
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY POWERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 127A-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

3 "(c) It is the intent of the legislature to provide for
4 and confer comprehensive powers for the purposes stated herein.
5 This chapter shall be liberally construed to effectuate its
6 purposes; provided that this chapter shall not be construed as
7 conferring any power or permitting any action [~~which~~] that is
8 inconsistent with the Constitution [~~and~~], laws of the United
9 States, or the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, but, in so
10 construing this chapter, due consideration shall be given to the
11 circumstances as they exist from time to time. This chapter
12 shall not be deemed to have been amended by any act hereafter
13 enacted at the same or any other session of the legislature,
14 unless this chapter is amended by express reference."

15 SECTION 2. Section 127A-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:



1 "§127A-13 Additional powers in an emergency period. (a)

2 In the event of a state of emergency declared by the governor
3 pursuant to section 127A-14, the governor may exercise the
4 following additional powers pertaining to emergency management
5 during the emergency period:

6 (1) Provide for and require the quarantine or segregation
7 of persons who are affected with or believed to have
8 been exposed to any infectious, communicable, or other
9 disease that is, in the governor's opinion, dangerous
10 to the public health and safety, or persons who are
11 the source of other contamination, in any case where,
12 in the governor's opinion, the existing laws are not
13 adequate to assure the public health and safety;
14 provide for the care and treatment of the persons;
15 supplement the provisions of sections 325-32 to 325-38
16 concerning compulsory immunization programs; provide
17 for the isolation or closing of property which is a
18 source of contamination or is in a dangerous condition
19 in any case where, in the governor's opinion, the
20 existing laws are not adequate to assure the public
21 health and safety, and designate as public nuisances



1 acts, practices, conduct, or conditions that are
2 dangerous to the public health or safety or to
3 property; authorize that public nuisances be summarily
4 abated and, if need be, that the property be
5 destroyed, by any police officer or authorized person,
6 or provide for the cleansing or repair of property,
7 and if the cleansing or repair is to be at the expense
8 of the owner, the procedure therefor shall follow as
9 nearly as may be the provisions of section 322-2,
10 which shall be applicable; and further, authorize
11 without the permission of the owners or occupants,
12 entry on private premises for any such purposes;

13 (2) Relieve hardships and inequities, or obstructions to
14 the public health, safety, or welfare, found by the
15 governor to exist in the laws and to result from the
16 operation of federal programs or measures taken under
17 this chapter, by suspending the laws, in whole or in
18 part, or by alleviating the provisions of laws on
19 [such] terms and conditions as the governor may
20 impose, including licensing laws, quarantine laws, and
21 laws relating to labels, grades, and standards;



- 1 (3) Suspend any law that impedes or tends to impede or be
2 detrimental to the expeditious and efficient execution
3 of, or to conflict with, emergency functions,
4 including laws which by this chapter specifically are
5 made applicable to emergency personnel; provided that
6 any suspension of law shall be no broader and for no
7 longer than required for the execution of emergency
8 functions, and any suspension of laws shall identify
9 the sections of laws suspended and, for each section,
10 shall specify the emergency functions facilitated with
11 justification based on protecting the public health,
12 safety, and welfare;
- 13 (4) Suspend the provisions of any regulatory law
14 prescribing the procedures for out-of-state utilities
15 to conduct business in the State including any
16 licensing laws applicable to out-of-state utilities or
17 their respective employees, as well as any order,
18 rule, or regulation of any state agency, if strict
19 compliance with the provisions of any such law, order,
20 rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder,
21 or delay necessary action of a state utility in coping



- 1 with the emergency or disaster with assistance that
2 may be provided under a mutual assistance agreement;
- 3 (5) In the event of disaster or emergency beyond local
4 control, or an event which, in the opinion of the
5 governor, is such as to make state operational control
6 necessary, or upon request of the local entity, assume
7 direct operational control over all or any part of the
8 emergency management functions within the affected
9 area;
- 10 (6) Shut off water mains, gas mains, electric power
11 connections, or suspend other services, and, to the
12 extent permitted by or under federal law, suspend
13 electronic media transmission;
- 14 (7) Direct and control the mandatory evacuation of the
15 civilian population;
- 16 (8) Exercise additional emergency functions to the extent
17 necessary to prevent hoarding, waste, or destruction
18 of materials, supplies, commodities, accommodations,
19 facilities, and services, to effectuate equitable
20 distribution thereof, or to establish priorities
21 therein as the public welfare may require; to



1 investigate; and notwithstanding any other law to the
2 contrary, to regulate or prohibit, by means of
3 licensing, rationing, or otherwise, the storage,
4 transportation, use, possession, maintenance,
5 furnishing, sale, or distribution thereof, and any
6 business or any transaction related thereto;

7 (9) Suspend section 8-1, relating to state holidays,
8 except the last paragraph relating to holidays
9 declared by the president, which shall remain
10 unaffected, and in the event of the suspension, the
11 governor may establish state holidays by proclamation;

12 (10) Adjust the hours for voting to take into consideration
13 the working hours of the voters during the emergency
14 period, and suspend those provisions of section 11-131
15 that fix the hours for voting, and fix other hours by
16 stating the same in the election proclamation or
17 notice, as the case may be;

18 (11) Assure the continuity of service by critical
19 infrastructure facilities, both publicly and privately
20 owned, by regulating or, if necessary to the



1 continuation of the service thereof, by taking over
2 and operating the same; and

3 (12) Except as provided in section 134-7.2, whenever in the
4 governor's opinion, the laws of the State do not
5 adequately provide for the common defense, public
6 health, safety, and welfare, investigate, regulate, or
7 prohibit the storage, transportation, use, possession,
8 maintenance, furnishing, sale, or distribution of, as
9 well as any transaction related to, explosives,
10 firearms, and ammunition, inflammable materials and
11 other objects, implements, substances, businesses, or
12 services of a hazardous or dangerous character, or
13 particularly capable of misuse, or obstructive of or
14 tending to obstruct law enforcement, emergency
15 management, or military operations, including
16 intoxicating liquor and the liquor business; and
17 authorize the seizure and forfeiture of any such
18 objects, implements, or substances unlawfully
19 possessed, as provided in this chapter.

20 (b) In the event of a local state of emergency declared by
21 the mayor pursuant to [‡]section[‡] 127A-14, the mayor may



1 exercise the following additional powers pertaining to emergency
2 management during the emergency period:

3 (1) Relieve hardships and inequities, or obstructions to
4 the public health, safety, or welfare, found by the
5 mayor to exist in the laws of the county and to result
6 from the operation of federal programs or measures
7 taken under this chapter, by suspending the county
8 laws, in whole or in part, or by alleviating the
9 provisions of county laws on ~~such~~ terms and
10 conditions as the mayor may impose, including county
11 licensing laws [7] and county laws relating to labels,
12 grades, and standards;

13 (2) Suspend any county law that impedes or tends to impede
14 or be detrimental to the expeditious and efficient
15 execution of, or to conflict with, emergency
16 functions, including laws which by this chapter
17 specifically are made applicable to emergency
18 personnel; provided that any suspension of law shall
19 be no broader and for no longer than required for the
20 execution of emergency functions, and any suspension
21 of laws shall identify the sections of laws suspended



1 and, for each section, shall specify the emergency
2 functions facilitated with justification based on
3 protecting the public health, safety, and welfare;

4 (3) Shut off water mains, gas mains, electric power
5 connections, or suspend other services; and, to the
6 extent permitted by or under federal law, suspend
7 electronic media transmission;

8 (4) Direct and control the mandatory evacuation of the
9 civilian population; and

10 (5) Exercise additional emergency functions, to the extent
11 necessary to prevent hoarding, waste, or destruction
12 of materials, supplies, commodities, accommodations,
13 facilities, and services, to effectuate equitable
14 distribution thereof, or to establish priorities
15 therein as the public welfare may require; to
16 investigate; and any other county law to the contrary
17 notwithstanding, to regulate or prohibit, by means of
18 licensing, rationing, or otherwise, the storage,
19 transportation, use, possession, maintenance,
20 furnishing, sale, or distribution thereof, and any
21 business or any transaction related thereto."



1 SECTION 3. Section 127A-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§127A-14 State of emergency.** (a) The governor may
4 declare the existence of a state of emergency in the State by
5 proclamation if the governor finds that an emergency or disaster
6 has occurred or that there is imminent danger or threat of an
7 emergency or disaster in any portion of the State.

8 (b) A mayor may declare the existence of a local state of
9 emergency in the county by proclamation if the mayor finds that
10 an emergency or disaster has occurred or that there is imminent
11 danger or threat of an emergency or disaster in any portion of
12 the county.

13 (c) ~~[The]~~ Except as provided in subsections (e) and (f),
14 the governor or mayor shall be the sole judge of the existence
15 of the danger, threat, or circumstances giving rise to a
16 declaration of a state of emergency in the State or a local
17 state of emergency in the county, as applicable. This section
18 shall not limit the power and authority of the governor under
19 section 127A-13(a)(5).

20 (d) A ~~[state of emergency and a]~~ local state of emergency
21 shall terminate automatically sixty days after the issuance of a



1 proclamation of a [~~state of emergency or~~] local state of
2 emergency [~~, respectively,~~] or by a separate proclamation of the
3 [~~governor or~~] mayor, whichever occurs first.

4 (e) A state of emergency shall terminate:

5 (1) Automatically sixty days after the issuance of the
6 proclamation of a state of emergency;

7 (2) By the date specified in a separate proclamation of
8 the governor; or

9 (3) By the date specified in a concurrent resolution
10 adopted by a two-thirds vote of each house of the
11 legislature, whichever occurs first.

12 (f) A proclamation by the governor declaring the existence
13 of a state of emergency arising from the same emergency or
14 disaster for which a previous emergency proclamation was
15 terminated may be authorized for a period of up to sixty days
16 only upon request of the governor and adoption of a concurrent
17 resolution by a two-thirds vote of each house of the
18 legislature."

19 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



H.B. NO. 1705

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 18 2024



H.B. NO. 1705

Report Title:

Minority Caucus Package; State of Emergency; Proclamations

Description:

Clarifies that emergency powers must comply with the Constitution and the needs of the circumstances. Specifies parameters for when a state of emergency is terminated and how proclamations may be extended. Requires a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature for a proclamation extension.

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