
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Hawaii, as an island state, faces unique
2 problems in dealing with potential natural disasters. The risks
3 involve a variety of natural disasters and after-effects,
4 including hurricanes, earthquakes, lava inundation, tsunamis,
5 flooding, and rock and earth slides. We have already seen from
6 the Indonesian tsunami the massive devastation that a natural
7 disaster can wreak on an island state such as ours.

8 Having recognized Hawaii's vulnerability to natural
9 disasters, the legislature intends to improve the State's
10 disaster readiness to protect the safety of its citizens and
11 mitigate the potential damage caused by a natural disaster. The
12 legislature finds that, based on recent history, government
13 should take a multi-pronged approach to prepare for and respond
14 to disasters.

15 One prong would be to provide reliable, readily available
16 information relating to disaster hazards in a given area, upon
17 which the public and business communities can make sound
18 decisions. Such information can contribute to a family's



1 decision to buy a home in a particular area, a bank's decision
2 to issue a loan for the home, a home insurer's decision to
3 provide risk coverage, a developer's decision to build a project
4 in the area, or an engineer's decision to apply certain
5 standards. All citizens deserve to know what potential
6 catastrophies may occur in a certain area.

7 The legislature finds that there is a collection of
8 information and maps from various sources that detail the
9 probability, intensity, and location of possible events,
10 including lava flows, tsunamis, and earthquakes. However,
11 accurate information on other natural disasters such as
12 flooding, hurricanes, other windstorms, and rock and earth
13 slides is not as readily available.

14 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 15 (1) Direct the state civil defense division to work with
16 knowledgeable parties to compile information relating
17 to disaster hazards across the state into a manageable
18 and accessible electronic form and update it; and
19 (2) Establish the commission on disaster hazard
20 information to oversee the process of compiling and
21 updating this information.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The state civil defense division shall
2 work with knowledgeable parties, such as the pacific disaster
3 center and the University of Hawaii, to compile accurate
4 information, including maps, relating to disaster hazards in the
5 state into a manageable and accessible electronic form, and
6 continue to update the information. The information shall
7 include details about:

- 8 (1) Various types of natural disasters, such as lava
9 flows, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, other
10 windstorms, flooding, and rock and earth slides;
11 (2) The areas that are vulnerable to these natural
12 disasters and other potentially affected locations;
13 (3) The probability of their occurrence;
14 (4) Their intensity;
15 (5) The hazards created; and
16 (6) Options available and measures that can be taken to
17 reduce and manage risk.

18 The information may be gathered from existing data collections,
19 maps, and other sources in or out of the state.

20 (b) The information shall be updated at least annually by
21 the state civil defense division.



1 (c) The state civil defense division shall ensure that the
2 information is accessible by the public through the Internet or
3 other electronic means.

4 SECTION 3. (a) There is established, within the civil
5 defense division of the state department of defense for
6 administrative purposes, a temporary commission on disaster
7 hazard information to oversee the process of compiling
8 information relating to disaster hazards in the state into a
9 manageable and accessible electronic form and updating it.

10 (b) The director of civil defense or the director's
11 designee shall serve as chair of the commission. The chair
12 shall invite representatives from various disciplines as the
13 chair deems necessary to participate as members of the
14 commission.

15 (c) The members of the commission on disaster hazard
16 information shall serve without compensation but shall be
17 reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary
18 for the performance of their duties.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the
22 commission on disaster hazard information to oversee the process



1 of compiling information relating to disaster hazards in the
2 state into a manageable and accessible electronic form and
3 updating it.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 defense for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the
9 state civil defense division to maintain and update information
10 relating to disaster hazards in the state in a manageable and
11 accessible electronic form.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 defense for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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Report Title:

State Civil Defense Division; Disaster Hazard Information

Description:

Directs the State Civil Defense Division to work with knowledgeable parties to compile information relating to disaster hazards across the State into a manageable and accessible electronic form and update it. Establishes the Commission on Disaster Hazard Information to oversee the process of compiling and updating this information.

