To: The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair,  
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Jr, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster  
Preparedness  

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2020  
Time: 9:45 a.m.  
Place: Via Video Conference  

From: Anne Perreira-Eustaquio, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)  

Re: H.B. No. 825 RELATING TO EMERGENCY POWERS  

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION  
This measure seeks to specify that the Governor’s emergency powers include the  
authority to assume control, use, or operate any state facility at no cost or  
requirement of compensation.  

The DLIR strongly supports this measure.  

II. CURRENT LAW  
Section 127A-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes provides the Governor various powers  
pertaining to emergency management.  

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL  
Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the DLIR rented various state facilities to  
process unemployment insurance claims and set-up call centers to answer claimant  
telephone calls. Despite the facilities being state-owned, the DLIR is required to  
pay rent, utilities, and other costs related to the rental of the facilities. Clarifying that  
the Governor’s emergency powers include being able to assume control, use, or  
operate any facility at no cost or requirement of compensation will enable the State  
to be more quickly respond to crises as well as save the State valuable funds and  
resources during difficult economic times.
We've seen first hand how an ineffective and indecisive Government operates in a willy nilly manner. To allow the Government to do so without consequence or compensation to affected parties is to give the Government unchecked power.

as representatives of the people, you should not stand for this nor support it.