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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is vulnerable  
3 to a tsunami or hurricane disaster and recognizes the importance  
4 of remaining vigilant in protecting its residents and guests  
5 from these disasters. In view of lessons learned from the 2004  
6 tsunami in southeast Asia and hurricane Katrina in Florida in  
7 2005, and because these natural disasters could cause tremendous  
8 devastation in Hawaii, the legislature deems it vitally  
9 important to ensure that the State is adequately prepared to  
10 deal with these disasters. While state and private agencies  
11 have made great strides in becoming capable of responding to a  
12 tsunami or hurricane disaster, more resources are needed to  
13 upgrade and decrease coverage gaps in the existing warning  
14 systems.

15 The purpose of this part is to provide for tsunami warning  
16 sirens in new residential developments by allowing the counties  
17 to condition the approval of permits for the construction of new  
18 residential housing in tsunami inundation zones on the



1 installation of tsunami warning sirens or payment of impact  
2 fees.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
4 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
5 read as follows:

6 "§46- Installation of tsunami warning sirens. (a)  
7 Prior to issuing permits for the development of any new  
8 residential housing consisting of fifty or more residential  
9 units within a tsunami inundation zone, the counties may require  
10 the developer requesting the permits to install tsunami warning  
11 sirens within the development, to be linked to the civil defense  
12 warning system. The department of defense may determine the  
13 specifications for the tsunami warning sirens and their  
14 placement.

15 (b) Prior to issuing permits for the development of any  
16 new residential housing consisting of less than fifty  
17 residential units within a tsunami inundation zone, the counties  
18 may impose impact fees pursuant to this chapter for the purpose  
19 of installing tsunami warning sirens within the development.

20 (c) For purposes of this section, "residential units"  
21 includes single-family, duplex, and multi-family dwelling  
22 units."



## 1 PART II

2 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that it is crucial to  
3 provide notice of an impending natural disaster or emergency to  
4 segments of the population that are hearing impaired or cannot  
5 understand verbal or written communications in the languages  
6 commonly used in the State. The purpose of this part is to  
7 require the disability communications access board to identify  
8 internationally recognized symbols that may be transmitted  
9 through various forms of visual digital communications, such as  
10 cellular telephones, computers, and television, in the event of  
11 a disaster or emergency.

12 SECTION 4. The disability communications access board  
13 shall identify internationally recognized symbols to be used in  
14 the event of a disaster or emergency to communicate notice  
15 through visual digital communications to persons who do not  
16 understand verbal or written communications.

17 The disability communications access board shall report its  
18 findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than  
19 December 1, 2009.

## 20 PART III

21 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



# H.B. NO. 383

1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Andy Evans

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Rep. Harts

JAN 23 2009



**Report Title:**

Civil Defense

**Description:**

Allows the counties to condition the approval of permits for the construction of new residential housing in tsunami inundation zones on the installation of tsunami warning sirens or payment of impact fees. Requires the disability communications access board to identify internationally recognized symbols to be used in the event of a disaster or emergency to communicate notices to persons that do not understand verbal or written communications.

