

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1211  
A BILL RELATING TO THE MAJOR DISASTER FUND

PRESENTATION TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

BY  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
February 26, 2015

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1211.

This measure seeks to increase the expenditure ceiling of the major disaster fund. This fund is used by the governor on both direct costs for a disaster and to provide a local cost share for federal reimbursements for disaster costs.

The current ceiling is two million dollars as set in HRS 127A-16 is low. The cost of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's response to the Hawaii Island disasters is approaching this ceiling limit. There could be a very quick drain of the fund if there is a large hurricane or tsunami event.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency proposes increasing the ceiling amount to 10 million dollars. This new ceiling amount sets the upper limit of funds the Governor may allocate to a single disaster. There is no cost to the State unless a disaster occurs and there is a need to expend funds. At the end of fiscal year, unused funds are returned to the general fund.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1211.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SB 1211

PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

DOUG MAYNE  
ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
February 26, 2015

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee.

I am Doug Mayne and I am the Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** to SB 1211.

Senate Bill 1211 increases the amount of the major disaster fund that the governor may spend on direct both direct costs for a disaster and to provide a local cost share for federal reimbursements for disaster costs.

The limit of \$2 million dollars in each category currently set in HRS 127A-16 is too low. Response costs for state government during Hurricane Iselle and for the Puna lava flow have come close to reaching the maximum allowed under the law, and these are both small-scale disasters. A large scale disaster will see state costs of hundreds of millions of dollars.

I recommend increasing the limit in HRS 127A-16 to \$10 million for immediate relief as a result of any single emergency (127A-16(a)(2) and \$10 million for the purpose of matching federal disaster relief funds (127A-16(a)(3). As this only sets the upper limits that the governor may allocate and does not appropriate funding, there is no increased cost to the state unless a disaster occurs that exceeds the current limits.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** to SB 1211.