



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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SCOTT J. GLENN
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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
12:40 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In SUPPORT of
SB 2885, SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2885, SD1, which establishes the Hazard Mitigation Special Fund for the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. This measure will increase public health and safety by providing funds to support the management and implementation of state hazardous mitigation projects under Chapter 127A-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Positive impacts of mitigation projects could support more resilient energy delivery in a disaster by providing specific funding to address identified hazardous conditions that can improve response time to roads and utilities that may otherwise be affected by (1) cutting, trimming, or removing dangerous trees or branches that pose a hazard to other properties; (2) stabilizing or removing unstable rock and soil hazards; and (3) cleaning streams and waterways to mitigate or prevent flooding or other hazards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2885 SD1,
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

By

Thomas L. Travis
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** Senate Bill 2885 SD1.

Senate Bill 2885 SD1 establishes the hazard mitigation special fund for the HI-EMA.

HI-EMA has had funding to implement entering property to remove dangers to public safety, after taking appropriate measures with the landowners. This funding is nearly exhausted, making the program mute. This measure would provide funding and to slightly expand program authority to allow the agency to continue its work in cutting, trimming, or removing dangerous trees or branches that pose a hazard to public safety; stabilizing or removing unstable rock and soil hazards; and cleaning streams and waterways to mitigate or prevent flooding or other hazards.

Note: My comments represent HI-EMA concerns at the state emergency management level only. I would defer to the separate comment/testimonies of the county emergency management agencies, as they would be the jurisdictions impacted by this legislation at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2885 SD1.

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2885 SD1,
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AND DIRECTOR OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee.

I am Major General Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General, Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisor. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 2885 SD1.

Senate Bill 2885 SD1 establishes the hazard mitigation special fund for the HI-EMA. HI-EMA is required by law to address hazardous mitigation. While HIEMA has the authority to enter property to remove dangers to public safety after taking appropriate measures with the landowners, there is a current lack of funding for execution. This measure would provide funding and to slightly expand program authority to allow the agency to continue its work in cutting, trimming, or removing dangerous trees or branches that pose a hazard to public safety; stabilizing or removing unstable rock and soil hazards; and cleaning streams and waterways to mitigate or prevent flooding or other hazards.

Note: My comments represent HI-EMA concerns at the state emergency management level only. I would defer to the separate comment/testimonies of the county emergency management agencies, as they would be the jurisdictions impacted by this legislation at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2885 SD1.

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