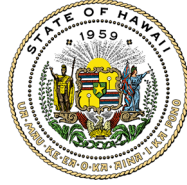


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1021
RELATING TO FUNDS

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **WATER AND LAND**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee:

I am James Barros, Administrator of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

HI-EMA provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1021.

This bill would reinstate the Governor's authority to transfer funds to, among other purposes, cope with the effects of natural disasters and to supplement the Fire Fighter's Contingency Fund within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

HI-EMA is an all-hazard agency that may be called upon to support emergency management needs at any time, regardless of the needs that were anticipated when funding allocations were made. There may be times when the demands of emergency incidents exceed the resources allocated in a normal operational budget, but other funds are available.

Restoring this flexibility to transfer funds would improve Hawaii's ability to respond nimbly to the demands of natural disasters, hazards and threats by redeploying existing resources when necessary. These hazards include wildland fires that affect DLNR but also pose a risk to developed areas.

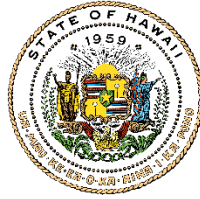
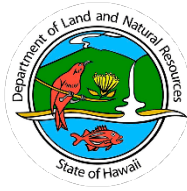
We support and respectfully request your support for this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, February 9, 2023
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430**

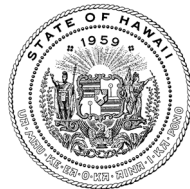
**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1021
RELATING TO FUNDS**

House Bill 1021 proposes to reinstate Governor's authority to transfer funds to cope with the effects of natural disasters, for operating purposes, or to supplement the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Fire Fighter's Contingency Fund. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department supports the Governor's ability to respond rapidly to a natural disaster and transfer funds to the Department to fund its emergency response operations. The Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is the primary responder for wildfires on 26% of the land area in Hawai'i and has approximately 150 staff trained to respond to not only fire but to support other departments in their response to flooding and hurricanes. While the Department's wildfire suppression budget has increased to meet its ten-year rolling average of expenditures, there is the possibility of an extreme wildfire season or other prolonged disaster response (volcanic eruption) that would require additional funds to support continued emergency operations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1021

February 9, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FUNDS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) supports this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 1021 proposes to reinstate the Governor's authority to transfer funds to cope with the effects of natural disasters or unforeseen emergencies, for operating purposes, or to supplement the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Fire Fighter's Contingency Fund. This bill would amend Act 88, SLH 2021, as amended by Section 8(1), (5), and (6) of Act 248, SLH 2022, to restore Sections 61, 72 and 87, respectively.

We cannot foresee when a disaster or emergency will occur and, operationally, it is not possible to consistently predict the service level requirements for certain programs. These provisos provide the flexibility necessary for the Executive Branch to quickly respond to disaster situations or continue to provide services within the current operating budget, without additional funding. As such, B&F strongly supports H.B. No. 1021 to restore these critical provisions.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.