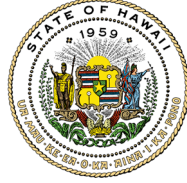


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 418
RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **WATER AND LAND**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Aloha Chair Ichiyama Vice-Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee:

I am James Barros, Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

HI-EMA provides written testimony to **OFFER COMMENT** on HB418.

This measure appropriates an unspecified sum to repair sirens on the island of Hawaii that are part of the all-hazard statewide outdoor warning siren system.

HI-EMA appreciates the effort to designate additional resources to address maintenance issues on Hawaii island. Multiple sirens on the island have been out of operation for various reasons, and the elected officials representing those areas have been an invaluable resource in informing the community about HI-EMA's progress toward repairing them.

However, the challenges of vandalism, supply-chain delays, and scheduling repair visits continues to hinder the needed timely repairs to sirens across the State. These issues are not unique to Hawaii island. Nor can they be solved by supplemental appropriations alone.

In order to provide effective and timely maintenance across the statewide siren network, HI-EMA proposed both additional appropriations and several additional siren technician positions, to be located in each county within the State. By placing the repair workers closer to the sirens and removing the complications of arranging overnight interisland travel to conduct needed repairs, HI-EMA's intent was to provide more frequent maintenance to sirens and ensure that all

populations served by the siren network can count on a timely response when maintenance is required.

The agency continues to pursue all available avenues to provide a consistently reliable all-hazard siren warning network throughout Hawai'i.

However, we are concerned that the approach currently embodied in HB418 would not produce the equitable and systemic solution to siren maintenance that the public deserves.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to develop a solution that delivers excellent siren maintenance services statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

HB-418

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 4:31:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Lindbergh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It Concerns;

I am in favor and supportive of this bill proposed by representative Greggor Ilagan.

Thank you very much

Julia Lindbergh

HB-418

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 6:20:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Jamerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of HB418, funding for emergency siren replacement, repair and operation. It is essential that citizens in Lower Puna, many with limited cell phone reception and little or no internet connectivity, have a warning system for emergencies. As we've seen with the eruption, hurricanes, violent wind storms, high surf and dangerous wave activity, those living in the Kapoho area on the Big Island desperate need to know when a threatening situation occurs. Please fund this bill as many lives literally depend upon it.

Thank you,

Susan Jamerson, resident

HB-418

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:49:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Edwards Hunt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill along with any and all efforts to improve our emergency notification systems. Mahalo.

HB-418

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:48:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Noble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill!

HB-418

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:56:43 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: I am writing in support of HB 418 which provides funding to repair broken warning sirens on the Big Island of Hawaii. There have been numerous instances when warning sirens have gone off in error. When you allow this kind of condition to continue, people just ignore the sirens. This of course renders them useless. If we need warning sirens, they should be dependable. With all of the threats we experience from weather, volcanoes and other countries, it does not seem to much to ask to have warning sirens that work. I would appreciate your support of this important measure. Aloha. Barbara Cigainero.

HB-418

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:56:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB418

I support HB418 which appropriates funds to fix broken warning sirens on Hawaii Island. If we have them, we need to keep them in good repair so that they serve the purpose of warning people in emergencies.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

District 4, Pct 2

HB-418

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:36:16 PM

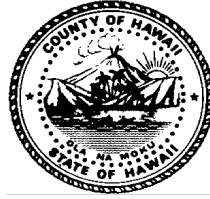
Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Gran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The repair and ongoing maintenace of of the All-hazard Statewide Outdoor Warning Siren System is not optional, but mandatory.

Ashley L. Kierkiewicz
Council Member
District 4 Puna



Office: (808) 961-8265
Fax: (808) 961-8912
ashley.kierkiewicz@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

Hawai‘i County Building
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

February 1, 2023

House Committee on Water & Land

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice-Chair

RE: Support for HB418, relating to emergency preparedness

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Esteemed Members of the Committee on Water & Land:

I write in support of HB418 that appropriates funds for repairing warning sirens on the island of Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i Island is the most prone to natural and human-caused disasters that includes but are not limited to tsunamis, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, and wildfires. In the span of 10 years, the district of Puna, which I represent, has navigated the devastation brought by Hurricane Iselle of 2014, the 2018 Kīlauea volcanic eruption, and Hurricane Lane of 2018. In 2022, the Mauna Loa eruption brought extreme stress as it threatened to cross the Daniel K. Inouye Highway, a critical transportation route connecting the east and west side of the island.

The maintenance of our integrated Outdoor Warning System is absolutely vital for public safety and well-being. I appreciate the State’s consideration in providing funds for this critical safety system.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley L. Kierkiewicz".

Ashley L. Kierkiewicz

HB-418

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:52:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuheia St. Laurent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian and member of East Hawai'i I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Safety, especially when it comes to unexpected emergency situations is our foundational right as humans. The more time we have to prepare, evacuate, respond to emergencies the higher our likelihood for surviving, seeking/maintaining safety, and protecting our families, property, pets, etc. It is absolutely unexceptable for the State of Hawai'i NOT to provide and maintain working warning sirens!

HB-418

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:19:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Fuller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WE need to have the sirens repaired. We live on 27th ave between Paradise and Makuu in HPP and have NOT heard a siren in seems like years....