

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

PHILLIP L. MALLORY  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
**HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3109 SD1 HD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

March 20, 2026

Aloha Chair Sayama, Vice-Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB3109 SD1 HD1.**

This measure prioritizes the safety and resilience of Hawai'i's communities. As our state faces increasing threats from hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, and other natural and man-made disasters, a clear and effective emergency management structure is essential to protect lives and property. This bill improves the readiness of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) by establishing a clearly defined leadership role with responsibility and authority commensurate with statewide emergency management. The current HIEMA Administrator has greater responsibilities than other state administrators in their department and already functions and acts like a deputy director, similar to the deputies of Harbors, Airports and Highways, for the Department of Transportation. This change aligns the organizational structure to support seamless response and coordination among state, county, and federal partners during disasters and emergencies as the department is currently operating and will clarify the department's organizational structure.

Furthermore, this proposal will include this position in the Commission on Salaries' recommendations, appropriately recognize the critical nature of this executive position, and ensure the state is in an advantageous position to recruit and retain highly qualified and experienced leadership.

For these reasons, I humbly ask your support for this measure.

MG Stephen F. Logan, [Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov](mailto:Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov); 808-672-1001

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**STEPHEN F. LOGAN**  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
KAHU HO'OMALU PŌULIA

STATE OF HAWAII  
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3109 SD1 HD1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR

BY

**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

March 24, 2026

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

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) supports SB3109 SD1 HD1. This bill proposes to establish the Administrator of HIEMA as the Deputy Director of Emergency Management within the Department of Defense, under the direction of the Adjutant General.

This change will:

- Clarify the leadership structure and chain of command within the Department of Defense.
- Strengthen operational authority and coordination during emergencies.
- Enhance the State's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from both natural and human-caused disasters.

By aligning HIEMA's leadership model with proven organizational frameworks used in other state departments, this measure supports improved efficiency and clearer accountability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment testimony for Senate Bill 3109 SD1 HD1.

James Barros: [james.barros@hawaii.gov](mailto:james.barros@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300