
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONVENE A
STATEWIDE TASK FORCE TO ADVISE THE CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION
ON THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
HEALTH NEEDS.

1 WHEREAS, given recent disasters, such as hurricanes Katrina
2 and Rita in 2005, and the earthquakes that affected Hawaii in
3 2006, it became more apparent that addressing the needs of
4 individuals with disabilities and other special health needs
5 constitutes an essential part of overall community emergency
6 preparedness; and

7
8 WHEREAS, an interagency workgroup was convened in October
9 2005, to address these needs; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the interagency workgroup developed a 2006
12 Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People
13 with Disabilities and Special Health Needs (Action Plan); and

14
15 WHEREAS, the interagency work group took action on many of
16 the goals and objectives of the Action Plan during 2006 and
17 subsequently updated the Action Plan in February 2007; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the 2006 and 2007 Action Plans identified
20 preparedness planning, notification, sheltering, and
21 transportation as the most pressing issues for individuals with
22 disabilities and special health needs; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the Action Plan set forth the following goals:

- 25
26 (1) All pre-designated locations used and managed as
27 emergency evacuation shelters must meet minimum
28 requirements for facility access in the area of
29 ingress and use of restroom (toilet) facilities to
30 meet the needs of Level I individuals;



- 1 (2) The capacity of the community to "shelter-in-place"
2 must be increased;
3
- 4 (3) The number and dispersion of community emergency
5 shelters as centers to provide augmented health
6 support for Level II individuals must be increased,
7 with the long-term goal of having all community
8 shelters able to support Level II individuals;
9
- 10 (4) An accessible public and professional personal
11 emergency readiness campaign must be developed to
12 assist everyone to make plans for themselves and their
13 families in the event of an emergency;
14
- 15 (5) Individuals with disabilities or special health needs
16 must have an emergency evacuation plan in place
17 developed by themselves or by their caregivers to
18 implement in the event of a notification of
19 evacuation;
20
- 21 (6) Education must be provided to all health care
22 providers in order that appropriate emergency
23 evacuation plans for health care facilities or
24 settings are in place;
25
- 26 (7) Individuals with disabilities or special health needs
27 must receive notification of an evacuation through
28 state civil defense mechanisms in an accessible
29 format; and
30
- 31 (8) Each county must have a plan for providing accessible
32 transportation for individuals with disabilities and
33 special health needs who have no transportation
34 options or means to get to and from an emergency
35 shelter;

36
37 and

38
39 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to expand and
40 improve Hawaii's emergency management operations by supporting
41 the equipping of emergency shelters and the establishment of a



1 statewide task force (Task Force) to address and plan for the
2 specific and specialized needs of individuals with disabilities
3 and special health needs; and

4
5 WHEREAS, the Task Force should comprise:

- 6
7 (1) The chair of the standing committee of the House of
8 Representatives (House) with jurisdiction over health
9 matters, or the chair's designee;
10
11 (2) The chair of the standing committee of the Senate with
12 jurisdiction over health matters, or the chair's
13 designee;
14
15 (3) Nine members of the community at large, with three
16 each to be chosen by the Speaker of the House, the
17 President of the Senate, and the Governor; and
18
19 (4) The Vice Director of the Civil Defense Division of the
20 state Department of Defense, or the Vice Director's
21 designee;

22
23 and

24
25 WHEREAS, the Civil Defense Division of the state Department
26 of Defense is the designated lead agency for the Emergency
27 Management System in the State of Hawaii; now, therefore,

28
29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2008, that the state Department of Defense is
32 requested to convene the Task Force to advise the Civil Defense
33 Division on addressing and planning for the disaster-
34 preparedness needs of individuals with disabilities and special
35 health needs; and

36
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Defense
38 is requested to report the findings of the Task Force regarding
39 the disaster-preparedness needs of individuals with disabilities
40 and special health needs to the Legislature not later than



1 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
2 2009; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
4 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant General, the
5 Director of Health, the Director of Human Services, the Chair
6 and Executive Director of the Disability and Communication
7 Access Board, the Chair and Executive Administrator of the
8 Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and each
9 county civil defense or emergency management agency.

10
11
12

OFFERED BY:



JAN 17 2008

