



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Public Safety and
Veterans, Military, & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
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HB 2582 – RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Chairs Takayama and LoPresti, Vice Chairs Gates and Fukumoto, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2582. This measure establishes a Hawai'i disaster preparedness task force to review current disaster management coordination and other functional components of disaster planning within the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) at the University of Hawai'i in the College of Social Sciences. It also requires NDPTC to prepare the Hawai'i disaster preparedness plan, incorporating input from all state agencies, public views and concerns, and recommendations of the task force. This plan is to be submitted to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

NDPTC is authorized by the U.S. Congress to develop and deliver training courses on natural hazards and disaster response and recovery. It has developed FEMA certified training courses and has trained more than 30,000 emergency managers and first responders across 270 cities in the United States.

The College and NDPTC support the intent of the bill to improve statewide disaster and emergency preparedness systems and protocols, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents approved executive supplemental budget. Given the visibility and significance of recent events, we support the State of Hawai'i in its efforts to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies. Successfully accomplishing these critical goals would require adequate staffing with appropriate expertise. If this effort is fully funded by the legislature, NDPTC will support the task force and work with it to create the disaster preparedness plan. However, NDPTC lacks resources to undertake the project within the existing UH budget.

Preliminary budget estimates are approximately \$700,000 for two years, with work beginning this summer, to meet the reporting deadline.