
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOBILE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that climate change is
2 causing a dramatic increase in extreme weather events globally.
3 According to the October 13, 2020, issue of Yale
4 Environment 360, an online publication by the Yale School of the
5 Environment, climate-related disasters increased eighty-three
6 per cent from 3,656 events during the 1980-1999 period to 6,681
7 in the past twenty years. Major floods have more than doubled,
8 the number of severe storms has risen forty per cent, and there
9 have been major increases in droughts, wildfires, and heatwaves.

10 Here in Hawaii, effects of climate change include increases
11 in the number of wildfires, sea surface and air temperatures,
12 coastal erosion, and extreme rain. The State has also set new
13 records in the occurrence of tropical cyclones and recorded more
14 hurricanes, including 2018's Lane and Hector, in surrounding
15 waters.

16 Against this backdrop, the legislature finds that emergency
17 management systems must be bolstered. The Hawaii emergency



1 management agency is tasked, among other things, with
2 anticipating trends and promoting innovations that will enhance
3 the emergency management system for the State, and taking steps
4 that include the partial or full mobilization of emergency
5 management forces and organizations in advance of an actual
6 emergency, to ensure the availability of adequately equipped
7 forces before, during, and after emergencies and disasters.

8 The legislature further finds that a key step in this
9 preparation is providing equipment for mobile emergency response
10 communications, power, and water services that will enable the
11 Hawaii emergency management agency to equitably distribute
12 resources in times of disaster or hazards. Mobile emergency
13 communications units similar to the geographically dispersed
14 mobile emergency response support detachments and mobile office
15 vehicles deployed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency
16 would provide a lifeline to residents whose communications
17 services have been disrupted, including potential for
18 workstations and satellite communications with voice and data
19 connectivity.

20 The legislature finds that a mobile emergency water
21 treatment system capable of treating a wide variety of



1 contaminated water following a natural or manmade disaster
2 should also be available. Although bottled water is typically
3 an easy first choice, excessive dependence on bottled water
4 creates a large solid waste disposal problem, and a mobile
5 emergency water treatment system would also provide versatility
6 for non-drinking water applications.

7 The legislature also finds that mobile power centers or
8 generators would help to rebuild a community struggling to
9 recover from disaster. A combination of these infrastructure
10 resources, capable of being transported to communities in need,
11 will prove invaluable to the agency and the State.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
13 funds for the Hawaii emergency management agency to acquire
14 mobile communications, water, and power service capabilities
15 that can be deployed to each county as needed.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and
19 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
20 year 2022-2023 for the Hawaii emergency management agency to



1 acquire mobile communications, water, and power service
2 capabilities that can be deployed to each county as needed.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
4 emergency management agency for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2051.



Report Title:

Mobile Emergency Management Services; Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Hawaii emergency management agency to acquire mobile communications, water, and power service capabilities that can be deployed to each county as needed. Effective 7/1/2051. (SD1)

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