
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER TO PROVIDE
FOR EMERGENCY ENERGY CAPACITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the earthquake and
2 subsequent electrical power outage in October 2006, reinforce
3 the urgency to ensure that emergency medical caregivers in the
4 State have adequate facilities and energy capacity to address a
5 massive medical emergency. On Oahu, roughly fourteen hours
6 after the earthquake, only approximately half of the island's
7 power had been restored.

8 The Queen's Medical Center did not have its power restored
9 until twelve hours after the earthquake and used its five
10 generators in the interim. During this time, the Queen's
11 Medical Center did not have sufficient power to generate
12 adequate air-conditioning, which affected the operation of
13 essential computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging
14 scanners due to high temperatures, rendering them unusable for
15 patient care. Had the outage lasted for very much longer or if
16 there had been an influx of medical emergencies, the Queen's



1 Medical Center and its patients would have faced serious
2 consequences.

3 The legislature finds that the Queen's Medical Center is
4 the only medical facility in the State with a trauma center that
5 has been verified by the American College of Surgeons. While
6 all hospitals are equipped with emergency facilities, a trauma
7 center is a specially equipped facility for dealing with serious
8 and life-threatening injuries. A critical component of a
9 properly equipped trauma center is an operating room served by
10 numerous and varied medical specialists, diagnostic equipment,
11 and other life-support systems.

12 To support the continuing operation of a trauma center in
13 the middle of a massive disaster, sufficient emergency energy
14 capacity is vital. The Queen's Medical Center presently has
15 five emergency generators with a total installed capacity of two
16 thousand sixty-seven kilowatts. However, the estimated peak
17 demand in the event of a disaster is six thousand kilowatts.
18 Part of this demand would be needed for necessary infrastructure
19 such as lighting, security, water supply, cooling, and
20 ventilation systems. Another part of this demand would be to
21 power the vital life-sustaining equipment and diagnostic tools
22 necessary in trauma centers. The needed additional energy



1 capacity to accommodate the estimated peak demand would require
2 the installation of four additional generators along with a new
3 storage structure capable of withstanding the wind force of a
4 category five hurricane at an estimated cost of approximately
5 \$35,000,000.

6 The purpose of this Act is to provide financial support for
7 the emergency energy needs of the Queen's Medical Center to
8 ensure that it remains ready to serve the entire community in
9 time of disaster.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000,000 or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 as a
13 grant under chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the
14 Queen's Medical Center to increase its emergency power generator
15 system to ensure a required maximum capacity of six thousand
16 kilowatts to continue operating its hospital and trauma center
17 in the event of a disaster.

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

20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

21

INTRODUCED BY:

Cindy Brown



Report Title:

Queen's Medical Center; Emergency Energy Capacity; Grant

Description:

Appropriates \$10,000,000 to the Queen's Medical Center as a grant to increase its emergency power generator system to ensure a required maximum capacity of 6,000 kilowatts to continue operating its hospital and trauma center in the event of a disaster.

