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HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3109 SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

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

March 12, 2026

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Iwamoto, and members of the committee:

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

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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