
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the community
2 assessment for public health emergency response (CASPER) is a
3 low-cost, validated two-stage cluster sampling methodology
4 developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to
5 rapidly obtain information about the health and resource needs
6 of a community. Information obtained is generalizable to the
7 entire sampling frame providing population-based estimates. The
8 information generated by this rapid needs assessment can be used
9 to initiate public health action, identify information gaps,
10 facilitate disaster planning and response activities, allocate
11 resources, and assess new or changing needs in the community.

12 The legislature also finds that although the department of
13 health has offices in every county, only the Kauai district
14 health office has conducted CASPERs annually from 2017 through
15 2019 to monitor trends in the emergency preparedness of island
16 residents. This resource was tapped during the coronavirus
17 disease 2019 (COVID-19) response effort on Kauai to determine



1 the impacts of the pandemic on the community. The county's
2 emergency management agency developed a survey, which assessed
3 the community's knowledge, attitudes, and practices about COVID-
4 19, as well as the financial and mental health impacts on
5 households.

6 The legislature further finds that, aside from the Kauai
7 data collected, there is almost no data about household level
8 emergency preparedness in Hawaii at either the county or a
9 statewide level. For example, data on household food storage, a
10 critical element of food system resilience, could serve as a key
11 data point for both immediate response planning and long-term
12 intervention planning.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
14 department of health to conduct:

- 15 (1) A CASPER assessment for each county; and
16 (2) A statewide CASPER assessment,
17 to determine key emergency preparedness facets that would
18 articulate key vulnerabilities to aid county and state recovery
19 response and recovery planning.



SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall conduct a community assessment for public health emergency response (CASPER) for the:

- (1) County of Hawaii;
- (2) County of Maui;
- (3) County of Kauai; and
- (4) City and county of Honolulu.

(b) The department of health shall conduct a statewide CASPER.

(c) The department of health shall coordinate with the county emergency management agencies and Hawaii emergency management agency to develop CASPER survey.

(d) The survey shall include questions that address:

- (1) Basic household information;
- (2) Knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding COVID-19;
- (3) The prevalence of households with members at high risk of severe disease;
- (4) Mental health and stress impacts;



(5) Financial impacts of COVID-19 concerning employment,
housing expenses, transportation, rent, mortgage,
basic utilities, household food needs;

(6) COVID-19 communication sources; and

(7) Other key emergency preparedness elements, such as
those related to food,

that would assist in the articulating key vulnerabilities to aid
county and state responses to an emergency and recovery
planning.

(e) The department of health shall utilize numerous
methods to notify the public of the CASPER, including a press
release, radio advertisements, and social media posts. The
department staff and volunteers who conduct the survey shall
follow social distancing requirements and provide for the
ability for selected households to participate via telephone.

(f) The department of health shall obtain consent from all
participants and provide for the opportunity to participate in a
socially distanced outdoor or telephone interview.

(g) The department of health shall provide for educational
materials on COVID-19 and available social service resources for
households who seek to participate in the study.



1 SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report
2 of its findings and recommendations from the CASPER analyses,
3 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
4 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
5 of 2022.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 27 2021



H.B. NO. 1301

Report Title:

Department of Health; Emergency Preparedness; Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response

Description:

Requires the department of health to perform a community assessment for public health emergency response for each county and on a statewide level to determine emergency preparedness facets that would help articulate key vulnerabilities to aid county and state response and recovery planning.

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