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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the slow response to  
2 ameliorate the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina on the  
3 states of Louisiana and Mississippi in September, 2005,  
4 uncovered a glaring deficiency in how the federal government  
5 screens candidates for key administrative positions in disaster  
6 management. It was discovered that the administrator of the  
7 Federal Emergency Management Administration who was in charge at  
8 the time the hurricane hit Louisiana and Mississippi had very  
9 little to no real experience in disaster management and  
10 preparedness prior to being appointed to lead this crucial  
11 disaster management agency.

12           The legislature believes that, at least on the state level,  
13 the responsibility of disaster preparedness and management  
14 should not be placed in the hands of a political appointee who  
15 lacks the requisite knowledge and experience to safeguard the  
16 lives and property of Hawaii's citizens in the event of a  
17 natural disaster or other type of emergency situation.



1           The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the State's  
2 director of civil defense possesses sufficient knowledge and  
3 experience in disaster preparedness and management so as to  
4 ensure that the health and safety of the general public will be  
5 safeguarded in the event of a natural disaster or other  
6 emergency situation.

7           SECTION 2. Section 26-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

9           "(a) The department of defense shall be headed by a single  
10 executive to be known as the adjutant general. The adjutant  
11 general shall also be the director of civil defense. A  
12 candidate for the position of adjutant general shall possess, at  
13 a minimum, sufficient management or supervisory experience in  
14 disaster management or preparedness protocols so as to provide  
15 reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the general  
16 public will be safeguarded in the event of a natural disaster or  
17 other emergency situation.

18           There shall be a full-time vice director of civil defense  
19 who shall be appointed and may be removed by the director.

20           The department shall be responsible for the defense of the  
21 State and its people from mass violence, originating from either  
22 human or natural causes.



1           The devolution of command of the military forces in the  
2 absence of the adjutant general shall be within the military  
3 establishment. The devolution of command of the civil defense  
4 agency in the absence of the director of civil defense shall be  
5 within the civil defense agency."

6           SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

7           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. D.', written over a horizontal line.

JAN 25 2006



HB 2797

**Report Title:**

Civil Defense; Director; Qualifications; Disaster Management

**Description:**

Establishes minimum qualifications for the position of director of civil defense. Requires the director of civil defense to have disaster management experience.

