

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,

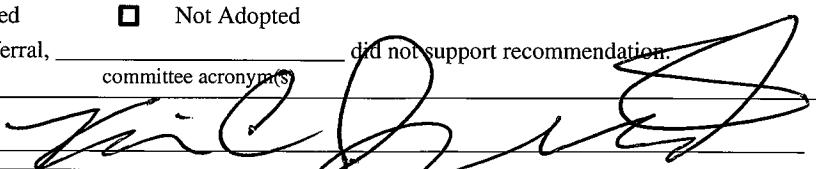
  
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DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 225-26

Record of Votes of the Committee on Public Safety

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB2292	PBS, LAB, FIN	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