



GOV. MSG. NO. 1284

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

I am transmitting herewith HB572 HD1 SD1, without my approval and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

HB572 HD1 SD1

RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 6, 2021

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 572

Honorable Members
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 572, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency."

The purposes of this bill are to place the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) within the Department of Defense (Department) for administrative purposes only, make the Administrator of emergency management the Director of the HI-EMA, require the Administrator to report directly to the Governor, and require the Governor to appoint the Administrator of the HI-EMA.

This bill is objectionable because the timing of the implementation does not give the State, nor the Department, enough time to fully assess other potential alternative organizational structures for the HI-EMA and to determine the ramifications of the administrative attachment of the HI-EMA to the Department, particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency operation.

Furthermore, in times of emergency HI-EMA works in conjunction with the Hawai'i National Guard. Having a separate chain of command to address an emerging health or safety emergency will complicate the response, possibly jeopardizing public safety.

Revisiting this effort next year with more inputs from the agencies impacted by these structural changes would allow for greater review of various options for reorganization that may result in greater efficiencies than the current plan outlined in the bill.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS
HOUSE BILL NO. 572
Page 2

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 572 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Y. Ige". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "Y" and a stylized "Ige" at the end.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 26-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) The department of defense shall be headed by a single
4 executive to be known as the adjutant general. The adjutant
5 general shall also be [~~the director of the Hawaii emergency~~
6 ~~management agency as established in section 127A-3 and~~] the
7 director of homeland security.

8 The department shall be responsible for the defense of the
9 State and its people from mass violence, originating from either
10 human or natural causes.

11 The devolution of command of the military forces in the
12 absence of the adjutant general shall be within the military
13 establishment. The devolution of command of the Hawaii
14 emergency management agency in the absence of the adjutant
15 general, as director of the agency, shall be within the agency."

16 SECTION 2. Section 127A-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:



1 "(a) There is established [~~within the department of~~
2 ~~defense~~] the Hawaii emergency management agency[~~-~~], to be placed
3 within the department of defense for administrative purposes
4 only. The [~~adjutant general~~] administrator of emergency
5 management shall serve as the director of Hawaii emergency
6 management and, subject to the direction and control of the
7 governor, shall oversee the agency.

8 (b) There shall be an administrator of emergency
9 management who shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the
10 [~~director,~~] governor, and who shall have at least three years of
11 experience leading emergency management efforts at the local,
12 state, or federal level. The appointment shall not be subject
13 to the advice and consent of the senate. The administrator of
14 emergency management shall be the civilian head of and
15 responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency. The
16 administrator of emergency management shall report to the
17 [~~director. The administrator of emergency management shall, in~~
18 ~~the absence of the director, have all the duties and~~
19 ~~responsibilities of the director, and shall report directly to~~
20 ~~the~~] governor. The administrator of emergency management shall
21 not be subject to chapter 76."



1 SECTION 3. The administrator of the Hawaii emergency
2 management agency serving on the effective date of this Act
3 shall remain as administrator until a time as an administrator
4 is appointed by the governor pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

APPROVED this day of , 2021

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 572, HD 1, SD 1

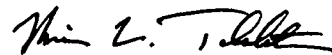
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 22, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives

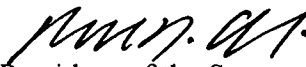


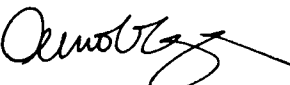
Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 13, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2021.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate