



Hawaii's Homeland Security 'Seam' Initiative: **Civil Defense Modernized**

Presented by: **Jimmie Collins, Chief, Planning and Operations, State of Hawaii, Office of Homeland Security**

Presentation Abstract: This presentation will provide an overview of the 'Seam' Initiative, led by their Office of Homeland Security, that is reorienting the state's Homeland Security Strategy to face its Pacing Challenge. The chorus of national security assessments about China's undertaking of a broad campaign to achieve its aims in strategic competition with the United States is in crescendo and the implications of this to US homeland security are strikingly clear – and they are crystal clear to those focused on protection of the (Hawai'i) home front. In that context, the Office of Homeland Security has undertaken the synthesizing of its priority programs through its 'Seam' Initiative, with a particular eye towards the potential friction points between executing Homeland Security activities in an increasingly Homeland Defense-adjacent environment. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is already landing blows against civilian infrastructure as it moves towards its strategic objectives. Through the 'Seam' Initiative, Hawaii's Office of Homeland Security looks to operationalize the state's Homeland Security Strategy to meet the

spectrum of strategic competition and conflict dynamics with an effective, modernized concept of protection (and preparation activities) by civilians acting under civil authority.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the security and economic risks posed by the CCP and that they are not abstract notions or a distant military conflict.
- Expand dialogue regarding with critical infrastructure entities, emergency management response organizations, and communities to better understand their vulnerabilities, the sophistication of adversary threats, and to make risk-informed decisions regarding protection and resiliency.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and collective activities to shape a resource-informed risk management approach.

Speaker Bio: Ms. Jimmie L. Collins serves as the Chief for Planning and Operations at Hawaii State Office of Homeland Security. In this position, she creates and implements statewide planning, develops and fields exercises, and leads the office's operations for a range of homeland security issues, including terrorism and domestic violent extremism, election security, and cybersecurity. She also oversees three statewide programs: Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience, Cybersecurity, and Emerging Threats.

Prior this position, Jimmie served in the Federal Civil Service for nearly 35 years across a wide range of national security and international relations-focused positions – most recently as a Senior Policy Advisor to Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) Headquarters, in Hawaii. Her federal career included tours in Japan and Bangladesh; travels throughout Asia, the Middle East, and Africa; and numerous awards, including the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award and two Meritorious Service Awards.