

JAN 18 2008

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 The Queen's Medical
2 Center serves as the main trauma center in the Pacific basin and
3 is the only level II trauma center in Hawaii approved by the
4 American College of Surgeons. A trauma center is specially
5 equipped and staffed to treat patients who have sustained
6 complex, life-threatening injuries such as multiple gunshot
7 wounds or severe internal injuries. A critical component of a
8 fully equipped trauma center is an operating room containing
9 diagnostic equipment and other life-support systems.

10 To support the continuing operation of a trauma center in
11 the middle of a massive disaster, sufficient emergency energy
12 capacity is vital. The Queen's Medical Center presently has
13 five emergency generators with a total installed capacity of two
14 thousand sixty-seven kilowatts. However, the estimated peak
15 demand in the event of a disaster is six thousand kilowatts.

16 Part of the demand would be for operating infrastructure
17 such as lighting, security, water supply, cooling, and



1 ventilation systems necessary to keep the medical center
2 operational. The remainder of the demand would be for powering
3 vital life-sustaining equipment and diagnostic tools.

4 The additional energy capacity needed to accommodate the
5 estimated peak demand will require the installation of four
6 additional generators along with a new storage structure capable
7 of withstanding the wind force of a category five hurricane.
8 The estimated cost of the four additional generators, the
9 storage structure, and related infrastructure is approximately
10 \$35,000,000.

11 The October 2006 earthquake and subsequent electrical power
12 outage illustrates the importance of ensuring that emergency
13 medical caregivers are provided with sufficient energy capacity
14 in an emergency. On Oahu, approximately half of Hawaiian
15 Electric Company customers' power was not restored until over
16 fourteen hours after the earthquake. The Queen's Medical Center
17 did not have its power restored until twelve hours after the
18 earthquake and used its five generators in the interim.

19 During this period, The Queen's Medical Center did not have
20 sufficient power to generate adequate air-conditioning. Due to
21 the resulting high temperatures, essential computerized
22 tomography and magnetic resonance imaging scanners were rendered



1 unusable for patient care. Had the outage lasted longer or if
2 there had been an influx of medical emergencies, The Queen's
3 Medical Center and its patients would have faced serious
4 consequences.

5 The purpose of this Act is to provide financial support to
6 The Queen's Medical Center to ensure that it remains ready to
7 serve the community in a time of disaster.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000,000 or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
11 The Queen's Medical Center to increase the capacity of its
12 emergency power generator system.

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

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

16

INTRODUCED BY: B/R Will Espero



Report Title:

Emergency Energy Capacity; Disaster Preparedness

Description:

Appropriates funds to the State's only trauma center to upgrade generator capacity in order to ensure sufficient capacity in the event of a major disaster.

