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# 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 working with the department of public safety, may use inmates  
7 from a minimum security correctional facility who are:

8           (1) At 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:

13          "Disaster" means the occurrence or threat of widespread or  
14 severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting  
15 from any natural cause or cause of human origin; but does not  
16 include any hazardous substance incident, oil spill or other  
17 contamination, epidemic, air pollution, blight, drought,



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

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

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

12 **"§353- Inmate disaster relief labor program;**  
13 **establishment.** (a) There is established within the department  
14 of public safety an inmate disaster relief labor program to  
15 provide a labor pool of inmate crews to assist with disaster  
16 relief efforts as provided in section 127- . Participants in  
17 the program shall be from minimum security correctional  
18 facilities who are of community custody level and have completed  
19 appropriate training in providing natural disaster relief  
20 efforts.

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



- 1        (1) Eligibility criteria for inmates to participate in the  
2        program;
- 3        (2) Types of disasters to which inmate disaster relief  
4        crews may be sent;
- 5        (3) Measures required to provide sufficient security to  
6        protect the public and prevent inmate escapes; and
- 7        (4) Fees that may be charged by the department for the  
8        provision of services and the compensation that may be  
9        paid to inmates participating in the program;
- 10       (c) The department may purchase equipment and obtain  
11       necessary training for any of the inmate disaster relief crews.
- 12       The department is authorized to solicit, accept, and expend  
13       appropriations, grants, donations, gifts, and other moneys to  
14       defer the costs of equipping and training inmate disaster relief  
15       crews.
- 16       (d) The inmate disaster relief labor program shall not be  
17       implemented or be made available to other agencies until  
18       sufficient moneys are available from appropriations, grants,  
19       donations, gifts, or other sources of income to cover the cost  
20       of equipping and training at least one inmate disaster relief  
21       crew."



1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Disaster Relief; Inmate Programs; Inmate Disaster Relief Program

**Description:**

Authorizes the director of disaster relief to use inmate labor to assist with disaster relief efforts. Establishes the inmate disaster relief labor program within the department of public safety. (HB2463 HD1)

