
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need for
2 community readiness centers in various communities to ensure
3 emergency preparedness. A community readiness center will serve
4 as a place for residents to receive emergency preparedness
5 training and emergency information, supplies, and basic medical
6 care during and after an emergency event. The community
7 readiness centers will also be used to store and refrigerate
8 medical supplies and provide a place for residents to charge
9 electrical devices and access the internet. The establishment
10 of these community readiness centers will require partnerships
11 between numerous agencies and private entities and the
12 legislature finds that the Hawaii emergency management agency is
13 the most capable agency to coordinate the establishment of
14 community readiness centers.

15 The legislature further finds that community readiness
16 center sites should be carefully identified to ensure proper
17 connection to the electrical grid and be equipped with a solar
18 and back-up battery storage system to guard against power

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1 outages. Communities should be directly involved in the
2 location and design of community readiness centers in their
3 respective communities.

4 The legislature notes that the use of funds from the
5 environmental response, energy, and food security tax is
6 appropriate for this purpose. The legislature further finds
7 that the establishment of community readiness centers will
8 require dedicated funding and that there is a nexus between the
9 need for community readiness centers and the use of petroleum
10 and other fossil fuels. Therefore, it is appropriate to tax
11 petroleum and other fossil fuel usage to fund community
12 readiness centers.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Establish the community readiness centers program to
15 be implemented and administered by the Hawaii
16 emergency management agency;
- 17 (2) Establish the community readiness centers special fund
18 for the implementation and administration of the
19 community readiness centers program;
- 20 (3) Rename the environmental response, energy, and food
21 security tax to the environmental response, energy,
22 food security, and resilience tax; and

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1 (4) Allocate portions of the environmental response,
2 energy, and food security tax into the community
3 readiness centers special fund.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
6 designated and to read as follows:

7 "§127A-A Community readiness centers program; established.

8 (a) There is established the community readiness centers
9 program within the agency to set up community readiness centers
10 in various communities to ensure emergency preparedness by
11 providing training and emergency information, supplies, and
12 basic medical care during and after an emergency event. The
13 community readiness centers shall also be used to store and
14 refrigerate medical supplies and provide a place for residents
15 to charge electrical devices and access the internet.

16 (b) In implementing and administering the community
17 readiness centers program, the agency shall:

18 (1) Identify potential site locations for the
19 establishment of community readiness centers
20 facilities;

21 (2) Negotiate and arrange for the purchase or lease of
22 suitable sites;

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- 1 (3) Contract to design and construct community readiness
2 centers facilities, which may include retrofitting
3 current structures; provided that if constructed on an
4 empty site, the agency shall ensure that the community
5 readiness centers facilities will abide by the
6 International Code Council 500 standard, which is
7 capable of withstanding 250 mph wind - category five
8 hurricanes;
- 9 (4) Install a solar and back-up battery storage system,
10 multiple electrical charging stations, internet
11 access, and the capability to refrigerate medical
12 supplies at each community readiness center site; and
- 13 (5) Obtain suitable emergency supplies, including non-
14 perishable food, and equip each community readiness
15 center site with emergency supplies.
- 16 (c) The agency shall provide a selection criteria matrix
17 of standards necessary for constructing community readiness
18 centers in consultation with the Hawaii earthquake and tsunami
19 advisory committee and the State hazard mitigation forum to
20 identify geographic areas where community readiness centers
21 sites would be able to withstand natural disasters.

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1 (d) The agency shall utilize the partnership established
2 through the Hawaii hazards awareness and resilience program to
3 maintain each of the community readiness centers.

4 §127A-B community readiness centers special fund;
5 established. (a) There is established within the state
6 treasury the community readiness centers special fund, into
7 which shall be deposited:

- 8 (1) Appropriations made by the legislature;
9 (2) Interest earned on any monies in the fund; and
10 (3) Monies from the environmental response, energy, food
11 security, and resilience tax pursuant to section 243-
12 3.5.

13 (b) Monies in the fund shall be administered by the agency
14 and used for the following purposes:

- 15 (1) The purchase or lease of suitable community readiness
16 centers sites;
17 (2) The design and construction of community readiness
18 centers facilities, which may include the retrofitting
19 of existing structures;
20 (3) The installation of solar panels and a back-up battery
21 storage system at each community readiness centers
22 facilities site;

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- 1 (4) The installation of electrical charging stations,
2 internet access, and capability to refrigerate medical
3 supplies at each community readiness center facility;
4 (5) The purchase of suitable emergency supplies for
5 community readiness centers; and
6 (6) The administration and maintenance of community
7 readiness centers."

8 SECTION 3. Section 128D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

10 "(a) There is created within the state treasury an
11 environmental response revolving fund, which shall consist of
12 moneys appropriated to the fund by the legislature, moneys paid
13 to the fund as a result of departmental compliance proceedings,
14 moneys paid to the fund pursuant to court-ordered awards or
15 judgments, moneys paid to the fund in court-approved or out-of-
16 court settlements, all interest attributable to investment of
17 money deposited in the fund, moneys deposited in the fund from
18 the environmental response, energy, ~~and~~ food security, and
19 resilience tax pursuant to section 243-3.5, and moneys allotted
20 to the fund from other sources."

21 SECTION 4. Section 201-12.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
22 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

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1 "(a) There is created within the state treasury an energy
2 security special fund, which shall consist of:

3 (1) The portion of the environmental response, energy,
4 [and] food security, and resilience tax specified
5 under section 243-3.5;

6 (2) Moneys appropriated to the fund by the legislature;

7 (3) All interest attributable to investment of money
8 deposited in the fund; and

9 (4) Moneys allotted to the fund from other sources,
10 including under section 196-6.5."

11 SECTION 5. Section 243-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended as follows:

13 1. By amending its title to read:

14 "§243-3.5 Environmental response, energy, [and] food
15 security, and resilience tax; uses."

16 2. By amending subsections (a) and (b) to read:

17 "(a) In addition to any other taxes provided by law,
18 subject to the exemptions set forth in section 243-7, there is
19 hereby imposed a state environmental response, energy, [and]
20 food security, and resilience tax on each barrel or fractional
21 part of a barrel of petroleum product sold by a distributor to
22 any retail dealer or end user of petroleum product, other than a

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1 refiner. The tax shall be \$1.10 on each barrel or fractional
2 part of a barrel of petroleum product that is not aviation fuel;
3 provided that of the tax collected pursuant to this subsection:

4 (1) 5 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
5 into the environmental response revolving fund
6 established under section 128D-2;

7 (2) 4 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
8 into the energy security special fund established
9 under section 201-12.8;

10 (3) 5 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
11 into the energy systems development special fund
12 established under section 304A-2169.1;

13 (4) 3 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
14 into the electric vehicle charging system subaccount
15 established pursuant to section 269-33(e); [and]

16 (5) 3 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
17 into the hydrogen fueling system subaccount
18 established pursuant to section 269-33(f) [-]; and

19 (6) 5 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
20 into the community readiness centers special fund
21 established pursuant to section 127A-B.

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1 The tax imposed by this subsection shall be paid by the
2 distributor of the petroleum product.

3 (b) In addition to subsection (a), the tax shall also be
4 imposed on each one million British thermal units of fossil fuel
5 sold by a distributor to any retail dealer or end user, other
6 than a refiner, of fossil fuel. The tax shall be 19 cents on
7 each one million British thermal units of fossil fuel; provided
8 that of the tax collected pursuant to this subsection:

9 (1) 4.8 per cent of the tax on each one million British
10 thermal units shall be deposited into the
11 environmental response revolving fund established
12 under section 128D-2;

13 (2) 14.3 per cent of the tax on each one million British
14 thermal units shall be deposited into the energy
15 security special fund established under section 201-
16 12.8; ~~and~~

17 (3) 9.5 per cent of the tax on each one million British
18 thermal units shall be deposited into the energy
19 systems development special fund established under
20 section 304A-2169.1[-]; and

21 (4) 11.4 per cent of the tax on each one million British
22 thermal units shall be deposited into the community

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1 readiness centers special fund established pursuant to
2 section 127A-B.

3 The tax imposed by this subsection shall be paid by the
4 distributor of the fossil fuel."

5 SECTION 6. Section 304A-2169.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

7 "(b) Deposits into the special fund may be from the
8 following:

9 (1) Appropriations from the legislature;

10 (2) A portion of the environmental response, energy, [and]
11 food security, and resilience tax pursuant to section
12 243-3.5; and

13 (3) Investment earnings, gifts, donations, or other income
14 received by the Hawaii natural energy institute."

15 SECTION 7. In codifying the new sections added by section
16 2 and referenced by section 5 of this Act, the revisor of
17 statutes shall substitute appropriate section numbers for the
18 letters used in designating the new sections in this Act.

19 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 9. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect
2 on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Nedra K. Rubin*

5

BY REQUEST

JAN 21 2025

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Report Title:

HI-EMA; Community Readiness Centers; Community Readiness Centers Special Fund; Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax

Description:

Establishes the Community Readiness Centers Program to be implemented and administered by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. Establishes the Community Readiness Centers Special Fund to fund the Community Readiness Centers Program. Renames the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax to the Environmental Response, Energy, Food Security, and Resilience Tax and directs a portion of the tax into the Community Readiness Centers Special Fund. Effective 7/1/2025.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

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JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Defense

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

PURPOSE: To establish the Community Readiness Centers Program within the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) and establish the Community Readiness Centers Special Fund to fund the Community Readiness Centers Program.

MEANS: Add two new sections to chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and amend section 128D-2(a), 201-12.8(a), 243-3.5, and 304A-2169.1(b), HRS.

JUSTIFICATION: The State of Hawaii faces a wide variety of potentially catastrophic natural disasters including hurricanes, wildfires, tsunamis, and earthquakes. Human-caused events are also important to emphasize and require awareness and preparedness. HI-EMA recognizes the importance of education, preparedness, and resiliency in the face of emergency events. The goal of the community readiness center program is to ensure a community understands its role in case of an emergency and can collectively respond to it.

There is a need to construct Community Readiness Centers in various communities, which could potentially become isolated, to help establish community roles and responsibilities and increase preparedness for all emergencies.

Impact on the public: The public will have Community Readiness Centers in their communities to ensure preparedness where they can receive or access training, community information, emergency supplies, basic medical care, electrical device

charging stations, and the Internet during and after an emergency.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
This will require assistance from both the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Accounting and General Services to identify and purchase land for the Community Readiness Centers.

HI-EMA, Department of Human Services, and Department of Health will be positively impacted by this program which will allow state agencies to provide and communicate with the communities during a disaster response.

GENERAL FUND:

None.

OTHER FUNDS:

Establish a Community Readiness Center Special Fund.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION:

DEF 118.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES:

Department of Taxation; Department of Human Services; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Accounting and General Services; Department of Health; and Hawaii State Energy Office

EFFECTIVE DATE:

July 1, 2025.