

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LATE

BRENNON T. MORIOKA
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
MICHAEL D. FORMBY
FRANCIS PAUL KEENO
BRIAN H. SEKIGUCHI
JIRO A. SUMADA
IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 3, 2009

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 990,
RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** this bill. This bill will establish an office of disaster preparedness (Office) to be headed by a director, and a disaster preparedness commission (Commission). This bill further proposes that both the Office and the Commission be within the DOT. For the following reasons, the DOT strongly opposes this bill.

Disaster preparedness is currently within the purview of the State Civil Defense Division of the Department of Defense. Creating another agency to be responsible for disaster preparedness will duplicate the State Civil Defense Division's role and cause public confusion. The duplication of effort between the State Civil Defense Division and the proposed Office will also be a waste of our limited resources.

There is also the cost and expense of creating and staffing this new Office and Commission.

Finally, the responsibilities of this proposed Office and Commission are outside the purview, authority, and resources of the DOT. While the DOT has always been an active partner in preparing for disasters, there is no good reason for housing the Office and Commission within the DOT.

For these reasons, we oppose this bill and respectfully ask that this bill be held in committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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