

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2290**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 13 2024**

RE: S.B. No. 2781  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2781 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATED TO DISASTER SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to establish the position of a Limited English Proficiency Language Coordinator within the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Health Planning and Development Agency, Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights, Pacific Gateway Center, Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights, FilCom CARES, Kaibigan ng Lahaina, The Legal Clinic, Language Services Hawaii, Tagnawa, Hawai'i Alliance of Pacific Islanders, and six individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services and Office of Language Access.

Your Committee finds that in the aftermath of a disaster, many limited English proficient persons encounter barriers to

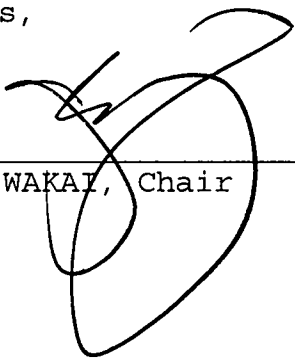


obtaining relief when applying for state or county programs, including financial, medical, housing, and food assistance programs. Your Committee further finds that in the immediate aftermath of the August 8, 2023, Maui wildfires, language interpreters and sign language interpreters were not present at the shelters, nor was any provision made to assist individuals through remote interpretation. This measure will ensure that limited English populations can access disaster relief information, aid, and relief through an established Limited English Language Access Coordinator within the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of January 1, 2042, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2781, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2781, 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 and  
Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GLENN WAKAI, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

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

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB2781</b>	Committee Referral: <b>PSM, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/9/24</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
WAKAI, Glenn (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	5	ϕ	ϕ	ϕ
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original    Yellow    Pink    Goldenrod File with Committee Report    Clerk's Office    Drafting Agency    Committee File Copy				

**\*Only one measure per Record of Votes**