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KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
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KAHU HO'OMALU PŌULIA

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
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HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON GM 625,
RELATING TO
THE HAWAI'I ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

April 6, 2026

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Robert "Bob" Harter for the Hawai'i Advisory Council on Emergency Management (HACEM).

Mr. Harter brings over a decade of emergency management experience with the City and County of Honolulu, where he collaborated extensively with county, state, federal, nonprofit, and private-sector partners to strengthen preparedness and response capabilities. His service also includes nearly 30 years as a U.S. Army officer, providing him with deep expertise in civil-military operations and humanitarian assistance.

His long-standing volunteer work with the American Red Cross, combined with his professionalism, reliability, and commitment to community resilience, is consistently affirmed across testimony submitted in support of his nomination.

Mr. Harter's operational experience, collaborative approach, and dedication to public service make him exceptionally well-qualified to support HACEM's mission.

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