
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

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

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

4 "§127A- National Incident Management System; Incident
5 Command System; compliance. (a) The agency shall adopt the
6 National Incident Management System as the standard for all
7 incident management and emergency response operations within the
8 State and counties to ensure compliance as a prerequisite for
9 federal preparedness funding eligibility.

10 (b) The agency shall apply the Incident Command System
11 framework for managing all emergencies and preplanned events.
12 This application shall ensure standardized organization
13 structures, action planning, chain of command, unity of command,
14 and communication protocols that are in alignment with the
15 National Incident Management Incident Command System principles.

16 (c) The agency shall designate a National Incident
17 Management System coordinator to oversee implementation, serve



1 as a point of contact for local jurisdictions, and ensure
2 interagency coordination within the State.

3 (d) All personnel involved in incident response shall
4 complete National Incident Management System compliant training
5 specific to their roles, including Incident Command System and
6 resource management courses. The agency shall implement ongoing
7 training to meet National Incident Management System standards,
8 with periodic reviews and refresher courses to maintain
9 proficiency.

10 (e) The agency shall maintain a comprehensive inventory of
11 deployable resources using standardized National Incident
12 Management System typing definitions, including developing
13 mutual aid agreements and contracts with local and private
14 entities, as applicable, to ensure resource availability and
15 efficient resource deployment during incidents.

16 (f) The agency shall establish interoperable communication
17 systems across agencies, employing National Incident Management
18 System protocols for clear, plain language communications,
19 facilitating effective interagency coordination during emergency
20 responses.



1 (g) The agency shall conduct annual audits on National
2 Incident Management System compliance, including training
3 completion rates, resource management effectiveness, and system
4 integration success. The results of the audit shall be
5 published in an annual report, which shall be submitted to
6 relevant federal and state oversight bodies, made available to
7 the public, and posted to the agency's website.

8 **§127A- After-action review; publication; liability**

9 **protection.** (a) The agency shall complete an after-action
10 review for all significant emergency incidents or exercises
11 within six months following the emergency incident or exercise.
12 Each after-action review shall include key findings, including:

13 (1) A detailed account of effective actions and areas for
14 improvement; and

15 (2) Recommended actions to enhance future response
16 capabilities with each action having an assigned
17 responsible party, due date, and management oversight.

18 (b) The agency shall adhere to a structured timeline for
19 drafting, reviewing, and finalizing each after-action review to
20 ensure prompt availability. Finalized after-action reviews



1 shall be published on a dedicated public portal accessible
2 through the agency's website.

3 (c) After-action reviews published by the agency or county
4 emergency management agency shall be protected from use as
5 evidence in civil litigation against the agency or its
6 personnel, contingent upon the agency's demonstrated good-faith
7 effort to document incidents accurately and fairly and place
8 them into the public domain. Liability protection under this
9 subsection shall be contingent on the agency's or county
10 emergency management agency's adherence to good-faith efforts in
11 recording factual incident assessments and proposed
12 improvements, encouraging objective review without fear of legal
13 exposure. Protections provided in this subsection shall align
14 with public interest objectives, ensuring that after-action
15 reviews serve as tools for transparency, accountability, and
16 improvement.

17 **§127A- National Incident Management System compliant**
18 **position task books; credentialing.** (a) The agency shall
19 develop and manage position task books aligned with the National
20 Qualification System of the National Incident Management System.
21 Position task books shall encompass competencies, behaviors, and



1 tasks as per Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines to
2 ensure compliance for Incident Command System Types 1, 2, and 3,
3 including emergency operations center positions. Position task
4 books shall:

5 (1) Be signed off by a qualified trainer;

6 (2) Align with national standards and match National
7 Incident Management System requirements for Incident
8 Command System roles and emergency operations centers
9 skillsets to ensure the State's personnel are prepared
10 for multi-jurisdictional deployment and
11 interoperability with other states and federal
12 systems; and

13 (3) Be designed for use in various emergency operations
14 centers models, including Incident Command System-like
15 structures, Incident Support Model, and departmental
16 structures, allowing for flexible applications based
17 on local emergency operations center's needs.

18 (b) County emergency management agencies shall be
19 responsible for overseeing, evaluating, and validating the
20 position task books of their personnel. County emergency
21 agencies shall ensure that personnel meet the position task book



1 criteria for their designated Incident Command System or
2 emergency operations centers roles, following national standards
3 in training and certification processes.

4 (c) The agency shall maintain a centralized, publicly
5 accessible registry of all personnel certified under National
6 Incident Management System position task books. This registry
7 shall be available on the agency's website and list certified
8 individuals from each county emergency management agency,
9 organized by their certified positions and task level.

10 (d) The agency shall generate and maintain a position task
11 book for type 1, 2, and 3 incidents for the following positions:

- 12 (1) Incident commander;
13 (2) Public information officer;
14 (3) Safety officer;
15 (4) Liaison officer;
16 (5) Operations section chief;
17 (6) Planning section chief;
18 (7) Logistics section chief;
19 (8) Finance or administration section chief;
20 (9) Operations branch director;
21 (10) Division or group supervisor;



- 1 (11) Strike team or task force leader;
- 2 (12) Resources unit leader;
- 3 (13) Situation unit leader;
- 4 (14) Documentation unit leader;
- 5 (15) Demobilization unit leader;
- 6 (16) Supply unit leader;
- 7 (17) Facilities unit leader;
- 8 (18) Ground support unit leader;
- 9 (19) Food unit leader;
- 10 (20) Communications unit leader;
- 11 (21) Medical unit leader;
- 12 (22) Time unit leader;
- 13 (23) Cost unit leader;
- 14 (24) Compensation or claims unit leader;
- 15 (25) Procurement unit leader;
- 16 (26) Air operations branch director; and
- 17 (27) Crew leader.
- 18 (e) The following position task books shall be sufficient
- 19 to cover coordination and leadership responsibilities in the
- 20 emergency operations center settings:
- 21 (1) Emergency operations center director;



- 1 (2) Emergency operations center manager;
- 2 (3) Operations section coordinator;
- 3 (4) Planning section coordinator;
- 4 (5) Logistics section coordinator;
- 5 (6) Finance or administration section coordinator;
- 6 (7) Situational awareness unit leader;
- 7 (8) Resource management and tracking specialist;
- 8 (9) Public information officer;
- 9 (10) Liaison officer;
- 10 (11) Safety officer;
- 11 (12) Documentation specialist;
- 12 (13) Communications or dispatch coordinator;
- 13 (14) Recovery operations coordinator;
- 14 (15) Hazardous materials coordinator;
- 15 (16) Public health and medical services coordinator;
- 16 (17) Critical infrastructure or key resources coordinator;
- 17 (18) Community and volunteer coordination specialist;
- 18 (19) Donations management specialist; and
- 19 (20) Debris management specialist.
- 20 §127A- Standardized Incident Documentation; emergency
- 21 operations center coordination operations. (a) The agency



1 shall require the use of standardized Incident Command System
2 forms for documenting incident response across all emergency
3 operations center formats, including Incident Command System-
4 like, Incident Support Model, and Departmental Model. These
5 forms shall meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency's
6 National Incident Management System documentation standards and
7 be customizable to align with the unique needs of the State's
8 emergency operations centers.

9 (b) Each emergency operations center format shall use the
10 following forms, including but not limited to:

11 (1) Incident briefing and action plans: ICS Form 202
12 (incident objectives) and ICS Form 203 (organization
13 assignment list);

14 (2) Resource management: ICS Form 204 (assignment list),
15 ICS Form 211 (check-in list), and ICS Form 215
16 (operational planning worksheet);

17 (3) Situation reporting and updates: ICS Form 209
18 (incident status summary) for regular status reporting
19 and ICS Form 214 (activity log) for tracking
20 significant events;



1 (4) Communications and coordination: ICS Form 205
2 (incident radio communications plan) and ICS Form 205A
3 (communications list) to ensure coordination across
4 responding agencies; and

5 (5) Other forms: ICS 206 medical plan, ICS 208 safety
6 plan, and ICS 200 air ops branch summary.

7 (c) The agency shall allow for the adjustment of forms
8 usage based on each emergency operations center's operational
9 structure.

10 (d) The agency shall provide ongoing training to county
11 emergency operations center personnel on the effective use of
12 Incident Command System Forms and make digital templates readily
13 available.

14 (e) The agency shall retain all completed Incident Command
15 System forms for significant incidents in a secure, accessible
16 archive. These records shall be available upon request as
17 provided in chapter 92F.

18 **§127A- Accreditation; emergency management programs.**

19 (a) The agency and all county emergency management agencies
20 shall pursue and maintain accreditation through the Emergency
21 Management Accreditation Program, or a similar nationally



1 recognized emergency management accreditation standards.
2 Accreditation shall be reviewed and renewed on a five year
3 cycle, with agencies adhering to updated standards as required.

4 (b) The accreditation process shall require compliance
5 with Emergency Management Accreditation Program standards, which
6 cover:

7 (1) Program management and strategic planning: Includes
8 development and implementation of a multi-year
9 strategic plan outlining vision, mission, goals, and
10 objectives;

11 (2) Hazard identification and risk analysis: Conducting
12 risk assessments for natural and human-caused hazards
13 that affect the jurisdiction, identifying
14 vulnerabilities, and assessing community resilience;

15 (3) Resource management and mutual aid: Comprehensive
16 management of resources and logistics, including
17 mutual aid agreements;

18 (4) Training, exercises, and corrective actions:
19 Establishing ongoing training, conducting exercises to
20 test capabilities, and implementing corrective actions
21 based on exercise findings; and



1 (5) Communications and public warning systems: Ensuring
2 interoperable, reliable communication systems and
3 public warning capabilities.

4 (c) All accredited agencies shall:

5 (1) Conduct an internal self-assessment;

6 (2) Submit documentation of compliance with standards; and

7 (3) Undergo peer-reviewed evaluations by Emergency

8 Management Accreditation Program assessors.

9 Accreditation materials shall be maintained by the agency and be
10 available for public review upon request as provided in chapter
11 92F.

12 (d) The agency shall submit a biennial report to the
13 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
14 each regular session in the first year of each biennium
15 summarizing:

16 (1) The status of accreditation;

17 (2) Improvements based on Emergency Management
18 Accreditation Program standards; and

19 (3) Corrective actions taken.

20 County emergency management agencies shall submit annual updates
21 to the agency on their compliance and accreditation status.



1 §127A- Role definition; identification standards;
2 Incident Command System and emergency operations center
3 coordination operations. (a) Each designated position in all
4 Incident Command System and emergency operations center
5 coordination operations shall be clearly defined with specific
6 roles and responsibilities assigned to a single individual per
7 position. No Incident Command System or emergency operations
8 center role shall be held by more than one individual at any
9 time during active operations.

10 (b) All Incident Command System Command Post and emergency
11 operations center personnel shall wear a visible vest, badge, or
12 other designated identification item displaying their position
13 title. The vest, badge, or other designated identification item
14 shall be standardized and color-coded for each role to ensure
15 quick recognition of personnel responsibilities during an
16 incident.

17 (c) Each vest, badge, or other designated identification
18 item shall be assigned to a specific position and individual at
19 the outset of operations, with an accountability system in place
20 to track assignments throughout the incident. All personnel
21 shall relinquish their vest, badge, or other designated



1 identification item when handing over command or completing
2 their duties.

3 (d) The agency shall provide training to all Incident
4 Command System and emergency operations center personnel on role
5 clarity and identification requirements. Compliance with this
6 subsection shall be monitored as part of regular emergency
7 management exercises."

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

10 1. By amending subsection (b) to read:

11 "(b) There shall be an administrator of emergency
12 management who shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the
13 director~~[, and who shall have at least three years of experience~~
14 ~~leading emergency management efforts at the local, state, or~~
15 ~~federal level]~~. The administrator shall meet the following
16 minimum qualifications:

17 (1) Training and education: Completion of at least sixty
18 credit hours of training in business or public
19 administration, business or public management, or
20 emergency management or preparedness. A bachelor's



1 degree in a related field may substitute for the
2 training requirements of this paragraph;

3 (2) Experience: A minimum of ten years of verifiable
4 experience in comprehensive emergency management,
5 which includes improving preparedness for emergency
6 and disaster protection, prevention, mitigation,
7 response, and recovery, including direct command or
8 supervisory responsibility in responding to multiple
9 complex emergencies or disasters; provided that a
10 master's degree in emergency management, business or
11 public administration, homeland security, public
12 health, or a related field may substitute for two of
13 the ten years of experience but shall not substitute
14 for the required supervisory experience;

15 (3) Desired certifications: In addition to the training
16 and education and experience requirements under
17 paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, the
18 administrator should have or attain:

19 (A) A valid accreditation as a certified master
20 exercise practitioner through the Federal
21 Emergency Management Agency; or



1 (B) A valid accreditation as a certified emergency
2 manager through the International Association of
3 Emergency Managers;

4 (4) Emergency management training: Completion of the
5 advanced professional series from the Federal
6 Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management
7 Institute and completion of one hundred fifty hours in
8 comprehensive emergency management training provided
9 by, or approved by, the Federal Emergency Management
10 Agency. The training required under this paragraph
11 shall be completed or recertified within the ten years
12 preceding the date of appointment; and

13 (5) Licensing: Possession of a valid driver's license
14 within thirty days of appointment.

15 The administrator of emergency management shall be the
16 civilian head of and responsible for the day-to-day operations
17 of the agency[-], including ensuring integration with county
18 emergency management plans, providing guidance and support to
19 county agencies, and coordinating state resources during
20 emergencies. The administrator of emergency management shall
21 report to the director[-] and shall oversee compliance with



1 credentialing, training, and reporting standards as outlined in
2 this chapter, establishing performance metrics and ensuring
3 transparency in all agency operations. The administrator of
4 emergency management shall, in the absence of the director, have
5 all the duties and responsibilities of the director, and shall
6 report directly to the governor. The administrator of emergency
7 management shall not be subject to chapter 76."

8 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

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

12 (1) Prepare a state comprehensive emergency management
13 plan, which shall be integrated into and coordinated
14 with [~~the~~] federal emergency management plans [~~of the~~
15 ~~federal government.~~] and programs. The plan shall be
16 [~~integrated by~~] adopted as a rule and implemented
17 through a continuous, integrated comprehensive
18 emergency management program[~~. The plan shall contain~~
19 ~~provisions~~] to ensure that the State prepares for,
20 mitigates against, responds to, and recovers from
21 emergencies and minor, major, and catastrophic



1 disasters. [~~In preparing and maintaining the plan,~~
2 ~~the~~] The agency shall [work] collaborate closely with
3 ~~[agencies and organizations with emergency management~~
4 ~~responsibilities;]~~ county governments, local emergency
5 management organizations, and relevant public,
6 private, and nonprofit agencies in preparing and
7 maintaining the plan. The state comprehensive
8 emergency management plan shall be operations-oriented
9 and include the following:

10 (A) An evacuation component, which shall contain
11 specific regional and interregional planning
12 provisions to ensure coordinated evacuation
13 activities. At a minimum, this component shall
14 consider communities with one road in and out and
15 provide contingency plans for evacuation and
16 include guidelines for:

17 (i) Coordinating evacuees being flown between
18 islands;

19 (ii) Directing evacuees to safe shelters;



- 1 (iii) Providing sufficient fueling locations at
- 2 reasonable costs along evacuation routes;
- 3 and
- 4 (iv) Establishing policies for emergency medical
- 5 evacuations;
- 6 (B) A shelter component, which shall establish model
- 7 standards for shelter operations, including
- 8 registration, inventory, power generation,
- 9 information management, and staffing, and
- 10 include:
- 11 (i) Provisions for sheltering coordination among
- 12 public, private, and nonprofit sectors;
- 13 (ii) Strategies to ensure sufficient public
- 14 shelter space statewide;
- 15 (iii) Plans for refuge-of-last-resort programs;
- 16 (iv) Staffing strategies for all shelters,
- 17 including medical and security personnel;
- 18 (v) Guidelines for post-disaster communications
- 19 in shelters; and
- 20 (vi) Policies for sheltering individuals with
- 21 special needs;



- 1 (C) A post-disaster response and recovery component,
2 which shall:
 - 3 (i) Promote intergovernmental coordination for
4 post-disaster response and recovery;
 - 5 (ii) Establish a Unified Command structure for
6 the State's post-disaster response
7 organization, procedures for plan
8 activation, and policies for post-disaster
9 response;
 - 10 (iii) Define command chains and roles for each
11 participating agency using a single Incident
12 ction Plan;
 - 13 (iv) Include strategies for rapid impact
14 assessments, urban search and rescue
15 coordination, medical care and relief plans,
16 and systems for volunteer coordination and
17 distribution of donated resources;
- 18 (D) Additional preparedness provisions, which shall
19 include any additional preparedness, response,
20 recovery, and mitigation provisions deemed
21 necessary by the agency;



- 1 (E) A resource development plan, which shall address
2 procedures for the coordinated deployment of
3 state resources and include provisions for pre-
4 deployment of the Hawaii National Guard in the
5 event of imminent disaster, and, where necessary,
6 pre-deployment of the United States Armed Forces
7 in cases of catastrophic disasters;
- 8 (F) A communications and warning systems plan, which
9 shall establish, test, and maintain a
10 comprehensive communications and warning system
11 to provide timely notifications of developing
12 emergencies, including public health threats, and
13 to support coordination of emergency response
14 actions;
- 15 (G) Annual exercise guidelines, which shall set
16 guidelines and schedules for annual exercises
17 that test the ability of state and county
18 agencies to respond to disasters. These
19 exercises shall be conducted with federal and
20 county partners wherever feasible;



1 (H) An emergency support assignments plan, which
2 shall assign lead and support responsibilities to
3 state agencies and personnel for each Emergency
4 Support Function and other necessary support
5 activities; and

6 (I) A public health plan, which shall incorporate a
7 public health emergency response strategy,
8 developed in conjunction with the department of
9 health, to address public health threats and
10 coordinate responses statewide.

11 The state comprehensive emergency management plan
12 shall be submitted to the governor, president of the
13 senate, and speaker of the house of representatives by
14 February 1 of each even-numbered year, with any
15 updates as necessary to reflect changes in federal or
16 state policies and priorities. All components of the
17 state comprehensive emergency management plan and
18 subsequent updates shall be made publicly accessible
19 on the agency's website with a direct link to the
20 current plan prominently displayed;



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



- 1 (7) Coordinate federal, state, and local emergency
2 management activities and take all other steps,
3 including the partial or full mobilization of
4 emergency management forces and organizations in
5 advance of an actual emergency, to ensure the
6 availability of adequately trained and equipped forces
7 of emergency management personnel before, during, and
8 after emergencies and disasters;
- 9 (8) Implement training programs to improve the ability of
10 state and local emergency management personnel to
11 prepare and implement emergency management plans and
12 programs. This shall include a continuous training
13 program for agencies and individuals that will be
14 called on to perform key roles in state and local
15 post-disaster response and recovery efforts and for
16 local government personnel on federal and state post-
17 disaster response and recovery strategies and
18 procedures;
- 19 (9) Adopt standards and requirements for state agency
20 emergency operating procedures and periodically review
21 emergency operating procedures of state agencies and



1 recommend revisions as needed to ensure consistency
2 with the state comprehensive emergency management plan
3 and program; and

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

9 SECTION 3. Section 127A-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "**§127A-5 County emergency management agency.** (a) The
12 mayor of each county shall have direct responsibility for
13 emergency management within the county, including the
14 organization, administration, and operation of a county
15 emergency management agency.

16 (b) Each county emergency management agency shall perform
17 emergency management functions within the territorial limits of
18 the county within which it is organized, coordinate all
19 emergency management plans within the county, and cooperate as
20 closely as possible with the agency and emergency management



1 agencies in the other counties in all aspects of emergency
2 management.

3 (c) Each county shall be responsible for the
4 establishment, naming, and operation of a county emergency
5 management agency under the mayor's direction, and shall enact
6 ordinances to establish the county emergency management agency
7 and ensure that the mayor and the county's emergency management
8 agency have the powers necessary to receive state and federal
9 funds and carry out the functions of this chapter at the county
10 level. The ordinances shall comply with powers established
11 under sections 127A-12 and 127A-13.

12 (d) Each county, under the mayor's direction, shall make
13 appropriations and authorize expenditures for the purposes of
14 this chapter, including for use as matching funds for federal
15 aid, out of the normal revenues or fund balances or surpluses of
16 the counties, notwithstanding any legal restrictions upon the
17 purposes for which the funds may be expended, except that
18 pension and retirement funds, funds set aside for the redemption
19 of bonds or the payment of interest thereon, trust funds, loan
20 funds, and funds received from the federal government or from
21 any person for specific purposes shall not be affected.



1 (e) Each county, under the mayor's direction, shall
2 provide a county-level administrator or director of the county
3 emergency management agency, and technical, administrative, and
4 other personnel; office space; furniture; equipment; supplies;
5 and funds necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.
6 The county-level administrator or director of the county
7 emergency management agency shall be the civilian head of and
8 responsible for the day-to-day operations of the county
9 emergency management agency. The county-level administrator or
10 director of the county emergency management shall report to the
11 mayor and provide regular updates on emergency preparedness,
12 response activities, and strategic initiatives.

13 (f) The administrator or director of the county emergency
14 management agency shall not be subject to chapter 76[-] and may
15 be appointed or removed at the discretion of the mayor.

16 (g) The county-level administrator or director shall meet
17 the following minimum qualifications:

- 18 (1) Experience: A minimum of seven years in senior
19 emergency management roles, including direct
20 supervisory responsibilities over multi-jurisdictional
21 disaster response, recovery, preparedness, and



1 mitigation efforts, with at least one complex
2 emergency or disaster response incident with direct
3 incident command or interagency coordination
4 responsibility; provided that a master's degree in
5 emergency management, public administration, homeland
6 security, or a related field may substitute up to two
7 years of the seven-year requirement;

8 (2) Training and education: Completion of sixty credit
9 hours in public or emergency management, which may be
10 substituted by a bachelor's degree in emergency
11 management, public administration, or a related field;
12 and

13 (3) Certification:

14 (A) Possession of a current certification that is in
15 good standing as a certified emergency manager
16 through the International Association of
17 Emergency Managers or a Federal Emergency
18 Management Agency recognized equivalent; and

19 (B) Completion of one hundred fifty hours in
20 training, covering planning, coordination, and
21 response skills, in courses approved by the



1 Federal Emergency Management Agency within the
2 last ten years.

3 (h) The county-level administrator or director of
4 emergency management shall:

5 (1) Be accountable for implementing the National Incident
6 Management System standards and Incident Command
7 System response protocols and emergency operations
8 center coordination operations within the county and
9 ensure compliance with all state guidelines on
10 training, documentation, and resource management;

11 (2) Be responsible for certifying local emergency
12 management personnel, maintaining up-to-date position
13 task books, and coordinating with the agency to
14 integrate county response capabilities with state-
15 level emergency operations; and

16 (3) Ensure that personnel under their command meet ongoing
17 training and certification requirements and maintain
18 records of all certifications, including position task
19 book completions, within the county's emergency
20 management system. Records required by this paragraph
21 shall be reported to the agency annually for public



1 access and statewide consistency in emergency
2 management competency.

3 ~~[(g)]~~ (i) Each county, under the mayor's direction, shall,
4 in order to ensure continuity of government during an emergency
5 period, establish a procedure for the appointment and
6 designation of stand-by officers for the mayor and the county
7 legislative body during an emergency period, who shall serve in
8 the event of the unavailability of the officers for whom they
9 are standing-by.

10 ~~[(h)]~~ (j) Each county, under the mayor's direction, shall
11 establish and maintain an emergency operations center, as the
12 place from where emergencies and disasters shall be managed, and
13 staff it appropriately.

14 ~~[(i)]~~ (k) Each county, under the mayor's direction, shall
15 coordinate, develop, and implement a comprehensive emergency
16 management plan for the county and submit annual reports to the
17 administrator on the status and updates of the plan.

18 (l) Each county emergency management agency shall develop
19 and maintain a comprehensive evacuation plan as part of its
20 local emergency response procedures. The plan shall coordinate



1 with the state comprehensive emergency management plan and
2 include the following protocols:

3 (1) Evacuation decision-making and triggers: Counties
4 shall establish specific criteria and conditions that
5 warrant evacuation orders, such as imminent natural
6 disasters, fire risk levels, or public health
7 emergencies. Evacuation orders shall be issued by the
8 county-level administrator or director of emergency
9 management, with situational updates provided to the
10 agency for statewide coordination;

11 (2) Evacuation route designation and management: Counties
12 shall:

13 (A) Identify and annually update primary and
14 secondary evacuation routes, considering traffic
15 flow, geographic constraints, and available
16 infrastructure;

17 (B) Implement traffic management protocols, including
18 lane reversals and prioritized access for
19 emergency vehicles, in collaboration with local
20 law enforcement and transportation departments;

21 and



- 1 (C) Designate and communicate fuel, medical support,
2 and essential service points along evacuation
3 routes to aid evacuees;
- 4 (3) Evacuation communication and public notification:
5 Counties shall:
- 6 (A) Provide immediate, clear, and accessible
7 notifications on evacuation routes, shelter
8 locations, road closures, and other vital
9 information via multiple channels, including text
10 alerts, social media, local radio, and
11 television; and
- 12 (B) Ensure that all evacuation alerts are accessible
13 to diverse populations, including those with
14 disabilities and limited English proficiency;
- 15 (4) Vulnerable population evacuation assistance: Counties
16 shall:
- 17 (A) Identify and develop targeted evacuation support
18 for vulnerable populations, such as elderly
19 residents, individuals with disabilities, and
20 those without personal transportation; and



1 (B) Establish transportation programs, including
2 buses, para-transit services, and contracted
3 vehicles, to ensure all residents can evacuate
4 safely;

5 (5) Shelter coordination and availability: Counties
6 shall:

7 (A) Designate sufficient general and special needs
8 shelters to accommodate evacuees, coordinating
9 with local partners for staffing, medical
10 resources, and supplies; and

11 (B) Where feasible, designate pet-friendly shelters
12 and communicate their availability to the public;

13 (6) Interagency coordination for resource allocation:
14 Counties shall:

15 (A) Develop coordination protocols among federal,
16 state, and county agencies for resource sharing
17 and evacuation logistics; and

18 (B) Establish mutual aid agreements and conduct
19 annual interagency evacuation drills to ensure
20 readiness;



- 1 (7) Reentry protocols and post-evacuation procedures:
2 Counties shall:
3 (A) Establish criteria for safe reentry after an
4 evacuation, considering environmental,
5 infrastructure, and health assessments, with
6 continuous coordination with state agencies; and
7 (B) Communicate reentry updates and timelines to the
8 public, ensuring clarity and safety in the return
9 process;
- 10 (8) Annual review and community preparedness programs:
11 Each county emergency management agency shall:
12 (A) Review and update the evacuation plan annually,
13 incorporating feedback from exercises and
14 incident after-action reviews; and
15 (B) Conduct annual community preparedness campaigns,
16 including public evacuation drills and
17 educational outreach, to raise awareness and
18 readiness among residents; and
- 19 (9) Public transparency: All components of the county's
20 comprehensive emergency management plan and subsequent
21 updates shall be made publicly accessible on the



H.B. NO. 361

Report Title:

Emergency Management; Standards; Accreditation; National Incident Management System; Incident Command System

Description:

Requires the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to: (1) Adopt the National Incident Management System as the standard for all incident management and emergency response operations; (2) Complete an after-action review for all significant emergency incidents or exercises; (3) Develop and manage position task books; (4) require the use of standardized Incident Command System forms; (5) Maintain accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program; and (6) Define specific roles and responsibilities for all Incident Command System and emergency operations center positions. Expands training and education qualifications and responsibilities for the Administrator of Emergency Management and county-level administrators or directors of emergency management. Amends the contents of the state comprehensive emergency management plan.

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

