

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11th FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: resilientoahu@honolulu.gov • INTERNET: www.resilientoahu.org

LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



MATTHEW GONSER, AICP, CFM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

NICOLA HEDGE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR &
DEPUTY CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023, 9:30 A.M.

STATE OF HAWAII
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1332
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

BY,

MATTHEW GONSER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

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

The City and County of Honolulu (“City”) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (“Resilience Office”) **supports** SB1332, which clarifies the scope of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and increases the amount of additional funds that may be made available for the purpose of matching federal disaster relief funds.

The City, through the Department of Emergency Management and with support from the Resilience Office, manages a multi-hazard pre-disaster mitigation plan with the goal of protecting O’ahu residents and mitigating losses. The plan coordinates City actions and policies related to hazard mitigation and incorporates mitigation goals established by the state’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Changes proposed by SB1332 would clarify the scope of the state’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan on how the state not only addresses but prepares for, mitigates against, and recovers from emergencies and disaster events. This supports a more holistic and cost-effective approach to emergency management and disaster response and recovery.

Over the past two years the City, from coordination through the Resilience Office, has initiated multiple hazard mitigation projects with federal disaster relief program funding. However, these programs often require a cost-match of between 10-25% from the affected communities. Increasing the limit of money available for the

Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran
SB1332
February 22, 2023
Page 2

purpose of matching federal disaster relief funds will further support cost-effective community recovery and resilience. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has identified for every dollar of federal grant funding spent on natural hazard mitigation, an average of six dollars is saved during disaster recovery. Thus, the changes proposed by SB1332 would better enable the City to protect and promote public health, safety, and welfare before, during, and after an emergency or disaster event.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1332.