
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING HIGH-RISE
BUILDINGS TO MAINTAIN BACKUP ELECTRICAL GENERATION CAPACITY
IN THE EVENT OF POWER FAILURES.

1 WHEREAS, the recent earthquake and its aftershocks on
2 October 15, 2006, caused major power failures on Oahu and
3 throughout the State; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the power failure for most of urban Honolulu
6 lasted for a duration of up to twelve hours and longer in
7 certain neighborhoods; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Honolulu was very fortunate that the power failure
10 did not cause any loss of life or major injury to residents and
11 visitors; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the power failure resulted in the loss of the use
14 of elevators, causing major inconvenience to many residents and
15 visitors occupying offices, hotel rooms, and dwelling units in
16 high-rise buildings throughout the State; and
17

18 WHEREAS, this loss of elevator service was especially
19 difficult for elderly and infirm residents and visitors caught
20 in high-rise buildings following the power failure; now,
21 therefore,
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative
26 Reference Bureau is requested to study the feasibility of
27 requiring high-rise buildings to be retrofitted to provide a
28 source of backup power generation to operate elevators and other
29 emergency systems in the event of a power failure; and
30



H.C.R. NO. 94

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
2 Bureau is requested to consult with:

- 3
- 4 (1) Hawaiian Electric Company;
- 5
- 6 (2) Structural and electrical engineers;
- 7
- 8 (3) High-rise building owners and management operators;
- 9
- 10 (4) The various county departments or agencies responsible
11 for the issuance of building permits;
- 12
- 13 (5) The various county fire departments; and
- 14
- 15 (6) Suppliers of large commercial and industrial
16 electrical generating equipment; and
- 17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
19 Bureau is requested to submit the study to the Legislature
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
21 2008; and

22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
25 Legislative Reference Bureau, the Executive Officer of the
26 Hawaiian Electric Company, the Mayor of each county, who in turn
27 is required to transmit copies to the head of the county
28 department or agency that is responsible for the issuance of
29 building permits, and to the Chief of the Fire Department of
30 each county.

31

32

33

OFFERED BY:

Calvin K. Y. Lay
By Request
MAR 12 2007

