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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that hundreds of  
2 communities across the country operate their own emergency  
3 advisory radio stations to advise residents in situations such  
4 as Amber alerts, school incidents, flash floods, industrial  
5 accidents, terror threats, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other  
6 types of emergencies.

7           Emergency advisory radio stations are frequently used along  
8 with sirens to inform listeners of emergencies and may be  
9 triggered to transmit prerecorded broadcast sequences via  
10 telephone, pushbutton, siren system, or other external controls.  
11 Live messages in real time and notices from the National Oceanic  
12 and Atmospheric Administration can also be broadcast using  
13 emergency advisory radio stations as the situation requires.

14           Emergency advisory radio stations may also be used to  
15 provide a wide range of information to residents, such as  
16 information on street repairs, public notices, upcoming events,  
17 local history, and even visitor information for:

18           (1) County departments of emergency management;



- 1 (2) Fire departments, law enforcement;
- 2 (3) Public works;
- 3 (4) Convention and visitors bureaus;
- 4 (5) Chambers of commerce;
- 5 (6) Airports;
- 6 (7) Transportation departments;
- 7 (8) Schools and universities; and
- 8 (9) The military.

9 Emergency advisory radio broadcasts would be a valuable and  
10 effective tool in providing Hawaii's residents with updated  
11 reports, alerts, and instructions in emergency and non-emergency  
12 situations.

13 The purpose of this Act is to establish an emergency  
14 advisory radio station pilot project on the island of Hawaii to  
15 alert residents to emergencies and other important information.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The director of civil defense shall  
17 establish a pilot project for an emergency advisory radio  
18 station on the island of Hawaii.

19 (b) The director of civil defense shall apply to the  
20 Federal Communications Commission for a government entity  
21 license on an open frequency from 530kHz to 1700kHz AM for the  
22 purpose of broadcasting content that is noncommercial voice



1 information relating to emergency management, weather, public  
2 safety, travel, public services, and points of interest. The  
3 emergency advisory radio station shall begin providing services  
4 within one year of receiving Federal Communications Commission  
5 licensure.

6 SECTION 3. The director of civil defense shall submit a  
7 report to the legislature, no later than twenty days prior to  
8 the convening of the regular session of 2009, on the status of  
9 the pilot project, including any recommendations for expanding  
10 the project and any proposed legislation.

11 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to  
14 establish an emergency advisory radio station pilot project on  
15 the island of Hawaii.

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

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



**Report Title:**

Emergency Advisory Radio Station; Pilot Program

**Description:**

Establishes an emergency advisory radio station pilot project on the island of Hawaii. (HB2160 HD1)

