
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, THE SENATE, AND THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO THE
CONTINUATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT DURING AN EMERGENCY.

1 WHEREAS, maintaining continuity of state government and
2 fulfilling government duties and responsibilities during
3 emergency situations is of growing concern to many states; and
4

5 WHEREAS, many state legislatures and executive offices have
6 reviewed their laws and enacted legislation or established
7 procedures to provide clear instruction for lines of succession
8 if members of the legislature or other elected officials are
9 unable to perform their duties, for the relocation of state or
10 local government, if necessary, and other issues relating to the
11 continuation of government and fulfilling of state government
12 duties and responsibilities during an emergency; and
13

14 WHEREAS, although the various government agencies in the
15 State of Hawaii have previously addressed continuity of
16 government issues, a new review would be prudent to determine
17 whether statutory amendments or procedural changes are necessary
18 to improve or expedite the process relating to the continuity of
19 government in an emergency; and
20

21 WHEREAS, a review of state law and government procedures
22 relating to continuity of government in an emergency, including
23 any constitutional issues, and the subsequent codification into
24 a single chapter of Hawaii Revised Statutes would assist present
25 and future government officials and employees in preparing for
26 an emergency situation and executing recovery measures in a
27 timely manner; now, therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is



1 requested to conduct a review of constitutional and state law,
2 practices and procedures, and other relevant information
3 relating to fulfilling the duties, functions, and
4 responsibilities of the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant
5 Governor and executive departments in an emergency and submit to
6 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
7 of the Regular Session of 2009 a report of findings and
8 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, on issues
9 of the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Lieutenant
10 Governor, and state executive departments and agencies that
11 relate to the continuity of constitutional government in an
12 emergency.

13

14 The Governor is requested to include in the report findings
15 and recommendations relating to:

16

- 17 (1) Possible sites identified for relocation of
18 legislative operations;
- 19
- 20 (2) Criteria and procedures used to determine suitability
21 for relocating the seat of state government;
- 22
- 23 (3) Liability issues if appropriate action is not taken to
24 ensure continued performance of essential functions of
25 state government, including the safety of state
26 employees, visitors, and the public;
- 27
- 28 (4) An assessment of existing operational capabilities,
29 based upon functions, staffing, and system
30 capabilities;
- 31
- 32 (5) An assessment of available staffing and lines of
33 authority;
- 34
- 35 (6) Communication within the Offices of the Governor and
36 the Lieutenant Governor, and with executive
37 departments and agencies, the Judiciary, the
38 Legislature, the county governments, and the media;
- 39
- 40 (7) Communication security, including integrity and
41 mobility;
- 42
- 43 (8) Capability and readiness of state executive
44 departments and agencies to "grab and go" with records



1 and data necessary to continue or resume their
2 functions; and

3
4 (9) Proposed legislation, if necessary; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
7 Senate to conduct a review of constitutional and state law,
8 practices and procedures, and other relevant information
9 relating to fulfilling the duties, functions, and
10 responsibilities of the Senate in an emergency and submit to the
11 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
12 the Regular Session of 2009 a report of findings and
13 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, on issues;
14 submit to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
15 convening of the Regular Session of 2009 a report of findings
16 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, on
17 issues of the Senate that relate to the continuity of Senate
18 operations in an emergency.
19

20 The Senate is requested to include in the report findings
21 and recommendations relating to:
22

- 23 (1) Provisions for facilities in immediate and regional
24 range for essential operations of the Senate,
25 including legislative sessions and committee meetings
26 and hearings;
27
- 28 (2) Fulfilling of any quorum requirements in the event of
29 mass casualties or inability or difficulty of members
30 to travel within the State;
31
- 32 (3) Filling vacancies in Senate membership caused by an
33 emergency;
34
- 35 (4) An assessment of existing operational capabilities,
36 based upon functions, staffing, and system
37 capabilities; including establishment of procedures to
38 fulfill any constitutional duties of the Senate, the
39 Clerk and Sergeant of Arms of the Senate, or other
40 Senate offices during an emergency;
41
- 42 (5) An assessment of available staffing and lines of
43 authority;
44



1 (6) Communication within the members and staff of the
 2 Senate, including the leadership of the respective
 3 caucuses, and with members and staff of the House of
 4 Representatives, the Offices of the Governor and the
 5 Lieutenant Governor, executive departments and
 6 agencies, the Judiciary, the county governments, and
 7 the media;

8
 9 (7) Communication security, including integrity and
 10 mobility;

11
 12 (8) Capability and readiness of Senate and staff offices
 13 to "grab and go" with records and data necessary to
 14 continue or resume their functions; and

15
 16 (9) Proposed legislation, if necessary; and

17
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
 19 House of Representatives to conduct a review of constitutional
 20 and state law, practices and procedures, and other relevant
 21 information relating to fulfilling the duties, functions, and
 22 responsibilities of the House of Representatives in an emergency
 23 and submit to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
 24 the convening of the Regular Session of 2009 a report of
 25 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 26 legislation, on issues of the House of Representatives that
 27 relate to the continuity of operations of the House of
 28 Representatives in an emergency.

29
 30 The House of Representatives is requested to include in the
 31 report findings and recommendations relating to:

32
 33 (1) Provisions for facilities in immediate and regional
 34 range for essential operations of the House of
 35 Representatives, including legislative sessions and
 36 committee meetings and hearings;

37
 38 (2) Fulfilling of any quorum requirements in the event of
 39 mass casualties or inability or difficulty of members
 40 to travel within the State;

41
 42 (3) Filling vacancies in the House of Representatives
 43 membership caused by an emergency;

44



- 1 (4) An assessment of existing operational capabilities,
2 based upon functions, staffing, and system
3 capabilities; including establishment of procedures to
4 fulfill any constitutional duties of the House of
5 Representatives, the Clerk and Sergeant of Arms of the
6 House of Representatives, or other House offices
7 during an emergency;
8
- 9 (5) An assessment of available staffing and lines of
10 authority;
11
- 12 (6) Communication within the members and staff of the
13 House of Representatives, including the leadership of
14 the respective caucuses, and with members and staff of
15 the Senate, the Offices of the Governor and the
16 Lieutenant Governor, executive departments and
17 agencies, the Judiciary, the county governments, and
18 the media;
19
- 20 (7) Communication security, including integrity and
21 mobility;
22
- 23 (8) Capability and readiness of House of Representatives
24 and staff offices to "grab and go" with records and
25 data necessary to continue or resume their functions;
26 and
27
- 28 (9) Proposed legislation, if necessary; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
31 Judiciary and the Mayor, Chair, and members of the county
32 councils of the respective counties to cooperate upon the
33 request of the Office of the Governor, the Senate, and the House
34 of Representatives on any issues relating to the continuity of
35 constitutional government during an emergency; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
39 Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
40 the House of Representatives, the head of each state executive



1 department, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawaii and
2 the Administrative Director of the Courts, and the Mayor and the
3 Chair of the Council of each of the respective counties.

4
5
6

OFFERED BY:

Cindy Evans

FEB 13 2008

