HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2009 STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 990

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

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

1	SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2	adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3	as follows:
4	"CHAPTER
5	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
6	§ -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:
7	"Commission" means the disaster preparedness commission.
8	"Director" means the director of the office of disaster
9	preparedness.
10	"Disaster" means any natural or human-caused catastrophe,
11	the occurrence of which is unanticipated or difficult to
12	predict, that results in significant property damage,
13	agricultural loss, hardship, suffering, psychological disorders,
14	medical difficulties, or loss of life within the state.
15	"Natural hazard" means hurricane, storm, flood, tsunami,
16	tidal wave, wind-driven water, earthquake, volcanic activity,
17	volcanic smog or vog, lava flow, rockslide, earthslide, fire, or
18	other natural disaster.
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1 "Vog" means the substance created when sulfur dioxide and other volcanic gases combine and interact chemically in the 2 3 atmosphere with oxygen, moisture, dust, and sunlight over 4 periods of minutes to days to form a visible haze consisting of 5 gas plus a suspended mixture of tiny liquid and solid particles. 6 S -2 Office of the director of disaster preparedness 7 established. There is established in the department of 8 transportation the office of the director of disaster 9 preparedness. The director shall be nominated and, by and with 10 the advice and consent of the senate, appointed by the governor. 11 The director shall serve for a period of six years and 12 thereafter until a successor is appointed. The salary of the 13 director shall be set at a rate no greater than \$ a 14 year and shall not be diminished during the director's term of 15 office unless by general law applying to all salaried officers of the State. If the director dies, resigns, becomes ineligible 16 17 to serve, or is removed or suspended from office, the first 18 assistant to the director shall become the acting director until a new director is appointed for a full term. 19

20 § -3 Duties of the director. (a) The director shall
21 develop a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan for the State



of Hawaii. The disaster preparedness plan shall include but not
 be limited to:

The identification of natural hazards: 3 (1)The designation of natural hazard impact zones; 4 (2)Priorities for natural hazard mitigation; 5 (3)Policies, requirements, and incentives to mitigate the 6 (4)problems caused by natural hazards, to be incorporated 7 into rules such as county building codes, land use 8 policies, and retrofitting incentives such as tax 9 credits; and 10

(5) Plans for best responses to disasters to minimize
costs and protect the interests of Hawaii's residents
and their possessions and pets, and visitors to the
state, including plans ensuring the reliability of
communication networks and power supplies for major
state airports, health care facilities, disaster
shelters, and other essential services.

(b) The director shall report annually to the governor and
the legislature no later than twenty days before the convening
of each regular session of the legislature on the status of the
disaster preparedness plan and shall include any necessary
proposed legislation.



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1	S	-3 Disaster preparedness commission established;	
2	selection	of advisory committees. (a) There is established a	
3	disaster	preparedness commission within the department of	
4	transport	ation for administrative purposes only. The commission	
5	shall con	sist of eight members as follows:	
6	(1)	One member appointed by the governor;	
7	(2)	One member appointed by the speaker of the house of	
8		representatives;	
9	(3)	One member appointed by the president of the senate;	
10		and	
11	(4)	Four members appointed by the mayors of the counties	
12		of Honolulu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, each of whom	
13		shall appoint one member.	
14	The commission shall select one of its members to serve as		
15	chairpers	on. No member of the commission shall receive any	
16	compensation for commission services; provided that members		
17	shall be	allowed necessary expenses, including travel expenses,	
18	incurred in the performance of their official duties. The		
19	members of the commission shall be appointed pursuant to section		
20	26-34 except as provided in this chapter.		

(b) The commission shall advise and assist the director in
 developing a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan for the
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1	State of Hawaii. The commission's duties in this regard shall
2	include but not be limited to:
3	(1) Gathering information about disasters that have
4	occurred in the past; and
5	(2) Establishing advisory committees to provide technical
6	and other support to the director."
7	SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
8	revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9	much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and
10	the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
111	year 2010-2011 for the office of the director of disaster
12	preparedness and the disaster preparedness commission, including
13	the hiring of necessary staff.
14	The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
15	of transportation for the purposes of this Act.
16	SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.
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Report Title:

Disaster Preparedness Plan; Natural Disasters

Description:

Establishes the Office of the Director of Disaster Preparedness and a Disaster Preparedness Commission to develop a disaster preparedness plan for Hawaii that includes the identification of hazards and hazard impact zones, disaster mitigation policies, requirements, and incentives, and best responses. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/09.

