



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1586, HD2
RELATING TO DISASTER RESPONSE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE
BY

Luke P. Meyers
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **OFFER COMMENTS** on HB1586, HD2.

House Bill 1586, HD2 requires federal disaster relief reimbursement moneys, except federal disaster relief reimbursement moneys for DOE, to be deposited into a trust account of the Hawaii emergency management agency and reimbursed to the originating fund of the expending agency, with funds to be returned to the general fund upon lapse of the original appropriation; requires annual reports to the legislature on federal reimbursement moneys, and of disaster response spending by each state agency; appropriates funds.

Having a trust account for federal disaster relief reimbursement monies allows for quicker reimbursements to state departments and agencies that have expended funds due to disaster and will allow for the State to match federal emergency reimbursement funds. Additional restrictions on the trust fund account and removing the rollover limit will hinder HI-EMA's ability to manage open and future emergencies and disasters. These changes, added to the current fiscal year reductions in operating budget and personnel to HI-EMA, will lead to less effective management of how we respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. This bill also removes the \$2.5 million rollover provision that was recently added in a previous legislative session. This rollover option supports HI-EMA's critical functions beyond the immediate response to an emergency and into recovery and mitigation.

Added reporting requirements on the Administrator regarding Federal funds received during a disaster will create substantial challenges due to the

uncertain durations of different types of disasters as well as the myriad sources from which Federal funds originate. HI-EMA currently produces reports and summaries on a routine basis for Federal funds through the response, recovery, and mitigation functions. HI-EMA is willing and committed to sharing these with the community and our stakeholders. HI-EMA currently is managing response, recovery, mitigation functions dating back to 2006 for more than twelve open disasters.

The HI-EMA supports an appropriation for disaster response efforts provided it does not conflict with the Governor's budget priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1586, HD2.

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
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Date: 02/25/2022

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1586, HD2 RELATING TO DISASTER RESPONSE.

Purpose of Bill: Requires federal disaster relief reimbursement moneys, except federal disaster relief reimbursement moneys for DOE, to be deposited into a trust account of the Hawaii emergency management agency and reimbursed to the originating fund of the expending agency, with funds to be returned to the general fund upon lapse of the original appropriation. Requires annual reports to the legislature on federal reimbursement moneys, and disaster response spending by each state agency. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2051. (HD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully submits testimony in support of HB 1586, HD2.

This HD2 preserves the original language in Sections §37-41.5(c) and §127A-16(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which together allow the Department to retain federal disaster relief funds when federal disaster relief reimbursements are issued to the Department. These sections are needed to allow the Department to receive and retain federal disaster relief reimbursements for expenditures made by the Department in instances when, as often the case, it takes several years for the federal reimbursements to be issued. Without these sections, if the appropriation used by the Department to pay for the disaster relief has since lapsed by the time federal reimbursements are issued, under current accounting practice, the reimbursement would simply go to the State Treasury. These sections only apply in the event that the Department is required to expend funds appropriated for other purposes for disaster relief.

The Department appreciates continued support for improving reliability and predictability of financing disaster relief and for school operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

HB-1586-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:13:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This how you stole the Monry for the Hurican Emergency Fund many years ago!