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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 FINANCE

BY

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

April 6, 2026

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee:

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

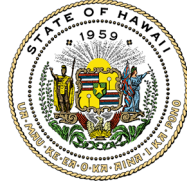
This measure prioritizes the safety and resilience of Hawai'i's communities. As our state faces increasing threats from hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, and other natural and man-made disasters, a clear and effective emergency management structure is essential to protect lives and property. This bill 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.

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HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3109 SD1 HD1,
RELATING TO HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

April 8, 2026

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA), we respectfully offer our **SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 3109 SD1 HD1, which reestablishes the leadership structure of HIEMA by converting the Administrator position to a Deputy Director within the Department of Defense under the Adjutant General.

This reorganization will clarify the chain of command, strengthen operational authority, and enhance coordination across county, state, and federal partners. These improvements are critical as Hawai'i faces increasingly complex natural and human-caused disasters.

We believe this measure will enable HIEMA to more effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, ultimately improving the safety and resilience of our communities.

Mahalo for your consideration and support and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 3109 SD1 HD1.

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