

JAN 25 2006

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISASTER PLANNING.

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

1           SECTION 1. People with disabilities are self-sufficient  
2 under normal circumstances, but may have to rely upon the help  
3 and assistance of others in a disaster. For example:

4           (1) People with disabilities and older people often need  
5 more time than others to make necessary preparation in  
6 an emergency;

7           (2) People who are deaf or hard of hearing may not receive  
8 early disaster warnings and emergency instructions  
9 which are normally disseminated audibly by siren,  
10 radio, and television;

11           (3) People who are blind or visually-impaired,  
12 particularly the elderly, may be extremely reluctant  
13 to leave familiar surroundings in an evacuation;

14           (4) Guide dogs could become confused or disoriented in a  
15 disaster, leaving their dependent owners at greater  
16 risk;

17           (5) Guide dogs may not be allowed to stay at shelters to  
18 assist their dependent owners;



- 1           (6) People with impaired mobility are concerned about
- 2           being lifted, carried, and then dropped, causing them
- 3           injury and further impairment;
- 4           (7) People with mental retardation are not always able to
- 5           understand an emergency situation and could become
- 6           disoriented and confused;
- 7           (8) People with respiratory illness could require oxygen
- 8           and respiratory equipment in an emergency; and
- 9           (9) People with epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, and other
- 10          conditions have very individualized medication
- 11          regimens that cannot be interrupted without serious
- 12          consequences.

13           The legislature finds that an unusually high concentration  
14 of this population resides in the Moiliili-McCully area of Oahu.

15           The purpose of this Act is to create and make an  
16 appropriation for a pilot program to be known as the disaster  
17 planning and preparation for at-risk individuals in the  
18 community.

19           SECTION 2. (a) There is created a pilot program to be  
20 known as the disaster planning and preparation program for  
21 at-risk individuals in the community. The department of health  
22 shall administer the program through the executive office on



1 aging. The program shall target the population with  
 2 disabilities living in the Moiliili-McCully area of Oahu.  
 3 (b) For purposes of subsection (a), the executive office  
 4 on aging shall consult with interested community entities  
 5 including, but not limited to, Project DANA, Lanakila Meals on  
 6 Wheels, Alu Like Inc., American Association of Retired Persons,  
 7 Catholic Charities, Hawaii Council of Association of Apartment  
 8 Owners, RSVP Helping Hands Hawaii, Hawaii Meals on Wheels,  
 9 Moiliili Community Center, Na Lei Aloha, and St. Clement's  
 10 Church.

11 (c) This section shall be repealed on June 30, 2008.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000, or so much  
 14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for the  
 15 disaster planning and preparation program for at-risk  
 16 individuals in the community.

17 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
 18 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Yee Ahn Jr  
Ronald Baker  
Norman Sakamoto

**Report Title:**

Disaster Planning; Disabled Persons

**Description:**

Establishes a program under the executive office on aging for disaster planning and preparation for at-risk individuals.  
Makes appropriation.

