

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2886,
RELATING TO 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 2886. Even under the constant threats of hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and at this very moment, pandemics, HI-EMA continues to strive to operate with an insufficient number of qualified HIEMA staff. Finding applicants to fill the necessary and extremely critical position vacancies with trained, experienced, and qualified personnel is a persistent challenge that doesn't necessarily have to exist.

Exempting certain key positions from civil service will set the conditions for a more responsive, flexible, and aggressive hiring system that will improve the filling of these vacancies, as well as improve competitive recruiting and retention of qualified and experienced emergency management professionals. There will also be a reduction of risk to the State in having extended vacancies in these critical positions.

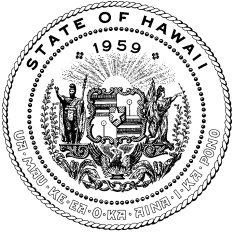
Senate Bill 2886 covers the public information officer, civil defense administrative officer, branch chiefs, and emergency operations center state warning point personnel in HI-EMA from civil service status to exempt status via an amendment to Section 76-16 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The passage of this measure will give the State a fighting chance to attract the necessary talent and provide compensation that would be competitive with our City and County partners as well as other agencies nationwide.

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 2886.

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

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

In SUPPORT of
SB 2886
RELATING TO HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2886, which converts specified personnel in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) from civil service status to exempt status.

These urgent changes will better allow HI-EMA to create the conditions for a more responsive, flexible, and aggressive hiring system that will expedite the filling of key vacancies, as well as improve competitive recruiting and retention of qualified and experienced emergency management professionals.

With these changes, agencies that work with HI-EMA, including the HSEO, will also be positively impacted in disaster management response during emergencies as a result of a high quality and fully staffed HI-EMA workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
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ADJUTANT GENERAL

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2886,
RELATING TO HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

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 2886.

Even under the constant threats of hurricanes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and at this very moment, pandemics, HI-EMA continues to strive to operate with an insufficient number of qualified HIEMA staff. Finding applicants to fill the necessary and extremely critical position vacancies with trained, experienced, and qualified personnel is a persistent challenge.

Exempting certain key positions from civil service will set the conditions for a more responsive, flexible, and aggressive hiring system that will improve filling these vacancies, as well as improve competitive recruiting and retention of qualified and experienced emergency management professionals. There will also be a reduction in risk to the State in having extended vacancies in these critical positions.

Senate Bill 2886 specifically coverts the public information officer, civil defense administrative officer, branch chiefs, and emergency operations center state warning point personnel in HI-EMA from civil service status to exempt status via an amendment to Section 76-16 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The passage of this measure will give the State the best opportunity to attract the necessary talent and provide compensation that would be competitive with our City and County partners, as well as other agencies nationwide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2886.

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SB-2886

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 9:30:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: