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WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2512, S.D. 2

March 12, 2024
9:00 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2512, S.D. 2, amends Section 127A-12, HRS, to set reporting requirements for the Governor for the transfer of contributions or grants received through the exercising of emergency management powers and make other non-substantive amendments.

While B&F supports improving government transparency, B&F notes that the proposed reporting requirements may be onerous to completely adhere to during a crisis and may interfere with the State's ability to efficiently respond to it. B&F is amenable to working with the Legislature to develop reporting processes for transfers via emergency management powers that would not require a statutory amendment.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY
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JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
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STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2512 SD2,
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MARCH 12, 2024

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to **OPPOSE** SB 2512 SD2.

This bill would amend HRS 127A-12 to establish a reporting requirement for the transfer of public monies by the Governor, pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Powers.

HI-EMA recognizes the value of transparency of government, especially during a disaster. The proposed reporting requirement which would amend HRS 127A-12, would be in direct conflict with the Governor's emergency powers and the ability to lead the state during a declared disaster.

The proposed amendments to HRS 127A-12 would establish reporting guidelines for reallocations or transferring of monies during a declared disaster. During a disaster, the Governor may request an expedient means of reallocating funding to provide lifesaving and property recovery efforts during a declared emergency.

The amendments recommended would require that during a disaster, a calculated request to reallocate of funds be made when weighting against the immediacy of response actions which affect life, safety, and the well-being of the public. This impedes the ability during a disaster to transfer monies and resources to fund the timely response efforts appropriately during a declared emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2512 SD2.

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

SB-2512-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 1:38:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to establishing notice and reporting requirements for the transfer of public moneys by the Governor, pursuant to the Governor's emergency powers