



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1587,
RELATING TO AN INTRASTATE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND FINANCE

BY

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Aloha Chairs Ichiyama and Luke, Vice-Chairs Eli and Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1587.

House Bill 1587 establishes an intrastate mutual aid system which would allow emergency response agencies across Hawaii's counties to share personnel and resources in times of emergencies or in preparation for emergencies, such as through joint training operations.

Since 2018 there have been 12 major disasters declared in Hawaii, many of which have threatened to overwhelm the available resources within the political jurisdictions of the individual counties.

Having a system in place that would allow for intergovernmental cooperation, personnel and resource sharing would greatly increase the state's ability to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from disasters.

This system would complement the existing interstate mutual aid agreement that the State of Hawaii is signed on to through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This bill mirrors the EMAC process and is based on several model practices already established by our partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1587.

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