January 10, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,       The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
President and Members of the Senate   Speaker and Members of the
Thirtieth State Legislature          House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 409               Thirtieth State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813                State Capitol, Room 431
                                        Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the report on the
Emergency Management Review as required by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40
SD1 HD1 2018. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also
informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at
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Sincerely,

Arthur J. Logan
Adjutant General
Senator Ronald Kouchi, President  
Hawaii State Senate

Representative Scott Saiki, Speaker  
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 40 (2018) – Request for extension to submit report

Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency intends to respond to the Senate Concurrent Resolution 40 (SCR40) by December 2019. The Hawaii State Senate and the House of Representatives in the Regular Session of 2018 passed SCR40, which called upon the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) to convene an emergency management review task force and then to submit a list of organizations, along with HI-EMA’s findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019. That placed the due date for the specified list, report, and guidance on or about December 27, 2018.

Severe flooding on the Islands of Oahu and Kauai during the month of April 2018, followed by an unprecedented volcanic eruption in Hawaii Island’s East Rift Zone have severely tested HI-EMA’s response capacity, calling for the full activation of Hawaii’s state and county-wide response resources, along with the activation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) personnel and other resources from across the nation. While the emergencies themselves appear to be winding down, allowing HI-EMA to plan for the next phase of recovery, these rare, all-hands-on-deck occurrences have left HI-EMA without the manpower required to undertake the review in a meaningful way. As such, our office—as stated in a previous letter dated August 16, 2018—intends to address the action called for in SCR40 before December 1, 2019.

Please contact our office if you have any comments, questions, or concerns regarding this request by phone at 808-733-4300 or via email at Thomas.L.Travis@hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Travis  
Administrator of Emergency Management
August 16, 2018

Senator Ronald Kouchi, President
Hawaii State Senate

Representative Scott Saiki, Speaker
Hawaii State House of Representatives

Re: Senate Resolution 23(2018) – Request for extension of time to submit report

Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

The Hawaii State Senate in the Regular Season of 2018 passed Senate Resolution 23, which called upon the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) to develop a list of organizations willing to contract with the State to immediately provide food, beverages, and ice to residents during a natural disaster; and then to submit that list of organizations, along with the Agency’s findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019. That places the due date for the specified list, report, and guidance on or about December 27, 2018.

Under normal circumstances, the period of roughly seven months between the adjournment of the 2018 session and the commencement of the 2019 session may well have been sufficient to perform the review called for in Resolution 23. However, 2018 was not a normal year.

Severe flooding on the islands of Oahu and Kauai during the month of April, followed by an unprecedented volcanic eruption in-Hawaii Island’s East Rift Zone have severely tested HI-EMA’s response capacity, eventually calling for not only the activation of state- and county-wide response resources, but also the activation of FEMA personnel and other resources from across the nation.

While the emergencies themselves appear to be winding down, allowing HI-EMA to plan for the next phase of recovery, these rare, all-hands-on-deck occurrences have left HI-EMA without the manpower required to undertake the review in a meaningful way. In short, we have been too busy to give SR23 the attention it deserves.

As such, we would like to request an extension in the deadline to submit to the legislature the list of organizations, findings and recommendations, and proposed legislation called for in SR23 until December 1, 2019. This will give HI-EMA adequate to perform a meaningful review and submit appropriate legislation, while also giving the legislature time to review the report and recommendation prior to the start of the second session of the biennium.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any comments, questions, or concerns. Otherwise, I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

THOMAS L. TRAVIS
Administrator of Emergency Management