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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that natural disasters  
2 involving seismic waves, tidal waves, storms, volcanic  
3 eruptions, earthquakes, or floods cause significant damage to  
4 property and life. However, often times, the losses and  
5 suffering caused by many natural disasters do not rise to the  
6 "character and magnitude" necessary for the governor to declare  
7 the event a "state disaster" pursuant to section 209-2, Hawaii  
8 Revised Statutes. In such cases, while the damage and suffering  
9 caused by such events may not be as widespread, but no less  
10 severe to impacted residents and users of damaged properties,  
11 the repair of the damage does not qualify for State assistance  
12 and expedited permit approval and must therefore follow the slow  
13 and tedious repair process of regular construction.

14           The purpose of this Act is to require various state and  
15 county agencies to develop and agree upon processes to expedite  
16 the repair of damages caused by natural disasters that are not  
17 declared "state disasters" by the governor.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
2 of business, economic development, and tourism, the natural  
3 disasters working group to identify and establish procedures,  
4 and recommend any necessary legislation, for expediting and  
5 streamlining the recovery from natural disasters that are not  
6 declared "state disasters" by the governor pursuant to section  
7 209-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

8 (b) The natural disaster working group shall:

- 9 (1) Develop methods for fast-tracking or streamlining  
10 permits for repair and construction following a  
11 natural disaster that is not declared a "state  
12 disaster" by the governor; and
- 13 (2) Agree upon other methods and procedures for expediting  
14 repairs and construction following natural disasters.

15 (c) The working group shall consist of the following  
16 members, or their designees:

- 17 (1) The director of the office of planning, who shall  
18 serve as chairperson of the working group;
- 19 (2) The adjutant general;
- 20 (3) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
21 resources;
- 22 (4) The director of transportation;



1 (5) The director of the county of Hawaii department of  
2 public works;

3 (6) The director of the city and county of Honolulu  
4 department of planning and permitting;

5 (7) The county engineer of the county of Kauai department  
6 of public works; and

7 (8) The director of the county of Maui department of  
8 planning.

9 (d) The director of the office of planning may invite  
10 other representatives to participate as members of the working  
11 group including individuals from the Federal Emergency  
12 Management Agency and other federal agencies.

13 (e) The working group shall submit a report of the  
14 procedures established along with any recommendations, including  
15 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than  
16 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
17 2015.

18 (f) The members of the working group shall not be  
19 compensated for their service on the working group but may be  
20 reimbursed for reasonable expenses, including travel expenses,  
21 incurred for serving on the working group.



1 (g) The office of planning shall provide administrative,  
2 clerical, and professional staff support to the working group  
3 and assist the working group in preparing its report.

4 (h) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2015.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Cindy Evans*

JAN 22 2014



# H.B. NO. 2384

**Report Title:**

Natural Disasters; Working Group

**Description:**

Establishes the natural disaster working group to develop procedures for expediting recovery from natural disasters that are not declared "state disasters" by the governor.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

