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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that disaster recovery is  
2 a complex and long-term process that involves a range of  
3 activities and many participants. Recovery operations begin  
4 shortly after a disaster occurs and can continue for many years.  
5 It involves short-term restoration of essential community  
6 functions and long-term recovery planning and coordination.

7           The legislature further finds that State, public, and  
8 private organizations share in providing for the public's health  
9 and safety. It is essential that the response, recovery, and  
10 mitigation activities of all parties be fully aligned.

11           The purpose of this Act is to enhance the capacity of the  
12 government, relevant agencies, and the community to recover from  
13 the impacts of disasters by establishing the state disaster  
14 recovery program as overseen by the state disaster recovery  
15 coordinator.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to be read as follows:

4 "§127A- State disaster recovery coordinator; duties and  
5 powers. (a) The state disaster recovery coordinator shall  
6 report to the governor, oversee the state disaster recovery  
7 program and framework, and shall:

- 8 (1) Establish and maintain recovery priorities and  
9 strategy on behalf of the governor;
- 10 (2) Convene and provide executive level coordination for  
11 state agencies working on the federal disaster  
12 recovery and reconstruction programs and alignment of  
13 funding;
- 14 (3) Facilitate disaster recovery coordination and  
15 collaboration between the federal, state, and local  
16 governments; the private sector; and voluntary, faith-  
17 based, and community organizations;
- 18 (4) Serve as the primary contact with the federal disaster  
19 recovery coordinator to address recovery needs;
- 20 (5) Promote a unified communications strategy with state  
21 and local partners; and



1       (6) Develop and promulgate interagency coordination plans  
2           to drive long-term recovery from disasters.

3       (b) The state disaster recovery coordinator shall conduct  
4       a comprehensive review of recovery plans, policies, and  
5       decisions as required by this section and submit a report to the  
6       governor and the legislature prior to the convening of the  
7       regular session of 2022 and every odd year thereafter. Each  
8       stakeholder agency involved is responsible to keep applicable  
9       portions of recovery plans, together with annexes and appendices  
10       thereto, accurate and up to date."

11       SECTION 3. Section 127A-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12       amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

13       "(e) The agency shall perform emergency management  
14       functions within the territorial limits of the State. In  
15       performing its duties, the agency shall:

16       (1) Prepare a state comprehensive emergency management  
17       plan, which shall include a state disaster recovery  
18       program and framework and be integrated into and  
19       coordinated with the emergency management plans of the  
20       federal government. The plan shall be integrated by a  
21       continuous, integrated comprehensive emergency



1 management program. The plan shall contain provisions  
2 to ensure that the State is prepared for emergencies  
3 and minor, major, and catastrophic disasters. In  
4 preparing and maintaining the plan, the agency shall  
5 work closely with agencies and organizations with  
6 emergency management responsibilities;

7 (2) Assign lead and support responsibilities to state  
8 agencies and personnel for emergency functions and  
9 other support activities;

10 (3) Adopt standards and requirements for county emergency  
11 management plans. The standards and requirements  
12 shall ensure that county plans are coordinated and  
13 consistent with the state comprehensive emergency  
14 management plan;

15 (4) Make recommendations to the legislature, building code  
16 organizations, and counties for zoning, building, and  
17 other land use controls; and other preparedness,  
18 prevention, and mitigation measures designed to  
19 eliminate emergencies or reduce their impact;

20 (5) Anticipate trends and promote innovations that will  
21 enhance the emergency management system;



- 1           (6) Institute statewide public awareness programs. This  
2           shall include intensive public educational campaigns  
3           on emergency preparedness issues, including but not  
4           limited to the personal responsibility of individual  
5           citizens to be self-sufficient for up to fourteen days  
6           following a natural or human-caused disaster;
- 7           (7) Coordinate federal, state, and local emergency  
8           management activities and take all other steps,  
9           including the partial or full mobilization of  
10          emergency management forces and organizations in  
11          advance of an actual emergency, to ensure the  
12          availability of adequately trained and equipped forces  
13          of emergency management personnel before, during, and  
14          after emergencies and disasters;
- 15          (8) Implement training programs to improve the ability of  
16          state and local emergency management personnel to  
17          prepare and implement emergency management plans and  
18          programs. This shall include a continuous training  
19          program for agencies and individuals that will be  
20          called on to perform key roles in state and local  
21          post-disaster response and recovery efforts and for



1 local government personnel on federal and state post-  
2 disaster response and recovery strategies and  
3 procedures;

4 (9) Adopt standards and requirements for state agency  
5 emergency operating procedures and periodically review  
6 emergency operating procedures of state agencies and  
7 recommend revisions as needed to ensure consistency  
8 with the state comprehensive emergency management plan  
9 and program; and

10 (10) Coordinate, in advance whenever possible, such  
11 executive orders, proclamations, and rules for  
12 issuance by the governor as are necessary or  
13 appropriate for coping with emergencies and  
14 disasters."

15 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

COVID-19; Disaster Recovery Program; State Disaster Recovery Coordinator; Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; Governor

**Description:**

Establishes the framework of the Hawaii State Disaster Recovery Program as overseen by the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator.  
(SD1)

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