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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that conflicts and wars  
2 in various parts of the world pose threats to continued  
3 stability and peace across the globe, including Hawaii. In  
4 2018, Hawaii residents received an emergency alert notification  
5 of a "ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii." The alert  
6 remained in effect for thirty-eight minutes and thirteen  
7 seconds, during which many people prepared for an imminent  
8 attack. In the face of growing threats such as these, the  
9 legislature believes the state must better prepare itself for  
10 potential attacks and disasters, however unlikely they may seem.

11       The legislature further finds that it is particularly  
12 important for our public schools to develop disaster and  
13 emergency preparedness plans to ensure the safety of the nearly  
14 180,000 students under their care. The legislature notes that  
15 time is of the essence in the event of a nuclear attack or other  
16 disaster, so the issuance of a disaster plan will ensure that  
17 students, staff, and parents know what to do in the case of an



1 emergency. A clear plan will help to prevent chaotic and  
2 dangerous scenarios in which parents rush to schools to pick up  
3 their children, causing traffic buildups and wasting precious  
4 time that could be better used seeking shelter from the  
5 disaster.

6 The legislature further finds that if any disaster, whether  
7 natural or human-made, were to harm Hawaii's cargo shipping  
8 harbors, the State would likely encounter difficulties in  
9 receiving supplies as most of the State's food and other  
10 provisions arrive by ship. Therefore, it is necessary for  
11 public schools to ensure that they have sufficient emergency  
12 goods available to last during the initial phase of a disaster.

13 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Require each public school in the State to develop a  
15 disaster and attack preparedness plan by  
16 January 1, 2026;
- 17 (2) Require each public school to maintain at least a  
18 forty-eight hour supply of emergency goods in its  
19 facilities; and
- 20 (3) Make an appropriation for the purchase of emergency  
21 goods for public schools.



1       SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to subpart C of part IV to be  
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4       "§302A-       Emergency measures; disaster and attack

5 preparedness. (a) Beginning July 1, 2026, each public school  
6 shall implement a disaster and attack preparedness plan in  
7 consultation with the state office of homeland security and the  
8 Hawaii emergency management agency. The plan shall include:

9       (1) Procedures to protect the health and safety of  
10       students, staff members, and other individuals;

11       (2) Procedures for establishing and maintaining  
12       communication with county, state, and federal  
13       emergency response agencies;

14       (3) Procedures to ensure adequate resources for staffing  
15       and supplies in the case of a disaster, including:

16       (A) Assigned responsibilities for each staff member;  
17       and

18       (B) Instructions for the evacuation, transport, or  
19       transfer of students, if necessary;

20       (4) Orientation and proper instruction for all personnel  
21       employed by the public school; and



1        (5) Shelter-in-place drills for students and staff, to be  
2                held at least twice annually.

3        (b) Each public school shall maintain in its facilities a  
4        supply of emergency goods sufficient to last at least  
5        forty-eight hours following an attack or disaster.

6        (c) As used in this section:

7        "Attack" has the same meaning as in section 128A-2.

8        "Disaster" has the same meaning as in section 127A-2.

9        "Emergency goods" means water, food, medical supplies, and  
10       other items the department deems necessary for the health,  
11       safety, and welfare of students and employees."

12       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13       revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                or so much  
14       thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the  
15       purchase of a forty-eight hour supply of emergency goods for  
16       each school facility.

17       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
18       education.

19       SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



# H.B. NO. 1249

1       SECTION 5.   This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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# H.B. NO. 1249

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Public Schools; Disaster and Attack Preparedness Plan; Emergency Supplies; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires each public school to develop a disaster and attack preparedness plan by 1/1/2026 that includes shelter-in-place drills. Requires each school to maintain emergency goods sufficient for at least 48 hours in its facilities.

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

