
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a major deficiency
2 exists in the State's disaster planning and preparedness for
3 older and disabled individuals. The recent events of Hurricane
4 Katrina and September 11th forced our communities to recognize
5 the extreme vulnerability of these two populations.

6 Given recent disasters, such as hurricanes Katrina and Rita
7 in 2005 and the earthquakes that struck Hawaii in 2006, the
8 needs of individuals with disabilities and other special health
9 needs have become more apparent as part of overall community
10 emergency preparedness. An interagency workgroup, known as the
11 interagency workgroup for the emergency preparedness of people
12 with disabilities and special needs, was convened in October
13 2005 to address these needs. The interagency workgroup
14 developed a 2006 interagency action plan for the emergency
15 preparedness of people with disabilities and special health
16 needs, and the interagency workgroup took action on many of the
17 goals and objectives during 2006 and subsequently updated the



1 action plan in February 2007. The 2006 and 2007 interagency
2 action plans identified preparedness planning, notification,
3 sheltering, and transportation as the most pressing issues for
4 individuals with disabilities and special health needs.

5 A substantial portion of the older and disabled population
6 in Hawaii are socially or geographically isolated and not served
7 by community agencies. These individuals are particularly
8 vulnerable in disaster situations because they often require
9 special transportation services, have critical medical and
10 pharmaceutical needs, and have difficulty communicating due to
11 cultural differences and language barriers.

12 The purpose of this Act is appropriate funds to the
13 interagency workgroup for the emergency preparedness of people
14 with disabilities and special needs to implement outreach
15 programs to inform the general public, particularly the elderly,
16 disabled, and infirm populations of the availability of disaster
17 relief services in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
21 interagency workgroup for the emergency preparedness of people
22 with disabilities and special needs to implement outreach



1 programs to inform the general public, particularly the elderly,
2 disabled, and infirm populations of the availability of disaster
3 relief services in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 defense for the purposes of this Act.

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



Report Title:

Disaster Planning and Preparedness; Elderly; Disabled

Description:

Makes an appropriation to the interagency workgroup for the emergency preparedness of people with disabilities and special needs to implement community outreach programs to inform the general public, particularly the elderly, disabled, and infirm populations of the availability of disaster relief services in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. (SD1)

