

MAR 13 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

DEVELOPING HAWAII'S NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING AND
CONSULTATION PROGRAM FOR PRIVATE, GOVERNMENTAL, AND NON-
PROFIT ENTITIES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON 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
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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature further acknowledged the need to
7 *assist frail and vulnerable elders by enacting legislation to*
8 *provide for adult protective services, to protect the structural*
9 *integrity of nursing homes and other institutions, to maintain*
10 *the safety of elderly residents in condominiums, and other*
11 *measures that will assist elders who are "aging in place" when a*
12 *natural disaster occurs"; and*
13

14 WHEREAS, in the event of a natural disaster, there exists
15 the potential for great harm and injury to the elderly and
16 persons with disabilities, absent adequate natural disaster
17 preparation and training; and
18

19 WHEREAS, during Hurricane Rita, a number of nursing home
20 residents died in New Orleans due to a lack of preparedness, and
21 similar incidents in Hawaii should be avoided by preparing for
22 hurricanes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters; and
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24 WHEREAS, large numbers of elders live alone and may be in
25 need of assistance in the event of a natural disaster,
26 *especially if separated from family, friends, and caregivers;*
27 *and*
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29 WHEREAS, the elderly who live in condominiums and other
30 multi-unit buildings are at greater risk because many buildings
31 do not have emergency plans or procedures to meet the immediate
32 and short-term needs of their residents who are aged or who may
33 have disabilities; and
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1 WHEREAS, recent federal legislation has established the
 2 National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University
 3 of Hawaii to conduct research and develop specific models and
 4 tools for monitoring natural hazards and evaluating risks to
 5 urban areas, while planning for the response, recovery, and
 6 reconstruction of the community in the aftermath of natural
 7 disasters; now, therefore,

8
 9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
 10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
 11 that the University of Hawaii Natural Disaster Preparedness
 12 Training Center is requested to include in its work program a
 13 component that addresses the needs of Hawaii's at-risk elderly
 14 and persons with disabilities; and

15
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii
 17 Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center is requested to
 18 include in its plans for developing a disaster preparedness
 19 program for at-risk elderly and persons with disabilities, the
 20 Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving, Kupuna Caucus,
 21 and other interested organizations and persons; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the University of
 25 Hawaii Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center, Director
 26 of Human Services, Director of Health, Executive Director of the
 27 Executive Office On Aging, Chairperson of the Policy Advisory
 28 Board on Elderly Affairs, Executive Director of the Disability
 29 and Communication Access Board, and the Executive Director of
 30 the Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawaii.

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33 OFFERED BY:

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