
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS TO MAINTAIN BACKUP ELECTRICAL GENERATION CAPACITY IN THE EVENT OF POWER FAILURES.

1 WHEREAS, the recent earthquake and its aftershocks on
2 October 15, 2006, caused major power failures on Oahu and
3 throughout the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, the power failure for most of urban Honolulu
6 lasted for a duration of up to twelve hours and longer in
7 certain neighborhoods; and
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9 WHEREAS, Honolulu was very fortunate that the power failure
10 did not cause any loss of life or major injury to residents and
11 visitors; and
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13 WHEREAS, the power failure resulted in the loss of the use
14 of elevators, causing major inconvenience to many residents and
15 visitors occupying offices, hotel rooms, and dwelling units in
16 high-rise buildings throughout the State; and
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18 WHEREAS, this loss of elevator service was especially
19 difficult for elderly and infirm residents and visitors caught
20 in high-rise buildings following the power failure; now,
21 therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2007, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is
26 requested to study the feasibility of requiring high-rise
27 buildings to be retrofitted to provide a source of backup power
28 generation to operate elevators and other emergency systems in
29 the event of a power failure; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
32 Bureau is requested to consult with:
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- 1 (1) Hawaiian Electric Company;
- 2
- 3 (2) Structural and electrical engineers;
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- 5 (3) High-rise building owners and management operators;
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- 7 (4) The various county departments or agencies responsible
- 8 for the issuance of building permits;
- 9
- 10 (5) The various county fire departments; and
- 11
- 12 (6) Suppliers of large commercial and industrial
- 13 electrical generating equipment; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
 16 Bureau is requested to submit the study to the Legislature
 17 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 18 2008; and

19
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative
 22 Reference Bureau, the Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Electric
 23 Company, the Mayor of each county, who in turn is required to
 24 transmit copies to the head of the county department or agency
 25 that is responsible for the issuance of building permits, and to
 26 the Chief of the Fire Department of each county.

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 28
 29 OFFERED BY: Calvin K. Aoy
 By Request
 MAR 12 2007

