



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 760,  
RELATING TO HAWAII ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
**PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
BY

Luke P. Meyers  
Administrator, Hawaii'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

APRIL 12, 2022

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of GM 760.

GM 760 appoints Gerald Silva as a member of the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management until June 30, 2026.

Gerald has been serving as a member of the advisory council since 2018 and has been a resource for the Governor and state emergency management during several activations, including volcanic eruptions and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to his time on the council, Gerald has served as the Volunteer State President for AARP Hawaii, developing strategies to help over 154,000 Hawai'i care givers by advocating for the CARES Act, among other things.

Gerald also brings vital communication and coordination skills to the council, having worked for 'Ōlelo Community Television, the City and County of Honolulu, and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority in key departments and on major projects, including some with international reach.

The HI-EMA is also grateful to Gerald for his experience with the Hawai'i Army National Guard, providing valuable guidance and a depth of knowledge that benefits both the Department of Defense and our agency.

We are grateful for the Governor's nomination and look forward to working with Gerald on further emergency management topics and priorities throughout the coming years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message 760.

Luke P. Meyers: [Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov](mailto:Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES**  
459 Patterson Rd., E-Wing, Rm 1-A103  
Honolulu, HI 96819

TESTIMONY

GM 760 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation  
To the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
GERALD SILVA for a term to expire  
6-30-2026

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

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN  
DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

April 12, 2022

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide comments **in support** of Gerald Silva to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management for a term to expire 6-30-2026.

Colonel Gerald "Gerry" Silva, (USA, Ret) is a distinguished and highly decorated military officer who served in uniform with the Hawaii Army National Guard as their Chief of Staff. He has also held several senior-level governmental jobs working in the State and County impacting communities and neighborhoods throughout the State and was the Chief Operating Officer for Olelo Community Television. I have personally worked with him when he was the Volunteer State President for AARP Hawaii. In this capacity, he and his staff planned numerous outreach seminars and programs for our Veterans and their families, not only on Oahu but on the neighbor islands as well. Through his efforts, critically needed information and educational materials on benefits and entitlements were provided to those who attended.

I wholeheartedly recommend him for this appointment to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management. His stellar record of accomplishments and vast experience will serve this Council very well!

Ron Han, [ronald.p.han@hawaii.gov](mailto:ronald.p.han@hawaii.gov) , Phone: (808) 433-0422



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The State Legislature  
The Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, And Military Affairs  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
1:00 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair

RE: Support for Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, GERALD SILVA  
GM 760

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a social impact organization for people age fifty and over, with over 140,000 members in Hawai'i. **AARP strongly supports the confirmation of Gerald Silva to Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management.** Mr. Silva is an excellent candidate who brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise and advocacy experience on the issues of emergency preparedness and management. He has played a critical role in AARP Hawaii's disaster preparedness work with our members and partner organizations.

Mr. Silva is a talented and skillful executive with years of professional experience and service in the military, City's executive branch and the private communications industry. He served as the former State President for AARP Hawai'i and remains engaged as an emeritus member of AARP's executive council. He will continue to be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to **strongly support Mr. Silva's confirmation.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keali'i S. Lopez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Keali'i Lopez, State Director

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## *Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs*

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6 April 2022

**THE HONORABLE CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA**

**Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 760: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management, Gubernatorial Nominee GERALD SILVA for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Dear Senator Nishihara,

I am Gary Simon, Chair of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). I am testifying on behalf of PABEA and as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years.

**PABEA strongly supports the nomination of Gerald Silva to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management.**

I have known Mr. Silva since 2013, when he became State President for AARP Hawaii.

Mr. Silva is a tireless leader and an expert on disaster planning, preparedness, and recovery. His proficiency in these fields will be quite valuable to the Council's deliberations centered on enhancing and developing policies and programs to protect the lives and assets of the citizens of Hawaii during a state of emergency or disaster.

On behalf of PABEA, I respectfully and strongly urge you to recommend Mr. Silva for confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management.

Mahalo nui loa for seriously considering his nomination.

With warmest aloha,



Gary Simon

Chair

Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

No. 1 Capitol District

250 South Hotel Street, Suite 406  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Email [gsimon@aarp.org](mailto:gsimon@aarp.org)

**GM-760**

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 6:33:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David A. Bramlett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

I offer my strongest support on behalf of Gerald (Gerry) Silva for confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management. I have known Gerry for almost 30 years and he is unsurpassed in his dedication to our local community and to the entire state. Whether in government service, the corporate world, or the charitable non-profit sector, Gerry has served with impeccable virtue and resolute dedication both to his organization and to the community at large. His wealth of experience and personal values make him ideally suited to provide sage advice and counsel when the state anticipates or needs emergency management in the wake of natural or man-made disasters. He will know what needs to be done. We are fortunate he has volunteered to serve.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

-- General David A. Bramlett, US Army (Ret)

ROBERT J. FISHMAN  
[fishmanrober@hotmail.com](mailto:fishmanrober@hotmail.com) 808-741-4911

April 5, 2022

Honorable Clarence K. Nishimura, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Hawaii State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI

RE: Support for confirmation of Gerald J. Silva for reappointment to the  
Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management (GOV MSG No. 760)

Chair Nishimura and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this message of strong support for your confirmation of Gerald Silva to continue his service on the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management. I have known and worked with Gerry for over fifty years as he held a wide variety of key roles in federal (military and civilian), state, and county government, the majority of which have been focused on protecting the safety, security, and health of our citizens in Hawaii.

Gerry's professional and personal life have been dedicated to public service, and his knowledge and counsel are widely respected in many circles. I am informed from his fellow advisory council members of his excellent dedication and wise contribution to the Advisory Council. His continued service on that important agency will be a benefit to our entire community.

We could use more dedicated volunteers like Gerry in state government. His confirmation for reappointment is enthusiastically encouraged by the undersigned.

Very respectfully,



Robert J. Fishman



**GM-760**

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 11:39:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs - I was very pleased to learn of the reappointment by Governor Ige of Mr. Gerald Silva to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management for a second four-year term. Having known and worked both for and with Mr. Silva on several key AARP projects over the past five years, I am very pleased to testify to his sincere efforts to improve not only the lives of our elders, but all the people of Hawaii. As a past Volunteer State President of AARP in Hawaii from Jan '13 to Dec 18 Gerry's leadership and organizational skills have been well-tested and are to be commended. From 2019 to date, he has been AARP's lead Volunteer on Emergency Management. I strongly endorse confirmation of his reappointment to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management. Gerry Silva is a proven caring, intelligent, dedicated, and hardworking leader and I ask for your full support of his nomination.

**GM-760**

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 12:41:32 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Jaycox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Senators--

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of the nomination of Gerry Silva. I have had the privilege of volunteering alongside Gerry at many AARP events over the past several years. Gerry is amazing in his capacity to see clearly the many aspects of preparing for and coping with emergencies. Even better, he is always willing to put his shoulder to the wheel and get things done. Our state will definitely benefit from Gerry's presence on this Advisory Council.

kathy Jaycox