
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTRIC GRID RESILIENCY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in September 2017,
2 Hurricanes Irma and Maria struck Puerto Rico with devastating
3 force, causing an estimated \$95,000,000,000 in damages to the
4 island, including extensive damages to the island's electrical
5 infrastructure. Recent estimates predict that power in Puerto
6 Rico will not be fully restored until spring of 2018, thus
7 leaving some residents without power for half a year. The
8 prolonged lack of electrical power has left the residents of
9 Puerto Rico without essential services and has created a
10 humanitarian crisis. The interdependencies between different
11 critical infrastructure sectors including energy, water,
12 transportation, and communications have further complicated
13 restoration efforts in Puerto Rico, underscoring the need for
14 systemic resiliency planning.

15 The legislature further finds that a direct hit on Oahu
16 from a similar category five hurricane will almost certainly
17 cause extensive property damage and extended power outages



1 across the island. Moreover, much of the State's energy-
2 generating infrastructure is susceptible to storm surges due to
3 the structures being located at or near the coastline. The
4 Hawaii emergency management agency estimates that under a best-
5 case scenario, it would take at least fourteen days after
6 landfall of a category four hurricane on Oahu to restore eighty
7 per cent of grid power. Most public emergency shelters in the
8 State do not have the capacity to provide two weeks of
9 electrical service and relief from the mainland is dependent
10 upon a functioning airport and seaport. Furthermore, the risks
11 of a natural disaster increase with the impacts of climate
12 change. Scientists have described 2017 as the most weather
13 destructive year on record and opined that the number of extreme
14 weather events will continue to increase.

15 The legislature hereby declares that it shall be the policy
16 of the State to ensure that the State is prepared to withstand
17 natural disasters and other emergencies by making investments in
18 grid resiliency to protect the State's critical infrastructure
19 and its citizens. The goals of this policy are: to prevent or
20 reduce the severity of damage to the electric grid from a
21 natural disaster or state of emergency; enable faster recovery



1 of normal grid operations after a grid outage due to a natural
2 disaster or state of emergency; and maintain critical loads at
3 critical infrastructure such as hospitals, fire stations, police
4 stations, airports, and seaports during a grid outage due to a
5 natural disaster or state of emergency.

6 The purpose of this Act is to create a homeland security
7 and resiliency council to identify electric grid and other
8 critical infrastructure needs and provide recommendations for
9 enhancing grid and critical infrastructure resiliency throughout
10 the State.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 128A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§128A- Homeland security and resiliency council;
15 membership; duties. (a) There is established a homeland
16 security and resiliency council, which shall be placed within
17 the office of homeland security for administrative purposes.

18 (b) The council shall comprise the following members or
19 their designees:

20 (1) The director of homeland security, who shall serve as
21 the co-chair of the council;



- 1 (2) The director of the office of planning, who shall
2 serve as co-chair of the council;
- 3 (3) The administrator of the Hawaii emergency management
4 agency;
- 5 (4) The director of the department of transportation;
- 6 (5) The executive officer of the public utilities
7 commission;
- 8 (6) The directors of each of the county emergency
9 management agencies;
- 10 (7) The directors of each of the county water supply
11 departments;
- 12 (8) A representative of each electric utility company
13 operating in Hawaii;
- 14 (9) A representative of each telecommunications company
15 serving at least one hundred thousand customers in
16 Hawaii; and
- 17 (10) A representative of each fuel importer and fuel
18 refiner operating in Hawaii.
- 19 (c) In addition to the members listed in subsection (b),
20 the chairs of the council may request the participation or input



1 of members of the public; experts in the field; county, state,
2 or federal officials; or others as necessary.

3 (d) Members of the council shall serve without
4 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses
5 incurred in the performance of their duties.

6 (e) The council shall:

7 (1) Establish strategies, goals, priorities, and
8 recommendations to enhance the security and resiliency
9 of the electric grid and other critical infrastructure
10 sectors in the State, giving appropriate consideration
11 to interdependencies between the sectors and to
12 differing needs of communities based on location,
13 access to resources, and vulnerabilities; and
14 (2) Assess the capacity and availability of existing
15 resources and identify new sources of revenue
16 necessary to enhance resiliency of critical
17 infrastructure sectors.

18 (f) The council shall submit a report summarizing its
19 findings, recommendations, and the status of actions to enhance
20 electric grid and other critical infrastructure sector security
21 and resiliency to the governor, legislature, and counties no



1 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
2 session of 2019, and every two years thereafter.

3 (g) In carrying out its duties, the council shall, to the
4 extent permitted by law, take appropriate measures to protect
5 from public release any confidential, sensitive information, the
6 release of which could expose critical infrastructure to attack
7 or damage.

8 (h) Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to delegate or
9 detract in any way from the functions, powers, and duties
10 conferred by law on any state or county department or agency."

11 SECTION 3. Section 128A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately
13 inserted and to read as follows:

14 "Critical infrastructure sector" means a sector whose
15 assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are
16 vital to the State's security, economic security, public health
17 or safety, or any combination thereof, including but not limited
18 to the water, transportation, electrical energy, fuel import and
19 refining, and communications sectors.

20 "Electric grid" means the network of electric generators,
21 transmission and distribution lines, substations, energy storage



1 devices, and supporting infrastructure used to produce and
2 deliver electricity to end-users.

3 "Resiliency" means the capacity to prevent or reduce the
4 severity of damage from natural disaster or manmade emergencies,
5 and to enable faster recovery of normal infrastructure
6 operations after a natural disaster or manmade emergency."

7 SECTION 4. 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 2018-2019 for
10 the review, recommendations, and planning to be performed by the
11 homeland security and resiliency council.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
13 homeland security for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



Report Title:

Homeland Security and Resiliency Council; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a homeland security and resiliency council to assess the resilience of the State's electric grid and other critical infrastructure to natural disasters and other emergencies and make recommendations. Requires the council to report to legislature. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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