

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 12 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2292
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Public Safety, to which was referred H.B.
No. 2292 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Hawaii
Emergency Management Agency to convert temporary special project
positions created for Federal Emergency Management Agency-funded
disaster recovery operations into permanent positions exempt from
civil service law, subject to certain limitations.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Defense and Hawai'i Emergency Management
Agency. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
Hawai'i Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-
CIO.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii Emergency Management
Agency has often relied on temporary special project positions;
however, these temporary positions were never intended to support
the current reality of lengthy disaster recovery operations. Your
Committee further finds that the uncertainty created by the
current federal administration leaves the State at risk of losing
critical personnel and expertise if the Hawaii Emergency



Management Agency is forced to continue to be dependent on temporary special project positions. This measure authorizes the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to convert its temporary special project positions, thereby ensuring workforce stability and retention of highly trained personnel.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that no more than seventy percent of the eighty-two special project positions are exempt from civil service and that thirty percent of the special project positions shall be transitioned to civil service over a period of up to five years;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2292, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2292, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Labor.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



HSR 225-26

Bill/Resolution No.: HB2292	Committee Referral: PBS, LAB, FIN	Date: 2/11/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
PBS Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)	✓			
2. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco (VC)		✓		
3. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda	✓			
5. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
6. POEPOE, Mahina	✓			
7. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
8. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
9. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (9)	8	1		
The recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				