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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN HEALTH CARE  
FACILITIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the devastating  
2 effects of Hurricane Katrina revealed severe shortcomings of the  
3 health care system serving the residents of the Gulf Coast. And  
4 while the earthquake that shook Hawaii on October 15, 2006, did  
5 not cause severe widespread damage, it did underscore the need  
6 to assess the ability of our state health care facilities to  
7 withstand natural disasters.

8           The Office for Domestic Preparedness within the Department  
9 of Homeland Security issued a directive to states requiring them  
10 to assess their ability to evacuate and shelter residents in the  
11 event of a disaster. In general, hospitals are typically more  
12 prepared than other smaller facilities such as nursing homes to  
13 address disasters. For example, hospitals have comprehensive  
14 plans that will be implemented in the event of a pandemic or  
15 terrorist attack. Still, the Katrina experience underscores the  
16 need to assess hospital facilities as well, to determine their  
17 ability to withstand hurricanes.



1           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
2 health to assess the structural integrity of all state hospitals  
3 in Hawaii and appropriate moneys for this purpose.

4           SECTION 2. The department of health shall assess the  
5 structural integrity of all state hospitals in Hawaii. The  
6 assessment shall be conducted by one or more registered  
7 professional engineers qualified to conduct structural analyses  
8 on existing structures and knowledgeable about the effects of  
9 hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. The  
10 assessment shall include rating each facility based on its  
11 ability to survive the likely effects of hurricanes and  
12 earthquakes of various intensities, and other disasters.

13           SECTION 3. (a) The department of health shall provide the  
14 results of the assessment to:

15           (1) The state hospitals to support preparation of risk-  
16 based disaster plans; and

17           (2) State and county civil defense officials to support  
18 evacuation decisions.

19           (b) The department shall submit a report of its findings  
20 and recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days  
21 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2008.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to  
4 assess the structural integrity of all state hospitals in Hawaii  
5 to determine their ability to withstand different types of  
6 natural disasters.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
8 health for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

State Hospitals; Ability to Withstand Natural Disasters

**Description:**

Makes appropriations to the department of health to assess the structural integrity of state hospitals to determine their ability to withstand different types of natural disasters.  
(SB153 HD1)

