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# 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 there is a need for  
2 community readiness centers in various communities to ensure  
3 emergency preparedness. A community readiness center will serve  
4 as a place for residents to receive emergency preparedness  
5 training and emergency information, supplies, and basic medical  
6 care during and after an emergency event. The community  
7 readiness centers will also be used to store and refrigerate  
8 medical supplies and provide a place for residents to charge  
9 electrical devices and access the internet. The establishment  
10 of these community readiness centers will require partnerships  
11 between numerous agencies and private entities and the  
12 legislature finds that the Hawaii emergency management agency is  
13 the most capable agency to coordinate the establishment of  
14 community readiness centers.

15       The legislature further finds that community readiness  
16 center sites should be carefully identified to ensure proper  
17 connection to the electrical grid and be equipped with a solar



1 and back-up battery storage system to guard against power  
2 outages. Communities should be directly involved in the  
3 location and design of community readiness centers in their  
4 respective communities.

5 The legislature notes that the use of funds from the  
6 environmental response, energy, and food security tax is  
7 appropriate for this purpose. The legislature further finds  
8 that the establishment of community readiness centers will  
9 require dedicated funding and that there is a nexus between the  
10 need for community readiness centers and the use of petroleum  
11 and other fossil fuels. Therefore, it is appropriate to tax  
12 petroleum and other fossil fuel usage to fund community  
13 readiness centers.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 15 (1) Establish the community readiness centers program to  
16 be implemented and administered by the Hawaii  
17 emergency management agency;
- 18 (2) Establish the community readiness centers special fund  
19 for the implementation and administration of the  
20 community readiness centers program;



(3) Rename the environmental response, energy, and food security tax to the environmental response, energy, food security, and resilience tax; and

(4) Allocate portions of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax into the community readiness centers special fund.

SECTION 2. Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"§127A-A Community readiness centers program; established.**

(a) There is established the community readiness centers program within the agency to set up community readiness centers in various communities to ensure emergency preparedness by providing training and emergency information, supplies, and basic medical care during and after an emergency event. The community readiness centers shall also be used to store and refrigerate medical supplies and provide a place for residents to charge electrical devices and access the internet.

(b) In implementing and administering the community readiness centers program, the agency shall:



- 1        (1) Identify potential site locations for the  
2        establishment of community readiness centers  
3        facilities;
- 4        (2) Negotiate and arrange for the purchase or lease of  
5        suitable sites;
- 6        (3) Contract to design and construct community readiness  
7        centers facilities, which may include retrofitting  
8        current structures; provided that if constructed on an  
9        empty site, the agency shall ensure that the community  
10       readiness centers facilities will abide by the  
11       International Code Council 500 standard, which is  
12       capable of withstanding two hundred fifty miles per  
13       hour wind or category five hurricanes;
- 14       (4) Install a solar and back-up battery storage system,  
15       multiple electrical charging stations, internet  
16       access, and the capability to refrigerate medical  
17       supplies at each community readiness center site; and
- 18       (5) Obtain suitable emergency supplies, including  
19       non-perishable food, and equip each community  
20       readiness center site with emergency supplies.



1        (c) The agency shall provide a selection criteria matrix  
2 of standards necessary for constructing community readiness  
3 centers in consultation with the Hawaii earthquake and tsunami  
4 advisory committee and the State hazard mitigation forum to  
5 identify geographic areas where community readiness centers  
6 sites would be able to withstand natural disasters.

7        (d) The agency shall utilize the partnership established  
8 through the Hawaii hazards awareness and resilience program to  
9 maintain each of the community readiness centers.

10        **§127A-B Community readiness centers special fund;**  
11 **established.** (a) There is established within the state  
12 treasury the community readiness centers special fund, into  
13 which shall be deposited:

- 14        (1) Appropriations made by the legislature;  
15        (2) Interest earned on any moneys in the fund; and  
16        (3) Moneys from the environmental response, energy, food  
17        security, and resilience tax pursuant to section  
18        243-3.5.

19        (b) Moneys in the fund shall be administered by the agency  
20 and used for the following purposes:



- 1        (1) The purchase or lease of suitable community readiness  
2        centers sites;
- 3        (2) The design and construction of community readiness  
4        centers facilities, which may include the retrofitting  
5        of existing structures;
- 6        (3) The installation of solar panels and a back-up battery  
7        storage system at each community readiness centers  
8        facilities site;
- 9        (4) The installation of electrical charging stations,  
10       internet access, and capability to refrigerate medical  
11       supplies at each community readiness center facility;
- 12       (5) The purchase of suitable emergency supplies for  
13       community readiness centers; and
- 14       (6) The administration and maintenance of community  
15       readiness centers."

16       SECTION 3. Section 128D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17       amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

18       "(a) There is created within the state treasury an  
19       environmental response revolving fund, which shall consist of  
20       moneys appropriated to the fund by the legislature, moneys paid  
21       to the fund as a result of departmental compliance proceedings,



1 moneys paid to the fund pursuant to court-ordered awards or  
2 judgments, moneys paid to the fund in court-approved or  
3 out-of-court settlements, all interest attributable to  
4 investment of money deposited in the fund, moneys deposited in  
5 the fund from the environmental response, energy, ~~and~~ food  
6 security, and resilience tax pursuant to section 243-3.5, and  
7 moneys allotted to the fund from other sources."

8 SECTION 4. Section 201-12.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

10 "(a) There is created within the state treasury an energy  
11 security special fund, which shall consist of:

12 (1) The portion of the environmental response, energy,  
13 ~~and~~ food security, and resilience tax specified  
14 under section 243-3.5;

15 (2) Moneys appropriated to the fund by the legislature;

16 (3) All interest attributable to investment of money  
17 deposited in the fund; and

18 (4) Moneys allotted to the fund from other sources,  
19 including under section 196-6.5."



1       SECTION 5. Section 243-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2   amended by amending its title and subsections (a) and (b) to  
3   read as follows:

4       "**§243-3.5 Environmental response, energy, [~~and~~] food**  
5   **security, and resilience tax; uses.**

6       (a) In addition to any other taxes provided by law,  
7   subject to the exemptions set forth in section 243-7, there is  
8   hereby imposed a state environmental response, energy, [~~and~~]  
9   food security, and resilience tax on each barrel or fractional  
10   part of a barrel of petroleum product sold by a distributor to  
11   any retail dealer or end user of petroleum product, other than a  
12   refiner. The tax shall be \$1.05 on each barrel or fractional  
13   part of a barrel of petroleum product that is not aviation fuel;  
14   provided that of the tax collected pursuant to this subsection:

15       (1) 5 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited  
16       into the environmental response revolving fund  
17       established under section 128D-2;

18       (2) 4 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited  
19       into the energy security special fund established  
20       under section 201-12.8;





(3) 5 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the energy systems development special fund established under section 304A-2169.1;

(4) 3 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the electric vehicle charging system subaccount established pursuant to section 269-33(e); ~~and~~

(5) 3 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the hydrogen fueling system subaccount established pursuant to section 269-33(f) ~~[-]~~; and

(6)       cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the community readiness centers special fund established pursuant to section 127A-B.

The tax imposed by this subsection shall be paid by the distributor of the petroleum product.

(b) In addition to subsection (a), the tax shall also be imposed on each one million British thermal units of fossil fuel sold by a distributor to any retail dealer or end user, other than a refiner, of fossil fuel. The tax shall be 19 cents on each one million British thermal units of fossil fuel; provided that of the tax collected pursuant to this subsection:



(1) 4.8 per cent of the tax on each one million British thermal units shall be deposited into the environmental response revolving fund established under section 128D-2;

(2) 14.3 per cent of the tax on each one million British thermal units shall be deposited into the energy security special fund established under section 201-12.8; ~~and~~

(3) 9.5 per cent of the tax on each one million British thermal units shall be deposited into the energy systems development special fund established under section 304A-2169.1[+]; and

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of the tax on each one million British thermal units shall be deposited into the community readiness centers special fund established pursuant to section 127A-B.

The tax imposed by this subsection shall be paid by the distributor of the fossil fuel."

SECTION 6. Section 304A-2169.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:



1       "(b) Deposits into the special fund may be from the  
2 following:

3       (1) Appropriations from the legislature;

4       (2) A portion of the environmental response, energy, ~~and~~  
5 food security, and resilience tax pursuant to section  
6 243-3.5; and

7       (3) Investment earnings, gifts, donations, or other income  
8 received by the Hawaii natural energy institute."

9       SECTION 7. The Hawaii emergency management agency shall  
10 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
11 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than  
12 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
13 2026. The report shall contain information relating to:

14       (1) The timeline for identifying community readiness  
15 centers, both public and private;

16       (2) The use of funding sources;

17       (3) Any partnerships with federal and county agencies and  
18 community groups;

19       (4) Any collaboration and communication with stakeholders;

20       (5) The annual projected amount of funding based on  
21 sources of revenue;



(6) Any other relevant information about the community  
readiness centers program.

SECTION 8. In codifying the new sections added by section  
2 and referenced by section 5 of this Act, the revisor of  
statutes shall substitute appropriate section numbers for the  
letters used in designating the new sections in this Act.

SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2077.



**Report Title:**

HIEMA; Community Readiness Centers; Community Readiness Centers Special Fund; Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax; Report

**Description:**

Establishes the Community Readiness Centers Program to be implemented and administered by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. Establishes the Community Readiness Centers Special Fund to fund the Community Readiness Centers Program. Renames the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax to the Environmental Response, Energy, Food Security, and Resilience Tax and directs a portion of the tax into the Community Readiness Centers Special Fund. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2077. (SD1)

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

