
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. According to the report entitled,
4 "Policy Recommendations on Climate Disaster Resilience, Recovery
5 and Funding", published by the Hawaii climate advisory team in
6 January 2025, the climate and advisory team recommends support
7 for the development of community readiness centers, which are
8 designed to support residents before, during, and after
9 emergencies, including natural disasters. A community readiness
10 center will provide services before disasters to enhance daily
11 resilience of individuals, families, businesses, and
12 organizations, and will provide critical support such as food,
13 shelter, water, communications, and more, during and after
14 emergencies. In addition, community readiness centers will
15 serve as a place for residents to receive emergency preparedness
16 training and emergency information, supplies, and basic medical
17 care during and after an emergency event. The community



1 readiness centers will also be used to store and refrigerate
2 medical supplies and provide a place for residents to charge
3 electrical devices and access the Internet. The establishment
4 of these community readiness centers will require partnerships
5 between numerous agencies and private entities and the
6 legislature finds that the Hawaii emergency management agency is
7 the most suitable agency to coordinate the establishment of
8 community readiness centers.

9 The legislature further finds that community readiness
10 center sites should be carefully identified to ensure proper
11 connection to the electrical grid and be equipped with a solar
12 and back-up battery storage system to guard against power
13 outages. Residents should be directly involved in the location
14 and design of community readiness centers in their respective
15 communities.

16 The legislature also finds that Battery Birkhimer houses
17 the state emergency operations center, which is where the Hawaii
18 emergency management agency is currently based. The need for a
19 new state emergency operations center is urgent and has been
20 mentioned in state emergency management plans for more than ten
21 years, including in objective 3.04 in the Hawaii emergency



1 management agency's 2020-2025 strategic plan. Other emergency
2 operations agencies have identified a need for updated
3 facilities, increased administrative space, and in-state
4 training facilities, among other ancillary uses. In addition,
5 many of these agencies' existing facilities are within coastal
6 areas that are vulnerable to natural disasters and climate
7 change hazards. The new state emergency operations center
8 requires, at a minimum, the same critical infrastructure as
9 community readiness centers to sustain operations during times
10 of disaster, including proper connection to the electrical grid,
11 and should be equipped with a solar and back-up battery storage
12 system to guard against power outages.

13 Accordingly, the legislature finds that community readiness
14 center sites should be strategically co-located in conjunction
15 with emergency operations centers. Following the action and
16 guidance identified in "Ola: Oahu Resilience Strategy",
17 published in 2019 by the city and county of Honolulu's office of
18 climate change, sustainability, and resilience, community
19 readiness and emergency operations centers should also be
20 located outside of areas vulnerable to natural disasters and the
21 impacts of climate change.



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

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

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



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

4 (5) Appropriate moneys to acquire lands for community
5 readiness centers and for an emergency operations
6 center.

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

10 **"§127A-A Community readiness centers program; established.**

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

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



- 1 (1) Identify potential site locations for the
2 establishment of community readiness centers;
- 3 (2) Negotiate and arrange for the purchase or lease of
4 suitable sites;
- 5 (3) Contract to design and construct community readiness
6 centers, which may include retrofitting current
7 structures; provided that if constructed on an empty
8 site, the agency shall ensure that the community
9 readiness centers will abide by the International Code
10 Council 500 standard, which is capable of withstanding
11 two hundred fifty miles per hour wind or category five
12 hurricanes;
- 13 (4) Install a solar and back-up battery storage system,
14 multiple electrical charging stations, internet
15 access, and the capability to refrigerate medical
16 supplies at each community readiness center site; and
- 17 (5) Obtain suitable emergency supplies, including
18 non-perishable food, and equip each community
19 readiness center site with emergency supplies.
- 20 (c) The agency shall develop a selection criteria matrix
21 of standards necessary for constructing community readiness



1 centers in consultation with the Hawaii earthquake and tsunami
2 advisory committee, state hazard mitigation forum, Hawaii
3 advisory council on emergency management, and county emergency
4 management administrators; provided that this consultation
5 process shall include identifying geographic areas where
6 community readiness center sites would be able to withstand
7 natural disasters.

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

11 **§127A-B Community readiness centers special fund;**
12 **established.** (a) There is established within the state
13 treasury the community readiness centers special fund, into
14 which shall be deposited:

15 (1) Appropriations made by the legislature;
16 (2) Interest earned on any moneys in the fund; and
17 (3) Moneys from the environmental response, energy, food
18 security, and resilience tax pursuant to
19 section 243-3.5.

20 (b) Moneys in the fund shall be administered by the agency
21 and used for the following purposes:



1 (1) The purchase or lease of suitable community readiness
2 centers sites;

3 (2) The design and construction of community readiness
4 centers, which may include the retrofitting of
5 existing structures;

6 (3) The installation of solar panels and a back-up battery
7 storage system at each community readiness center
8 site;

9 (4) The installation of electrical charging stations,
10 internet access, and capability to refrigerate medical
11 supplies at each community readiness center;

12 (5) The purchase of suitable emergency supplies for
13 community readiness centers; and

14 (6) The administration and maintenance of community
15 readiness centers."

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

18 "(a) There is created within the state treasury an
19 environmental response revolving fund, which shall consist of
20 moneys appropriated to the fund by the legislature, moneys paid
21 to the fund as a result of departmental compliance proceedings,



1 moneys paid to the fund pursuant to court-ordered awards or
2 judgments, moneys paid to the fund in court-approved or
3 out-of-court settlements, all interest attributable to
4 investment of money deposited in the fund, moneys deposited in
5 the fund from the environmental response, energy, [~~and~~] food
6 security, and resilience tax pursuant to section 243-3.5, and
7 moneys allotted to the fund from other sources."

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

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

- 12 (1) The portion of the environmental response, energy,
13 [~~and~~] food security, and resilience tax specified
14 under section 243-3.5;
- 15 (2) Moneys appropriated to the fund by the legislature;
- 16 (3) All interest attributable to investment of money
17 deposited in the fund; and
- 18 (4) Moneys allotted to the fund from other sources,
19 including under section 196-6.5."



1 SECTION 5. Section 243-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending its title and subsections (a) and (b) to
3 read as follows:

4 "**§243-3.5 Environmental response, energy, [~~and~~] food**
5 **security, and resilience tax; uses.**

6 (a) In addition to any other taxes provided by law,
7 subject to the exemptions set forth in section 243-7, there is
8 hereby imposed a state environmental response, energy, [~~and~~]
9 food security, and resilience tax on each barrel or fractional
10 part of a barrel of petroleum product sold by a distributor to
11 any retail dealer or end user of petroleum product, other than a
12 refiner. The tax shall be \$1.05 on each barrel or fractional
13 part of a barrel of petroleum product that is not aviation fuel;
14 provided that of the tax collected pursuant to this subsection:

15 (1) 5 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
16 into the environmental response revolving fund
17 established under section 128D-2;

18 (2) 4 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
19 into the energy security special fund established
20 under section 201-12.8;



1 (3) 5 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
2 into the energy systems development special fund
3 established under section 304A-2169.1;

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

7 (5) 3 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited
8 into the hydrogen fueling system subaccount
9 established pursuant to section 269-33(f) [~~-~~]; and

10 (6) _____ cents of the tax on each barrel shall be
11 deposited into the community readiness centers special
12 fund established pursuant to section 127A-B.

13 The tax imposed by this subsection shall be paid by the
14 distributor of the petroleum product.

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



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

5 (2) 14.3 per cent of the tax on each one million British
6 thermal units shall be deposited into the energy
7 security special fund established under
8 section 201-12.8; [~~and~~]

9 (3) 9.5 per cent of the tax on each one million British
10 thermal units shall be deposited into the energy
11 systems development special fund established under
12 section 304A-2169.1[~~-~~]; and

13 (4) _____ per cent of the tax on each one million British
14 thermal units shall be deposited into the community
15 readiness centers special fund established pursuant to
16 section 127A-B.

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

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



1 "(b) Deposits into the special fund may be from the
2 following:

- 3 (1) Appropriations from the legislature;
- 4 (2) A portion of the environmental response, energy, [~~and~~]
5 food security, and resilience tax pursuant to
6 section 243-3.5; and
- 7 (3) Investment earnings, gifts, donations, or other income
8 received by the Hawaii natural energy institute."

9 SECTION 7. The Hawaii emergency management agency shall
10 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
11 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
12 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
13 2026. The report shall contain information relating to:

- 14 (1) The timeline for identifying community readiness
15 centers, both public and private;
- 16 (2) The use of funding sources;
- 17 (3) Any partnerships with federal and county agencies and
18 community groups;
- 19 (4) Any collaboration and communication with stakeholders;
- 20 (5) The annual projected amount of funding based on
21 sources of revenue; and



1 (6) Any other relevant information about the community
2 readiness centers program.

3 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for
6 the acquisition of lands for community readiness centers and the
7 emergency operations center on the parcel of land identified as
8 tax map key: (1) 9-5-002-003.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 defense for the purposes of this Act; provided that the
11 appropriation made by this section shall not lapse at the end of
12 the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made; provided
13 further that all moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as
14 of June 30, 2027, shall lapse as of that date.

15 SECTION 9. With the approval of the governor, the
16 department of defense may delegate to other state agencies the
17 implementation of projects related to this Act when it is
18 determined advantageous to do so by both the department of
19 defense and the agency to which the authority is to be
20 delegated.



1 SECTION 10. In codifying the new sections added by
2 section 2 and referenced by section 5 of this Act, the revisor
3 of statutes shall substitute appropriate section numbers for the
4 letters used in designating the new sections in this Act.

5 SECTION 11. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

HIEMA; Community Readiness Centers; Community Readiness Centers Special Fund; Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax; Report; Appropriation

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. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys to acquire lands for community readiness centers and for an emergency operations center. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

