



STATE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 29, 2021

Congressman Ed Case
U.S. House of Representatives
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: State Emergency Operations Center at First Responder Technology Campus

Dear Congressman Case,

We are writing in strong support of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's request for a Community Project Funding Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant to build a State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) within the First Responder Technology Campus. A new, hardened SEOC is needed to facilitate better disaster preparedness and response. The current Battery Birkhimer SEOC is in a leaking, crumbling, 105-year-old armament facility, which was constructed pre-building code and is not hardened for an earthquake, hurricane or flood. Significant renovation and retrofitting of Battery Birkhimer would be prohibitive under current historical preservation regulations.

The new proposed SEOC will be part of the First Responder Technology Campus, bringing together 17 federal, state and local agencies to form a collaborative emergency management community. In addition, public and internal information dissemination will be faster and more reliable with a modernized SEOC. The State Warning Point is located within the SEOC and it is essential to have a hardened facility to ensure constant communication.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's application for a Community Project Funding Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant to build a new SEOC. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Chair Linda Ichiyama
House Committee on Pandemic
and Disaster Preparedness

Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Public Safety
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs