
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER TO WORK WITH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON FAMILY CARE GIVING, KUPUNA CAUCUS, AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS EMPHASIZING 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

5
6 WHEREAS, the Legislature further acknowledged the need to
7 assist frail and vulnerable elders by enacting legislation:

- 8
9 (1) To provide for adult protective services;
10
11 (2) To protect the structural integrity of nursing homes
12 and other institutions;
13
14 (3) To maintain the safety of elderly residents in
15 condominiums; and
16
17 (4) Other measures that will assist elders who are "aging
18 in place" when a natural disaster occurs";

19
20 and

21
22 WHEREAS, in the event of a natural disaster, there exists
23 the potential for great harm and injury to the elderly and
24 persons with disabilities, absent adequate natural disaster
25 preparation and training; and

26
27 WHEREAS, during Hurricane Rita, a number of nursing home
28 residents died in New Orleans due to a lack of preparedness, and
29 similar incidents in Hawaii should be avoided by preparing for
30 hurricanes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters; and



1 WHEREAS, large numbers of elders live alone and may be in
2 need of assistance in the event of a natural disaster,
3 especially if separated from family, friends, and caregivers;
4 and
5

6 WHEREAS, the elderly who live in condominiums and other
7 multi-unit buildings are at greater risk because many buildings
8 do not have emergency plans or procedures to meet the immediate
9 and short-term needs of their residents who are aged or who may
10 have disabilities; and
11

12 WHEREAS, recent federal legislation established the Natural
13 Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of
14 Hawaii to develop and provide training in all aspects of
15 disaster management within the Pacific region and to develop
16 tools and models for evaluating risks to urban areas, while
17 planning for the response, recovery, and reconstruction of the
18 community in the aftermath of natural disasters; now, therefore,
19

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2008, that the University of Hawaii Natural Disaster
23 Preparedness Training Center is requested to work with the Joint
24 Legislative Committee on Family Care Giving, Kupuna Caucus, and
25 other interested organizations and persons to develop disaster
26 preparedness programs emphasizing at-risk communities; and
27

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

