCE**

By

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

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 825 specifies the Governor's emergency powers to include the authority to assume control, use, or operate any state facility at no cost or requirement of compensation. An administrative process could be established to further support the intent of this legislation.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency **opposes** House Bill 825 HD1. The Governor already had this authority under HRS 127A to take control of state facilities.

Thank you.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 2 pm, State Capitol Room 308  
HB 825, HD 2  
Relating to Emergency Powers

**TESTIMONY**

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Luke and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii requests amendment of HB 825, HD 2.** Regardless of whether there is an "emergency", neither the Governor nor any Mayor should be authorized to suspend the public's statutory right to see public records. For that reason, we request that HB 825, HD 3 incorporate SB 134 by adding a new Section which reads as follows:

*SECTION . Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:*

*"§127A- **Suspension of certain record requests; prohibited.** The governor or the mayor shall not, through any proclamation or declaration of emergency or any rule or order adopted pursuant to this chapter, suspend requests for:*

- (1) Public records pursuant to part II of chapter 92F; or*
- (2) Vital records or statistics pursuant to sections 338-18 or 338-18.5."*

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-825-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 12:10:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill HB825 HD2. This gives away too much power to the Governor.