
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is vulnerable
2 to catastrophic natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunami,
3 floods, volcanic eruptions, and high winds that can devastate
4 communities.

5 The purpose of this Act is to improve the State's
6 preparedness for and response to communities affected by
7 disasters.

8 SECTION 2. Section 127A-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "**§127A-3 Hawaii emergency management agency.** (a) There
11 is established within the department of defense the Hawaii
12 emergency management agency. The adjutant general shall serve
13 as the director of Hawaii emergency management and, subject to
14 the direction and control of the governor, shall oversee the
15 agency.

16 (b) There shall be an administrator of emergency
17 management who shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the



1 director, and who shall have at least three years of experience
2 leading emergency management efforts at the local, state, or
3 federal level. The administrator of emergency management shall
4 be the civilian head of and responsible for the day-to-day
5 operations of the agency. The administrator of emergency
6 management shall report to the director. The administrator of
7 emergency management shall, in the absence of the director, have
8 all the duties and responsibilities of the director, and shall
9 report directly to the governor. The administrator of emergency
10 management shall not be subject to chapter 76.

11 (c) The administrator may, from funds allotted therefor,
12 employ technical, clerical, administrative, and other personnel
13 and make such expenditures as may be necessary.

14 (d) The administrator shall coordinate the activities of
15 the agency with all county emergency management agencies, other
16 state agencies, other states, or federal agencies involved in
17 emergency management activities, and all organizations for
18 emergency management within the State, whether public or
19 private, and shall maintain liaison and cooperate with all
20 county emergency management agencies, other state agencies,



1 other states, or federal agencies involved in emergency
2 management activities as provided in this chapter.

3 (e) The agency shall perform emergency management
4 functions within the territorial limits of the State. In
5 performing its duties, the agency shall:

- 6 (1) Prepare a state comprehensive emergency management
7 plan, which shall be integrated into and coordinated
8 with the emergency management plans of the federal
9 government. The plan shall be integrated by a
10 continuous, integrated comprehensive emergency
11 management program. The plan shall contain provisions
12 to ensure that the State is prepared for emergencies
13 and minor, major, and catastrophic disasters. In
14 preparing and maintaining the plan, the agency shall
15 work closely with agencies and organizations with
16 emergency management responsibilities;
- 17 (2) Assign lead and support responsibilities to state
18 agencies and personnel for emergency functions and
19 other support activities;



- 1 (3) Adopt standards and requirements for county emergency
2 management plans. The standards and requirements
3 shall ensure that county plans are coordinated and
4 consistent with the state comprehensive emergency
5 management plan;
- 6 (4) Make recommendations to the legislature, building code
7 organizations, and counties for zoning, building, and
8 other land use controls; and other preparedness,
9 prevention, and mitigation measures designed to
10 eliminate emergencies or reduce their impact;
- 11 (5) Anticipate trends and promote innovations that will
12 enhance the emergency management system;
- 13 (6) Institute statewide public awareness programs. This
14 shall include intensive public educational campaigns
15 on emergency preparedness issues, including but not
16 limited to the personal responsibility of individual
17 citizens to be self-sufficient for up to fourteen days
18 following a natural or human-caused disaster;
- 19 (7) Coordinate federal, state, and local emergency
20 management activities and take all other steps,



1 including the partial or full mobilization of
2 emergency management forces and organizations in
3 advance of an actual emergency, to ensure the
4 availability of adequately trained and equipped forces
5 of emergency management personnel before, during, and
6 after emergencies and disasters;

7 (8) Implement training programs to improve the ability of
8 state and local emergency management personnel to
9 prepare and implement emergency management plans and
10 programs. This shall include a continuous training
11 program for agencies and individuals that will be
12 called on to perform key roles in state and local
13 post-disaster response and recovery efforts and for
14 local government personnel on federal and state post-
15 disaster response and recovery strategies and
16 procedures;

17 (9) Adopt standards and requirements for state agency
18 emergency operating procedures and periodically review
19 emergency operating procedures of state agencies and
20 recommend revisions as needed to ensure consistency



1 with the state comprehensive emergency management plan
2 and program; and

3 (10) Coordinate, in advance whenever possible, such
4 executive orders, proclamations, and rules for
5 issuance by the governor as are necessary or
6 appropriate for coping with emergencies and disasters.

7 (f) The agency shall inventory all designated emergency
8 shelters statewide and their ability to withstand a category one
9 hurricane or higher."

10 SECTION 3. The Hawaii emergency management agency shall
11 submit a list of shelters and their respective hurricane rating
12 by category to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
13 to the convening of the regular session of 2021.

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Emergency Management; Hawaii Emergency Management Agency;
Inventory of Designated Emergency Shelters; Ability to Withstand
Hurricane; Report

Description:

Requires the Hawaii emergency management agency to inventory all designated emergency shelters and their ability to withstand a category one hurricane or higher. Requires Hawaii emergency management agency to provide a list of shelters and their respective hurricane ratings to the legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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