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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER TO DEVELOP A 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  
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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  
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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,

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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

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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, the  
26 Director of Human Services, the Director of Health, the  
27 Executive Director of the Executive Office On Aging, the  
28 Chairperson of the Policy Advisory Board on Elderly Affairs, the  
29 Executive Director of the Disability and Communication Access  
30 Board, and the Executive Director of the Statewide Independent  
31 Living Council of Hawaii.

