

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3628

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2443
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 2443, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to facilitate the administration of disaster services, primarily for disabled persons.

Specifically, the measure:

- (1) Establishes within the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency a disability integration specialist position;
- (2) Updates state emergency management law to:
 - (A) Ensure compliance with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act;
 - (B) Require the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to develop and implement by July 1, 2027, a statewide public education and communications program to advise the public to maintain a fourteen-day supply of food, water, and essential medications; and



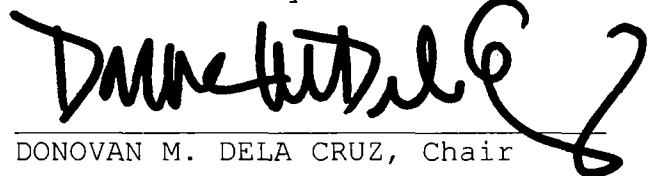
- (C) Establish American Sign Language requirements that apply when the Governor or any county mayor makes live broadcast press conferences during a state of emergency;
- (3) Expands access to bilingual resources and services; and
- (4) Appropriates moneys.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board, Office of Wellness and Resilience, Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council, Full Life, Hawaii Food Industry Association, AARP Hawaii, and four individuals.

Your Committee finds that approximately twenty percent of State residents have some type of disability. Your Committee believes that steps to accommodate these individuals, as proposed by this measure, will help ensure their safety during times of state and county emergencies. Your Committee also finds that a fourteen-day emergency supply of food, water, and essential medications is necessary for basic survival during a major disaster, and therefore an education program to encourage the public to maintain an emergency supply is in the public interest.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2443, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

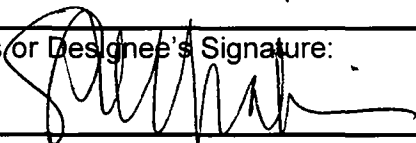
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2440, HD1, SD1	PSM/HHS, WAM	4/6/2026		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris				X
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	12	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Committee	Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes