

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2718
A BILL RELATING TO RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

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Chair Hanohano and Committee Members:

I am Ed Teixeira, Vice Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing testimony in support of House Bill 2718 which amends HRS 128-10 to authorize the Governor to designate state and local agencies, officers, and employees to enter private property to investigate and mitigate hazardous situations during non-emergency periods.

In 2009 the legislature passed a bill that became Act 76. This law amended HRS 128-10 authorizing the Governor to designate state employees to enter private property to mitigate situations posing a threat to public safety. To date, the State Civil Defense agency has taken about 47 calls for assistance from the public and investigated most of these. Public concerns involve overhanging tree branches on public and private properties, invasive plants in forests, unmaintained streams, and hazardous rocks and boulders. In general, the investigation of the calls for help or complaints has been welcomed by private property owners.

There have been some calls for assistance, however, from property owners in the District of Puna, Island of Hawaii, concerning hazards posed by Albizia trees on neighboring properties that have caused property damage. We believe that the most economical way to investigate complaints on neighboring islands including Oahu is to delegate the investigation of calls for assistance to an appropriate county agency such as the civil defense agency.

House Bill 2718 will provide the Governor the authority to delegate the investigation and mitigation of complaints or calls for assistance to State and to county agencies, officers, or employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.