
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 **"CHAPTER**

5 **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

6 **§ -1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

7 "Commission" means the disaster preparedness commission.

8 "Director" means the director of the office of disaster
9 preparedness.

10 "Disaster" means any natural or human-caused catastrophe,
11 the occurrence of which is unanticipated or difficult to
12 predict, that results in significant property damage,
13 agricultural loss, hardship, suffering, psychological disorders,
14 medical difficulties, or loss of life within the state.

15 "Natural hazard" means hurricane, storm, flood, tsunami,
16 tidal wave, wind-driven water, earthquake, volcanic activity,
17 volcanic smog or vog, lava flow, rockslide, earthslide, fire, or
18 other natural disaster.



1 "Vog" means the substance created when sulfur dioxide and
2 other volcanic gases combine and interact chemically in the
3 atmosphere with oxygen, moisture, dust, and sunlight over a
4 period of time to form a visible haze consisting of gas and a
5 suspended mixture of tiny liquid and solid particles.

6 **§ -2 Office of disaster preparedness established.** There
7 is established in the department of transportation the office of
8 disaster preparedness. The director of the office shall be
9 nominated and, by and with the advice and consent of the senate,
10 appointed by the governor. The director shall serve for a
11 period of six years and thereafter until a successor is
12 appointed. The salary of the director shall be set at a rate no
13 greater than \$ a year and shall not be diminished
14 during the director's term of office unless by general law
15 applying to all salaried officers of the State. If the director
16 dies, resigns, becomes ineligible to serve, or is removed or
17 suspended from office, the first assistant to the director shall
18 become the acting director until a new director is appointed for
19 a full term.

20 **§ -3 Duties of the director.** (a) The director shall
21 develop a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan for the
22 State. The disaster preparedness plan shall include:



- 1 (1) The identification of natural hazards;
- 2 (2) The designation of natural hazard impact zones;
- 3 (3) Priorities for natural hazard mitigation;
- 4 (4) Policies, requirements, and incentives to mitigate the
- 5 problems caused by natural hazards, to be incorporated
- 6 into rules such as county building codes, land use
- 7 policies, and retrofitting incentives such as tax
- 8 credits; and
- 9 (5) Plans for best responses to disasters to minimize
- 10 costs and protect the interests of residents, their
- 11 possessions, and pets, and visitors to the state,
- 12 including plans ensuring the reliability of
- 13 communication networks and power supplies for major
- 14 state airports, health care facilities, disaster
- 15 shelters, and other essential services.
- 16 (b) The director shall report annually to the governor and
- 17 the legislature no later than twenty days before the convening
- 18 of each regular session of the legislature on the status of the
- 19 disaster preparedness plan and shall include any necessary
- 20 proposed legislation.

21 **§ -4 Disaster preparedness commission established;**

22 **selection of advisory committees.** (a) There is established a



1 disaster preparedness commission within the department of
2 transportation for administrative purposes only. The commission
3 shall consist of seven members as follows:

- 4 (1) One member appointed by the governor;
- 5 (2) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of
6 representatives;
- 7 (3) One member appointed by the president of the senate;
8 and
- 9 (4) Four members appointed by the mayors of the counties
10 of Honolulu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, each of whom
11 shall appoint one member.

12 The commission shall select one of its members to serve as
13 chairperson. No member of the commission shall receive any
14 compensation for commission services; provided that members
15 shall be allowed necessary expenses, including travel expenses,
16 incurred in the performance of their official duties. The
17 members of the commission shall be appointed pursuant to section
18 26-34 except as provided in this chapter.

19 (b) The commission shall advise and assist the director in
20 developing a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan for the
21 State of Hawaii. The commission's duties in this regard shall
22 include but not be limited to:



- 1 (1) Gathering information about disasters that have
- 2 occurred in the past; and
- 3 (2) Establishing advisory committees to provide technical
- 4 and other support to the director."

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and
 8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 9 year 2010-2011 for the office of the director of disaster
 10 preparedness and the disaster preparedness commission, including
 11 the hiring of necessary staff.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 13 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Disaster Preparedness Plan; Natural Disasters

Description:

Establishes the Office of Disaster Preparedness and a Disaster Preparedness Commission to develop a disaster preparedness plan for Hawaii that includes the identification of hazards and hazard impact zones, disaster mitigation policies, requirements, and incentives, and best responses. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2020. (HB990 HD1)

