Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2022

RE: H.B. No. 1586
     H.D. 2
     S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

     Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1586, H.D. 2,
entitled:

     "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISASTER RESPONSE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

     The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

     (1) Clarify that federal funds received by the State for
          reimbursement of disaster-related expenses, except for
          federal funds received by the State to reimburse the
          Department of Education for disaster-related expenses,
          shall first be applied to the originating fund used by
          the department or agency for payment of disaster relief
          expenses; provided that if the original appropriation
          has lapsed, the funds shall be returned to the general
          fund;

     (2) Require the Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency
          Management Agency to submit an annual report to the
          Legislature on the status of federal reimbursement
          moneys for disaster response, and disaster response
          spending by each agency; and

(3)   Appropriate funds to the Department of Defense for
      disaster response efforts.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
Hawaiʻi Emergency Management Agency, Department of Budget and
Finance, and Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that the State has been historically
vulnerable to natural disasters, including hurricanes,
earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, storm surges, tsunamis, and
wildfires. Various state departments and agencies have been
affected by natural disasters and emergencies and have spent
departmental funds to respond to incidents as necessary. Many
departments apply for reimbursement for the costs of emergency
response measures from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
However, disaster reimbursement may take months or years,
depending on the federal government response. The delay in
disaster reimbursements has resulted in the holding of federal
reimbursement funds in the major disaster fund, rather than the
funds being returned to the originating department or agency.
This measure will allow for quicker reimbursements to state
departments and agencies that have expended funds due to disasters
and will allow for the State to match federal emergency
reimbursement funds.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1)   Restoring statutory language that provides the Hawaii
      Emergency Management Agency with a rollover provision
      for unspent funds under $2,500,000; and

(2)   Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the
      purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military
Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in
accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1586, H.D. 2, as
amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the
form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1586, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be
referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,
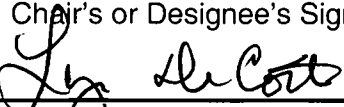Intergovernmental, and Military
Affairs,

_____
CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 1586, HD2	PSM, WAM	3/22/2022

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312   ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311   ☐ Hold 2310   ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	✔			
DECOITE, Lynn (VC)	✔			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✔			
RIVIERE, Gil	✔			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✔
TOTAL	4	0	0	1

Recommendation:
☑ Adopted   ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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*Only <u>one</u> measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 6/18/21