
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DEVELOPING HAWAII'S NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING AND
CONSULTATION PROGRAM FOR PRIVATE, GOVERNMENTAL, AND NON-
PROFIT ENTITIES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON AT-RISK COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature has acknowledged the importance of
2 Hawaii's kupuna and through Act 285, Session Laws of Hawaii
3 2006, has established the Joint Legislative Committee on Family
4 Caregiving; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature further acknowledged the need to
7 assist frail and vulnerable elders by enacting legislation to
8 provide for adult protective services, to protect the structural
9 integrity of nursing homes and other institutions, to maintain
10 the safety of elderly residents in condominiums, and other
11 measures that will assist elders who are "aging in place" when a
12 natural disaster occurs"; and
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14 WHEREAS, in the event of a natural disaster, there exists
15 the potential for great harm and injury to the elderly and
16 persons with disabilities, absent adequate natural disaster
17 preparation and training; and
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19 WHEREAS, during Hurricane Rita, a number of nursing home
20 residents died in New Orleans due to a lack of preparedness, and
21 similar incidents in Hawaii should be avoided by preparing for
22 hurricanes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters; and
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24 WHEREAS, large numbers of elders live alone and may be in
25 need of assistance in the event of a natural disaster,
26 especially if separated from family, friends, and caregivers;
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, the elderly who live in condominiums and other
30 multi-unit buildings are at greater risk because many buildings
31 do not have emergency plans or procedures to meet the immediate



1 and short-term needs of their residents who are aged or who may
2 have disabilities; and

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4 WHEREAS, recent federal legislation has established the
5 National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University
6 of Hawaii to conduct research and develop specific models and
7 tools for monitoring natural hazards and evaluating risks to
8 urban areas, while planning for the response, recovery, and
9 reconstruction of the community in the aftermath of natural
10 disasters; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the University of
15 Hawaii Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center is
16 requested to include in its work program a component that
17 addresses the needs of Hawaii's at-risk elderly and persons with
18 disabilities; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii
21 Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center is requested to
22 include in its plans for developing a disaster preparedness
23 program for at-risk elderly and persons with disabilities, the
24 Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving, Kupuna Caucus,
25 and other interested organizations and persons; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
29 University of Hawaii Natural Disaster Preparedness Training
30 Center, Director of Human Services, Director of Health,
31 Executive Director of the Executive Office On Aging, Chairperson
32 of the Policy Advisory Board on Elderly Affairs, Executive
33 Director of the Disability and Communication Access Board, and
34 the Executive Director of the Statewide Independent Living
35 Council of Hawaii.

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38 OFFERED BY: Andy Evans

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