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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMUNICATIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The Oklahoma City bombing, the attacks of  
2           September 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and other  
3           subsequent terrorist and natural disasters have repeatedly  
4           exposed the communications challenges faced by first responders  
5           in communicating with each other. These challenges to robust  
6           and sustainable interoperable public safety communications  
7           include a lack of essential public safety communications staff,  
8           existing staff are in disparate organizations or entities such  
9           that a lack of coordination and cooperation among agencies is  
10          the result, inadequate coordination in planning, lack of  
11          policies and procedures, incompatible communications equipment  
12          that may also be reaching the end of its useful life, equipment  
13          and resources in multiple and disparate locations with  
14          inconsistent or non-existent intra-agency or intra-entity  
15          coordination, and limitations on funding. To deal with  
16          interoperable communications issues, Congress passed Title XVIII  
17          of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended, which requires



1 the United States Department of Homeland Security, Office of  
2 Emergency Communications, to develop and update a national  
3 emergency communications plan to ensure that emergency  
4 responders at all levels of government and disciplines have  
5 interoperable communications by identifying capabilities and  
6 initiatives and setting strategic goals and national objectives.  
7 To help states improve state and local interoperability  
8 communications, homeland security grants for communication  
9 interoperability initiatives require each state to establish a  
10 statewide communication interoperability plan that includes  
11 annual updates.

12 The legislature finds that as a matter of policy, all  
13 efforts should be made to ensure that all county and state  
14 public safety agencies have interoperable communications and  
15 engage in coordinated planning, equipment purchases, and  
16 infrastructure development. To achieve statewide  
17 interoperability, all stakeholders must be involved in the  
18 collaboration and development of shared objectives and  
19 strategies.

20 The purpose of this Act is to establish a statewide  
21 governance system that includes an interoperability executive



1 board to set the overarching policy, guidance, and direction for  
2 statewide interoperable public safety communications. It is the  
3 intent of the legislature to create a statewide governance board  
4 with this Act and that the statewide governance board shall make  
5 recommendations to the legislature for improvements and local  
6 governance structures that will coordinate with the statewide  
7 governance board.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 128A is amended by adding a new part to  
9 be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

10 "PART II. STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

11 INTEROPERABILITY

12 §128A- Statewide interoperability executive board. (a)

13 There is established within the department of defense for  
14 administrative purposes the statewide interoperability executive  
15 board which shall be the primary steering group for the Hawaii  
16 statewide communications interoperability plan.

17 (b) The members of the statewide interoperability  
18 executive board shall consist of:

19 (1) The adjutant general, or designee, who shall serve as  
20 the chair of the board;



- 1           (2) The attorney general, or designee, who shall serve as
- 2           the co-chair of the board;
- 3           (3) The deputy director of law enforcement of the
- 4           department of public safety, or designee;
- 5           (4) The director of transportation, or designee;
- 6           (5) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
- 7           resources, or designee;
- 8           (6) The director of health, or designee;
- 9           (7) The comptroller, or designee;
- 10          (8) The chief information officer of the office of
- 11          enterprise technology services, or designee; provided
- 12          that the designee shall be a decision maker and
- 13          knowledgeable with public safety communications;
- 14          (9) The mayor of each county, or designee; provided that
- 15          the position of the designee shall be no lower than
- 16          that of the managing director or the chief of staff;
- 17          (10) The chair of the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association, or
- 18          designee;
- 19          (11) One chief of police, or designee, who shall be
- 20          selected by all chiefs of police in Hawaii;



- 1       (12) The chairperson of the enhanced 9-1-1 board, or
- 2                designee;
- 3       (13) The chairperson of the 700 MHz Regional Planning
- 4                Committee, or designee;
- 5       (14) One senator appointed by the president of the senate
- 6                with an interest in public safety communications; and
- 7       (15) One representative appointed by the speaker of the
- 8                house of representatives with an interest in public
- 9                safety communications.

10 For purposes of this subsection, each designee shall have the  
11 authority to act on behalf of the member identified for  
12 membership.

13       (c) Members of the board shall receive no compensation but  
14 shall be reimbursed for travel and other reasonable and  
15 necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties  
16 relating to the board.

17       (d) Persons holding public office or employment in the  
18 state government, or any political subdivision thereof, shall be  
19 eligible for appointment to the board.



1           §128A-       Duties of the state interoperability executive

2 board. (a) The state interoperability executive board shall  
3 have the following duties:

4           (1) Develop, annually update, and monitor implementation  
5 of the statewide communication interoperability plan  
6 that shall be designed to achieve statewide  
7 interoperable public safety communications;

8           (2) Establish, develop, and recommend policies and  
9 strategies to improve public safety communications  
10 interoperability among state and county public safety  
11 agencies and, where possible, federal agencies;

12           (3) Develop standards, plans, and policies to encourage  
13 and foster consistent design and development of public  
14 safety communications infrastructure and systems;

15           (4) Where appropriate, recommend changes and improvements  
16 to existing public safety communications  
17 infrastructure and governance as required or  
18 appropriate for implementation of interoperability  
19 plans;

20           (5) Develop recommendations for legislation to promote  
21 statewide public safety communications



- 1 interoperability and governance at the state and  
2 county levels;
- 3 (6) Develop recommendations for state and county policies  
4 to promote statewide public safety communications  
5 interoperability;
- 6 (7) Coordinate state and county activities relating to  
7 obtaining, implementing, and using federal grants for  
8 support and coordination of public safety  
9 interoperable communications systems, resources,  
10 staffing, infrastructure, equipment, and training;
- 11 (8) Conduct and submit an annual update of the  
12 interoperability plan to the United States Department  
13 of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency  
14 Communications, or its successor, aligning the update  
15 with standards established in the national emergency  
16 communications plan by the federal office;
- 17 (9) Coordinate statewide interoperability activities among  
18 state and county agencies, and, as appropriate,  
19 federal agencies;



1 (10) Advise the governor, the chief information officer,  
2 and the legislature on the implementation of the  
3 interoperability plan;

4 (11) Submit a report to the legislature no later than  
5 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular  
6 session on the status of the interoperability plan and  
7 the activities of the board; and

8 (12) Adopt rules necessary to carry out the board's duties  
9 and powers; provided that chapter 91 shall not apply  
10 to rules of the board.

11 **§128A- Statewide interoperability coordinator. (a)**

12 There shall be a statewide interoperability coordinator to serve  
13 as the central coordination point for the Hawaii statewide  
14 communication interoperability plan and, through coordination  
15 and collaboration with agencies and entities in the homeland  
16 security and emergency response communities, the implementation  
17 of the interoperability plan.

18 (b) The statewide interoperability coordinator shall have  
19 the following duties:

20 (1) Assist the state interoperability executive board in  
21 coordinating and collaborating with state and county





1 responders and public safety communications providers  
2 in conducting and submitting annual updates to the  
3 statewide communications interoperability plan and  
4 other communications related documents;

5 (2) Ensure that the state and county interoperability  
6 plans align with and support local and national  
7 communications strategies;

8 (3) Identify funding opportunities for planned  
9 interoperability improvements and coordinate efforts  
10 to acquire funding;

11 (4) Engage stakeholders in coordinating and developing  
12 strategic interoperability plans;

13 (5) Serve as a member of the National Council of Statewide  
14 Interoperability Coordinators;

15 (6) Represent the State and the state interoperability  
16 executive council in local, regional, and national  
17 efforts to plan and implement changes required to  
18 ensure communications operability, interoperability,  
19 and continuity of communications for emergency  
20 responders in Hawaii;



- 1           (7) Perform an analysis of the current status of  
2           communications resources, where they exist, the  
3           responsible agency or entity, and policies and  
4           procedures currently in place and provide the  
5           information to the board for development of a state  
6           and county public safety interoperable communications  
7           strategy;
- 8           (8) If the statewide interoperability coordinator is not  
9           the first responder network authority state point of  
10          contact, the statewide interoperability coordinator  
11          shall coordinate with the State's point of contact for  
12          all activities related to the nationwide public safety  
13          broadband network, also referred to as FirstNet;
- 14          (9) Review and approve homeland security grant  
15          applications, in coordination with the homeland  
16          security administrator, wherein public safety  
17          communications equipment is requested, pursuant to  
18          grant guidance; and
- 19          (10) Perform other duties as necessary and as required by  
20          the adjutant general."

21           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.



**Report Title:**

DOD; Executive Board; Public Safety Communications

**Description:**

Establishes a statewide interoperability executive board to guide and direct statewide interoperable public safety communications. (SD1)

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

