



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1586, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO DISASTER RESPONSE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
BY

Luke P. Meyers
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

APRIL 8, 2022

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the
Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **OFFER COMMENTS** on
HB1586, HD2, SD1.

House Bill 1586, HD2, SD1 requires federal disaster relief reimbursement
moneys, except federal disaster relief reimbursement moneys for the
Department of Education, to be deposited into a trust account of the Hawaii
Emergency Management Agency and reimbursed to the originating fund of the
expending agency, with funds to be returned to the general fund upon lapse of
the original appropriation. Requires annual reports to the legislature on federal
reimbursement moneys, and disaster response spending by each state
agency. Appropriates funds.

Having a trust account for federal disaster relief reimbursement monies allows
for quicker reimbursements to state departments and agencies that have
expended funds due to disaster and will allow for the State to match federal
emergency reimbursement funds. Additional restrictions on the trust fund
account and removing the rollover limit will hinder HI-EMA's ability to manage
open and future emergencies and disasters. These changes, combined with
the current fiscal year reductions in operating budget and personnel to HI-
EMA, will lead to less effective management of how we respond to and
recover from emergencies and disasters.

Added reporting requirements on the Administrator regarding Federal funds
received during a disaster will create substantial challenges due to the
uncertain durations of different types of disasters as well as the myriad

sources from which Federal funds originate. HI-EMA currently produces reports and summaries on a routine basis for Federal funds through the response, recovery, and mitigation functions. HI-EMA is willing and committed to sharing these with the community and our stakeholders. HI-EMA currently is managing response, recovery, mitigation functions dating back to 2006 for more than twelve open disasters.

The HI-EMA supports an appropriation for disaster response efforts provided it does not conflict with the Governor's budget priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1586, HD2, SD1.

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Written Comments

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Date: 04/08/2022

Time: 10:40 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1586, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO DISASTER RESPONSE.

Purpose of Bill: Requires federal disaster relief reimbursement moneys, except federal disaster relief reimbursement moneys for the Department of Education, to be deposited into a trust account of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and reimbursed to the originating fund of the expending agency, with funds to be returned to the general fund upon lapse of the original appropriation. Requires annual reports to the legislature on federal reimbursement moneys, and disaster response spending by each state agency. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2051. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments.

The Department appreciates that the SD1 preserves the original language in Sections §37-41.5(c) and §127A-16(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which together allow the Department to retain federal disaster relief funds when federal disaster relief reimbursements are issued to the Department. These sections are needed to allow the Department to receive and retain federal disaster relief reimbursements for expenditures made by the Department in instances when, as often the case, it takes several years for the federal reimbursements to be issued. Without these sections, if the appropriation used by the Department to pay for the disaster relief has since lapsed by the time federal reimbursements are issued, under current accounting practice, the reimbursement would simply go to the State Treasury. These sections only apply in the

event that the Department is required to expend funds appropriated for other purposes for disaster relief.

The Department appreciates continued support for improving reliability and predictability of financing disaster relief and for school operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.