



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

I am transmitting herewith HB572 HD1 SD1, without my approval and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

HB572 HD1 SD1

RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 6, 2021

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 572

Honorable Members
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 572, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency."

The purposes of this bill are to place the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) within the Department of Defense (Department) for administrative purposes only, make the Administrator of emergency management the Director of the HI-EMA, require the Administrator to report directly to the Governor, and require the Governor to appoint the Administrator of the HI-EMA.

This bill is objectionable because the timing of the implementation does not give the State, nor the Department, enough time to fully assess other potential alternative organizational structures for the HI-EMA and to determine the ramifications of the administrative attachment of the HI-EMA to the Department, particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency operation.

Furthermore, in times of emergency HI-EMA works in conjunction with the Hawai'i National Guard. Having a separate chain of command to address an emerging health or safety emergency will complicate the response, possibly jeopardizing public safety.

Revisiting this effort next year with more inputs from the agencies impacted by these structural changes would allow for greater review of various options for reorganization that may result in greater efficiencies than the current plan outlined in the bill.

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For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 572 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Y. Ige", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor of Hawai'i