
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's geographic
2 location makes the State vulnerable to hurricanes and tsunamis
3 generated by earthquake activity. Especially disconcerting is
4 the fact that rescue and relief efforts utilizing helicopters
5 and short-range aircraft from out-of-state will not be able to
6 provide immediate assistance to the people of Hawaii following a
7 large-scale natural disaster. Hawaii needs to be able to
8 provide immediate, adequate assistance to the public if out-of-
9 state assistance is required but not available until many hours
10 or even days after a major natural disaster has struck.
11 Additionally, coordination of efforts between islands and
12 communication to the public are key factors in effective
13 disaster response strategy.

14 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to
15 recommend ways to strengthen Hawaii's disaster preparedness
16 program and develop a three-year strategic plan for Hawaii's
17 disaster response system.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established, within the
2 department of defense for administrative purposes, an advisory
3 disaster response task force to recommend ways to strengthen
4 Hawaii's disaster preparedness program and develop a three-year
5 strategic plan for Hawaii's disaster response system. The task
6 force shall be composed of the following members:

- 7 (1) The adjutant general or the adjutant general's
8 designee;
- 9 (2) The director of public safety or the director's
10 designee;
- 11 (3) The fire chief of each county or the fire chief's
12 designee;
- 13 (4) The chief of police of each county or the chief of
14 police's designee;
- 15 (5) Representatives of the United States Department of
16 Defense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and
17 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
18 shall be requested to participate;
- 19 (5) The director of health or the director's designee;
- 20 (6) The chief executive officer of the Hawaii health
21 systems corporation or the chief's designee;



- 1 (7) The superintendent of education or the
- 2 superintendent's designee;
- 3 (8) A representative of the county water supply agency of
- 4 each county; and
- 5 (9) One representative from each county appointed by the
- 6 mayor of that county.

7 Representatives of specific agencies listed in this subsection
8 shall be designated by the head of their respective agency if an
9 appointing authority is not otherwise specified.

10 (b) In preparation for developing a three-year strategic
11 plan, the task force shall serve as a fact-finding body to:

- 12 (1) Review Hawaii's civil defense and disaster management
- 13 system, evaluate the effectiveness of its polices and
- 14 programs, and determine whether sufficient resources
- 15 are available to adequately provide for Hawaii's
- 16 people if a major natural disaster were to occur;
- 17 (2) Determine whether an audit of the Hawaii state civil
- 18 defense program should be conducted;
- 19 (3) Review Hawaii's health-related policies and programs
- 20 and evaluate the potential capacity and efficiency of
- 21 the State's handling of related disasters and
- 22 emergencies;



- 1 (4) Recommend whether county emergency medical services
2 should be elevated to cabinet level status during a
3 major emergency;
- 4 (5) Determine what constitutes, from the State's
5 perspective, the best use of federal military
6 resources, such as Coast Guard personnel, who, for
7 example, focused on evacuating critically ill and
8 injured patients from hospitals and medical facilities
9 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina instead of
10 conducting search and rescue, supply, personnel
11 transport, and security operations;
- 12 (6) Develop an education campaign with various private and
13 public agencies, so that all people, especially
14 children, know exactly what to do during an emergency;
- 15 (7) Review the feasibility of establishing refugee centers
16 in local communities, with residents being made aware
17 of their locations prior to a disaster;
- 18 (8) Anticipate and address factors that would hamper the
19 ability of federal, state, county, and private
20 agencies to work together so that resources and
21 services are delivered to the public in a timely and
22 competent manner; and



1 (9) Conduct a comprehensive review of other issues that
2 would strengthen Hawaii's disaster response system and
3 recommend a strategic course of action.

4 (c) The task force members shall serve without
5 compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses, including
6 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

7 SECTION 3. The state department of defense shall provide
8 necessary staff and logistical support for the task force.

9 SECTION 4. Upon completion of its fact-finding effort, the
10 task force shall prepare and submit a three-year strategic plan,
11 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
13 of 2008. The task force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2008.

14 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for
17 the purposes of this Act.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state
19 department of defense for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
2 except that section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.
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Report Title:

Task Force on the Disaster Preparedness Strategic Plan

Description:

Establishes a task force to recommend ways to strengthen Hawaii's disaster preparedness program and develop a 3-year strategic plan.

