

JAN 23 2008

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONVENE A  
STATEWIDE TASK FORCE TO ADVISE THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION  
ON THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
HEALTH NEEDS.

1           WHEREAS, given recent disasters, such as hurricanes Katrina  
2 and Rita in 2005, and the earthquakes that affected Hawaii in  
3 2006, it became more apparent that addressing the needs of  
4 individuals with disabilities and other special health needs  
5 constitutes an essential part of overall community emergency  
6 preparedness; and

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8           WHEREAS, an interagency workgroup was convened in October  
9 2005, to address these needs; and

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11           WHEREAS, the interagency workgroup developed a 2006  
12 Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People  
13 with Disabilities and Special Health Needs (Action Plan); and

14  
15           WHEREAS, the interagency work group took action on many of  
16 the goals and objectives of the Action Plan during 2006 and  
17 subsequently updated the Action Plan in February 2007; and

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19           WHEREAS, the 2006 and 2007 Action Plans identified  
20 preparedness planning, notification, sheltering, and  
21 transportation as the most pressing issues for individuals with  
22 disabilities and special health needs; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, the Action Plan set forth the following goals:

- 25  
26           (1) All pre-designated locations used and managed as  
27 emergency evacuation shelters must meet minimum  
28 requirements for facility access in the area of



- 1           ingress and use of restroom (toilet) facilities to
- 2           meet the needs of Level I individuals;
- 3
- 4           (2) The capacity of the community to "shelter-in-place"
- 5           must be increased;
- 6
- 7           (3) The number and dispersion of community emergency
- 8           shelters as centers to provide augmented health
- 9           support for Level II individuals must be increased,
- 10           with the long-term goal of having all community
- 11           shelters able to support Level II individuals;
- 12
- 13           (4) An accessible public and professional personal
- 14           emergency readiness campaign must be developed to
- 15           assist everyone to make plans for themselves and their
- 16           families in the event of an emergency;
- 17
- 18           (5) Individuals with disabilities or special health needs
- 19           must have an emergency evacuation plan in place
- 20           developed by themselves or by their caregivers to
- 21           implement in the event of a notification of
- 22           evacuation;
- 23
- 24           (6) Education must be provided to all health care
- 25           providers in order that appropriate emergency
- 26           evacuation plans for health care facilities or
- 27           settings are in place;
- 28
- 29           (7) Individuals with disabilities or special health needs
- 30           must receive notification of an evacuation through
- 31           state civil defense mechanisms in an accessible
- 32           format; and
- 33
- 34           (8) Each county must have a plan for providing accessible
- 35           transportation for individuals with disabilities and
- 36           special health needs who have no transportation
- 37           options or means to get to and from an emergency
- 38           shelter;

39  
40   and

41  
42       WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to expand and  
43   improve Hawaii's emergency management operations by supporting  
44   the equipping of emergency shelters and the establishment of a



1 statewide task force (Task Force) to address and plan for the  
2 specific and specialized needs of individuals with disabilities  
3 and special health needs; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Task Force should comprise:

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7 (1) The chair of the standing committee of the House of  
8 Representatives (House) with jurisdiction over health  
9 matters, or the chair's designee;

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11 (2) The chair of the standing committee of the Senate with  
12 jurisdiction over health matters, or the chair's  
13 designee;

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15 (3) Nine members of the community at large, with three  
16 each to be chosen by the Speaker of the House, the  
17 President of the Senate, and the Governor; and

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19 (4) The Vice Director of the Civil Defense Division of the  
20 state Department of Defense, or the Vice Director's  
21 designee;

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23 and

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25 WHEREAS, the Civil Defense Division of the state Department  
26 of Defense is the designated lead agency for the Emergency  
27 Management System in the State of Hawaii; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the state Department  
32 of Defense is requested to convene the Task Force to advise the  
33 Civil Defense Division on addressing and planning for the  
34 disaster-preparedness needs of individuals with disabilities and  
35 special health needs; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Defense  
38 is requested to report the findings of the Task Force regarding  
39 the disaster-preparedness needs of individuals with disabilities  
40 and special health needs to the Legislature not later than  
41 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
42 2009; and



# S.C.R. NO. 18

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant  
3 General, the Director of Health, the Director of Human Services,  
4 the Chair and Executive Director of the Disability and  
5 Communication Access Board, the Chair and Executive  
6 Administrator of the Hawaii State Council on Developmental  
7 Disabilities, and each county civil defense or emergency  
8 management agency.  
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OFFERED BY: *Erzanne Chunallana*

