A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- 2 pandemic has wreaked havoc on Hawaii's economy and residents for
- 3 the past two years. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how
- 4 vulnerable the State's economic and fiscal health can be to
- 5 external shocks beyond the State's control.
- 6 Fortunately, the federal government was able to provide
- 7 significant, direct financial assistance to the State and Hawaii
- 8 residents and businesses to help mitigate the economic effects
- 9 of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State's tourism industry and
- 10 economy have been recovering much more quickly than anticipated,
- 11 due in part to the safe travels Hawaii program, and the State is
- 12 now back on strong fiscal footing.
- However, the COVID-19 pandemic is still unfolding and there
- 14 are signs of impending issues, including seemingly more severe
- 15 climate change, increasing tensions with China and Russia, and
- 16 growing polarization of political viewpoints in the United



S.B. NO. 3074 S.D. 1

- 1 States. The State must be prepared to weather these turbulent
- 2 conditions on its own because the federal government may not be
- 3 able to provide generous financial assistance in the future.
- 4 The purpose of this Act is to significantly build up the
- 5 State's fiscal reserves by depositing \$ into the
- 6 emergency and budget reserve fund for fiscal year 2021-2022.
- 7 This deposit will bring the emergency and budget reserve fund
- 8 balance to approximately 14.7 per cent of prior year general
- 9 fund revenues, thus providing a strong reserve for the future.
- 10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
- 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
- 12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 to be
- 13 deposited into the emergency and budget reserve fund established
- 14 pursuant to section 328L-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
- 15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

Report Title:

Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund; Appropriation

Description:

Makes a general fund appropriation for fiscal year 2021-2022 to further capitalize the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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