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**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2512

**February 9, 2024**  
**3:01 p.m.**  
**Room 225 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2512 amends Section 127A-12, HRS, to set reporting requirements for the Governor for the transfer of contributions or grants received through the exercising of emergency management powers and make other non-substantive amendments.

While B&F supports improving government transparency, B&F notes that the proposed reporting requirements may be onerous to completely adhere to during a crisis and may interfere with the State's ability to efficiently respond to it. B&F is amenable to working with the Legislature to develop reporting processes for transfers via emergency management powers that would not require a statutory amendment.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2512,  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
**PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBURARY 9, 2024

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **OPPOSE** on SB 2512.

This bill would amend HRS 127A-12 to establish a reporting requirement for the transfer of public monies by the Governor, pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Powers.

HI-EMA recognizes the value of transparency of government, especially during a disaster. The proposed reporting requirement which would amend HRS 127A-12, would be in direct conflict with the Governor's emergency powers and the ability to lead the state during a declared disaster.

The proposed amendments to HRS 127A-12 would establish reporting guidelines for reallocations or transferring of monies during a declared disaster. During a disaster, the Governor may request an expedient means of reallocating funding to provide lifesaving and property recovery efforts during a declared emergency.

The amendments recommended would require that during a disaster, a calculated request to reallocate of funds be made when weighting against the immediacy of response actions which affect life, safety, and the well-being of the public. This impedes the ability during a disaster to transfer monies and resources to fund the timely response efforts appropriately during a declared emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2512.

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