
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Disasters, both man-made and natural, take many
2 forms such as gale force winds, deadly chemical spills, and
3 fire. Hawaii's location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean
4 makes it especially prone and vulnerable to many different types
5 of disasters such as tropical cyclones, hurricanes, severe
6 storms, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding, and
7 wildfires, just to name a few.

8 Hawaii is no stranger to natural disasters. In fact,
9 Hawaii has faced devastating natural disasters over the past
10 century, including Hurricane Iniki in 1992, and the worst
11 tsunami disaster experienced by the United States.

12 As seen with the Asian tsunami in 2004 and Hurricane
13 Katrina in 2005, inadequate disaster preparedness can have a
14 severe impact on public health and safety. Particularly
15 shocking was the vision of the citizens of New Orleans faring no
16 better during a natural crisis than citizens of developing
17 nations.



1 Recent reports on Hawaii's disaster preparedness indicates
2 that Hawaii's residents, while conscientious about disasters and
3 wanting to do what is needed during times of crisis, may lack
4 sufficient government guidance. The legislature finds that the
5 State's growing population and the general lack of awareness on
6 the part of the public with respect to natural disaster
7 preparedness dictates appropriate government action.

8 Given this history and the fact that Hawaii is vulnerable
9 to natural disasters, it is important to remain vigilant to
10 protect residents and visitors alike. Since natural disasters
11 have the potential to cause great devastation to Hawaii, it is
12 important to ensure that the State is adequately prepared to
13 deal with such events.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to convene a task
15 force to study and recommend to the legislature how to
16 strengthen Hawaii's disaster preparedness plans and better
17 educate the public on preparing for disasters.

18 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a disaster
19 preparedness task force within the department of health, for
20 administrative purposes only, which shall consist of the
21 following members:



- 1 (1) The director of health, who shall serve as the
2 chairperson of the task force;
- 3 (2) The adjutant general, or a designee;
- 4 (3) A representative from the department of education, or
5 a designee;
- 6 (4) A representative from the Hawaii health systems
7 corporation, or a designee;
- 8 (5) The team commander of the Hawaii Disaster Medical
9 Assistance Team, or a designee;
- 10 (6) A representative from the Federal Emergency Management
11 Agency, or a designee;
- 12 (7) A representative from the United States military, or a
13 designee;
- 14 (8) A representative from the Hawaii national guard, or a
15 designee;
- 16 (9) A representative of the American Red Cross, or a
17 designee;
- 18 (10) A representative of each county to be appointed by
19 their respective mayors;
- 20 (11) The chiefs of police from each county, or a designee;
- 21 (12) The fire chiefs from each county, or a designee;



1 (13) An emergency medical services representative from each
2 county, or a designee;

3 (14) The civil defense director for each county, or a
4 designee;

5 (15) A representative from the board of water supply of the
6 city and county of Honolulu, or a designee who shall
7 also serve as the liaison of the task force to the
8 directors of the boards of water supply of the other
9 counties;

10 (16) A representative from the Healthcare Association of
11 Hawaii, or a designee;

12 (17) A representative of Hawaiian Electric Company, or a
13 designee;

14 (18) A representative of Hawaiian Telcom, or a designee;
15 and

16 (19) Any other agency or designee deemed appropriate by the
17 director of health.

18 (b) The task force shall study the disaster preparedness
19 and emergency response capabilities of the State and each of its
20 counties to ensure that the public is adequately protected in
21 the event of a major natural or man-made disaster. The study
22 shall include:



- 1 (1) A review of Hawaii's civil defense and disaster
2 management system, as well as the value and
3 effectiveness of current disaster plans and policies;
- 4 (2) An assessment of the adequacy of resources to provide
5 for the welfare and safety of Hawaii's citizens, and
6 any necessary steps that need to be taken to improve
7 or upgrade these resources;
- 8 (3) A review of the current coordination of response
9 efforts between federal, state, county, and private
10 agencies in the event of a disaster and
11 recommendations for improvement, if necessary;
- 12 (4) A review and evaluation of Hawaii's health-related
13 policies and programs relating to disasters;
- 14 (5) A determination of whether an audit of the Hawaii
15 state civil defense agency should be conducted;
- 16 (6) A determination of whether to elevate the director of
17 the state department of health's emergency medical
18 services branch to a cabinet level position;
- 19 (7) A review of evacuation plans for hospitals, care
20 homes, and other medical facilities;



- 1 (8) A review of current plans, policies, and procedures
2 for agencies involved in disaster assistance
3 regarding:
4 (A) Search and rescue efforts;
5 (B) Law enforcement and security;
6 (C) Provision of emergency supplies; and
7 (D) Transport of emergency personnel;
- 8 (9) Improvements to educate citizens about civil defense
9 and disaster preparedness including requiring the
10 department of education to take steps to include a
11 comprehensive civil defense course in disaster
12 awareness and preparedness;
- 13 (10) The feasibility of providing every household in Hawaii
14 with quick fact sheets informing residents on how to
15 prepare for disasters and checklists of necessary
16 disaster supplies;
- 17 (11) The adequacy of and necessity to improve designated
18 emergency shelters throughout the state;
- 19 (12) Any costs associated with improving Hawaii's disaster
20 preparedness; and
- 21 (13) Any other objective deemed necessary by the director
22 of health.



1 (c) The task force shall serve until it has accomplished
2 the objectives of this Act or until twenty days prior to the
3 convening of the regular session of 2008, whichever occurs
4 first.

5 (d) The members of the task force shall not receive
6 compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for
7 expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance
8 of their duties under this part.

9 SECTION 3. The task force, through the director of health,
10 shall submit an interim report to the legislature no later than
11 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
12 2007, and a final report, including any proposed legislation to
13 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
14 of the regular session of 2008.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for
18 completion of the study by the task force.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 health for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 20 2005



HB 1991

Report Title:

Disaster preparedness; emergency services; civil defense

Description:

Establishes a disaster preparedness task force.

