

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

545

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2025

FEB 13

RE: H.B. No. 596
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Public Safety, to which was referred H.B. No. 596 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to clarify the types of events that constitute disasters and emergencies for the purposes of emergency management.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency.

Your Committee finds that this measure establishes a clearer statutory definition of the events that constitute an "emergency" or "disaster", which would limit the potential for executive overreach via emergency orders and restore the constitutional balance of powers.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing its effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and

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- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 596, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 596, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,

Della A. Belatti

DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: HB 596		Committee Referral: PBS, FIN		Date: 1/31/2025	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
PBS Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)		✓			
2. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco (VC)		✓			
3. HASHEM, Mark J.		✓			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda		✓			
5. LAMOSAO, Rachele F.		✓			
6. MORIKAWA, Dee		✓			
7. POEPOE, Mahina		✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.					✓
9. SHIMIZU, Garner M.		✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani		✓			
TOTAL (10)		9			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					