STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1122

Honolulu, Hawaii

## MAR 1 8 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1296

> H.D. 1 S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2025 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1296, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MAJOR DISASTER FUND," begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish timely notice and reporting requirements to the Legislature by the Governor regarding the transfer of appropriations to the Major Disaster Fund.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from one individual.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of the Governor and Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee finds that the 2023 Maui wildfires caused devastating loss of life and damage to infrastructure in the State. This emergency prompted the Governor to redirect money from selected general fund operating appropriations originally intended for specific purposes and capital improvement projects to the Department of Budget and Finance, which the Department then transferred into the Major Disaster Fund to address the need for support in the wake of the wildfires.

Your Committee further finds that transparency and accountability are particularly necessary for circumstances in which the state government utilizes funds originally intended for a set purpose to instead address natural disasters and other emergencies. This measure will address the need for this information to be made available to the public in a clear and accessible manner by requiring reports to be submitted to the Legislature in a timely manner regarding the transfer of appropriations to the Major Disaster Fund.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- Changing the time period for the reporting requirement on the purpose of the allotment, transfer, or expenditure to the Legislature from twenty-one days to thirty days after any allotment or transfer; and
- Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the (2) 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. 1296, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1296, H.D. 1, 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,

## The Senate Thirty-Third Legislature State of Hawai'i

## **Record of Votes** Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB1296 HD1	1			ate: 3/12/25	
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended 2312	Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2311 2310 2313				
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (C)		V//			- <u>-</u> -
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)				 	<u> </u>
FUKUNAGA, Carol		V/			
RHOADS, Karl					
DECORTE, Samantha				=	
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TOTAL		5	0	0	1
Recommendation:  Adopted  Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
<b>Distribution:</b> Original File with Committee Re	\ <i>I</i>	elloy <sup>(</sup> 's Office D	Pink rafting Agency		lenrod e File Copy
*Only <u>one</u> measure per Record of Votes					

Revised: 12/09/24