

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3293**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2581
H.D. 2
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 Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2581, H.D. 2, 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 the types of events that constitute disasters and emergencies for the purposes of emergency management.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Aloha Independent Living Hawaii, Sierra Club of Hawai'i, ACLU Hawai'i, Earthjustice, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, Free Access Coalition, and twenty-seven individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu, Hawai'i Christian Coalition, and two individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

Prior to the hearing on this measure, your Committee posted and made available for public review a proposed S.D. 1, which amends this measure by replacing its contents with language that:



- (1) Establishes the Hawaii Community Resilience Hub Program within the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency;
- (2) Requires annual reports to the Legislature; and
- (3) Appropriates funds.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the proposed S.D. 1 from the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program and AARP Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to the proposed S.D. 1 from the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.

Your Committee received comments on the proposed S.D. 1 from Earthjustice.

Your Committee finds that community disaster resilience planning can help communities identify the natural hazards to which they are susceptible and identify residents who may be most vulnerable. With this information, communities can develop strategies to reduce risk and improve outcomes during emergencies. This measure will facilitate more integrated disaster planning to help local governments better protect the State's residents from natural disasters.

Your Committee further finds that existing statutory provisions governing states of emergency are vague and overly permissive of emergency actions, allowing the Governor's and mayors' use of emergency powers without oversight and with few restrictions. Additionally, recent court decisions threaten to exacerbate this problem by allowing the use of emergency powers to address long-term issues of public policy. Without legislative action, these court decisions would undermine the balance of powers that is central to effective governance in the State. Your Committee therefore believes that amendments to this measure are necessary to address the potential abuse of emergency powers.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by adopting the proposed S.D. 1 and further amending the measure by:



- (1) Inserting the contents of H.B. 2581, H.D. 2 (Regular Session of 2026), which clarifies the types of events that constitute disasters and emergencies for the purposes of emergency management; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2581, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2581, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety and
Military Affairs,




CAROL FUKUNAGA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2581 HD2	PSM, WAM	3/25/26		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
FUKUNAGA, Carol (C)	✓			
LEE, Chris (VC)	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.				✓
INOUYE, Lorraine R.				✓
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes