
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 127, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§127- Inmate disaster relief program. (a) To assist
5 in providing disaster relief, the director of disaster relief
6 may utilize inmates from a minimum security correctional
7 facility, who are:

8 (1) Of a community custody level;

9 (2) Trained in disaster relief; and

10 (3) Part of a labor pool that provides assistance in the
11 event of a disaster.

12 (b) For purposes of this section, "disaster":

13 (1) Means the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread
14 or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property
15 resulting from any natural cause or cause of human
16 origin; but

17 (2) Does not include any hazardous substance incident, oil
18 spill or other contamination, epidemic, air pollution,



1 blight, drought, infestation, explosion, civil
2 disturbance, or hostile military or paramilitary
3 action.

4 (c) An inmate disaster relief crew may be utilized by any
5 county or state government agency that requests services from
6 the department of public safety pursuant to this section. The
7 director of disaster relief may designate an inmate disaster
8 relief crew as a temporary mobile reserve unit or a local
9 organization for disaster relief."

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
12 and to read as follows:

13 **"§353- Inmate disaster relief labor program;**
14 **establishment.** (a) There is established within the department
15 of public safety an inmate disaster relief labor program to
16 provide a labor pool of inmate crews to assist with disaster
17 relief efforts as provided in section 127- . Participants in
18 the program shall be from minimum security correctional
19 facilities who are of community custody level and have completed
20 appropriate training in providing natural disaster relief
21 efforts.



1 (b) The department shall establish policies and
2 procedures, including but not limited to:

3 (1) Eligibility criteria for inmates to participate in the
4 program;

5 (2) Types of disasters to which inmate disaster relief
6 crews may be sent;

7 (3) Measures required to provide sufficient security to
8 protect the public and prevent inmate escapes; and

9 (4) Fees that may be charged by the department for the
10 provision of services and the compensation that may be
11 paid to inmates participating in the program;

12 (c) The department may purchase equipment and obtain
13 necessary training for any of the inmate disaster relief crews.

14 The department is authorized to solicit, accept, and expend
15 appropriations, grants, donations, gifts, and other moneys to
16 defer the costs of equipping and training inmate disaster relief
17 crews.

18 (d) The inmate disaster relief labor program shall not be
19 implemented or be made available to other agencies until
20 sufficient moneys are available from appropriations, grants,
21 donations, gifts, or other sources of income to cover the cost



1 of equipping and training at least one inmate disaster relief
2 crew."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 17 2008



Report Title:

Disaster Relief; Inmate Programs; Inmate Disaster Relief Program

Description:

Authorizes the director of disaster relief to utilize inmate labor to assist with disaster relief efforts. Establishes the inmate disaster relief labor program within the department of public safety.

