DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

LUKE P. MEYERS
ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PHONE (808) 733-4300
FAX (808) 733-4287

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 HOUSE BILL 572,
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

By

Luke P. Meyers

Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 572 specifies that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is an administratively attached agency to, rather than established within, the department of defense. Requires the governor to appoint the administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **offers comments on** House Bill 572.

Although HI-EMA supports the intent of becoming an administratively attached agency or being part of an alternative organizational structure, this was an action that the Governor's Office wanted to address after the COVID-19 Incident had stabilized and we support this vision. We recommend that an implementation date be effective in 2022 to allow for further assessment, planning, and implementation.

We also would recommend that based on the legislation submitted that the Administrator position within HI-EMA be changed to a Director position to build on best practices and lessons learned from our partner organizations and from here in State.

HI-EMA would welcome a further discussion on this opportunity.

Thank you.
Luke P. Meyers: Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

HB-572-HD-1
Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:59:42 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Oppose HB 572 because it could create a climate of too much control and power.