

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 27 2025

RE: S.B. No. 353
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B.
No. 353, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to clarify state and county emergency management authority, ensure effective and adaptable emergency responses, and further the goals of transparency and democratic accountability within the State's constitutional system.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Public First Law Center, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, Libertarian Party of Hawaii, and four 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 Office of Information Practices.

Your Committee finds that public records laws are a critical mechanism to ensure government transparency. Your Committee believes that the suspension of these laws during a state of



emergency undermines public trust in the workings of government at a time when trust is needed most. This measure will seek to safeguard the promise of openness for the public during government-declared emergencies, when transparency is especially crucial.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 353, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 353, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 353 SD1	Committee Referral: PSM, JDC	Date: 2/12/25
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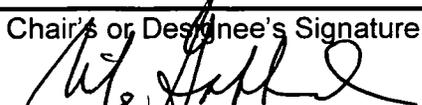
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

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

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.				✓
AWA, Brenton				✓
TOTAL	3	-	-	2

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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