
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN, IN CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES, TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LEVEL II SHELTERS AVAILABLE IN AN EMERGENCY TO INDIVIDUALS WITH LEVEL II DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is at risk from various types of natural
2 disasters, including hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and
3 tsunami; and
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5 WHEREAS, Level II shelters are designed to provide
6 protection during these emergencies for persons with Level II
7 enhanced special health needs; and
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9 WHEREAS, persons that would benefit from the special
10 facilities available at a Level II shelter have special health
11 care needs, such as attendant medical care, continuous health
12 support, or dialysis treatment, or they suffer from disabilities
13 and health conditions that would be difficult to manage in a
14 general population emergency shelter; and
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16 WHEREAS, it has been suggested that hospitals should
17 function as Level II shelters in the event of an emergency,
18 however, hospitals are inappropriate locations because their
19 first priority must be to provide care for acute medical
20 patients; and
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22 WHEREAS, in October 2005, a Working Group was convened to
23 address emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities
24 and special health needs; participants ultimately included the
25 Disability and Communication and Access Board, Department of
26 Health, Civil Defense Division of the Department of Defense,
27 Department of Human Services, Department of Education, State
28 Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Civil Defense Agency
29 in each county, American Red Cross, Executive Office on Aging,



1 Healthcare Association, the mayor's committee or commission on
2 persons with disabilities in each county, Hawaii Association of
3 the Blind, and Hawaii Services on Deafness; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Working Group completed a Interagency Action
6 Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities
7 and Special Health Needs in February 2007, which focused on
8 emergency preparedness, notification, and sheltering as the most
9 pressing issues; the 2007 Interagency Action Plan expressly
10 noted that it is an evolving document into which other issues
11 will later be integrated as the Working Group continues; and
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13 WHEREAS, the 2007 Interagency Action Plan expressly stated
14 as Goal 3: That the number and dispersion of community
15 emergency shelters as centers to provide augmented health
16 support for Level II individuals shall be increased, with the
17 long-term goal of having all community shelters able to support
18 Level II individuals; and
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20 WHEREAS, despite the Working Group's recognition of the
21 insufficient number of Level II shelter space to support Level
22 II individuals, and despite the extensive and commendable
23 efforts of the individuals and agencies involved in the
24 formulation of the 2007 Interagency Action Plan, the critical
25 shortage of Level II shelter continues to exist, and efforts to
26 increase shelters for Level II individuals must be expedited;
27 now, therefore,
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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, the Senate concurring, that the Civil Defense
32 Division of the Department of Defense is requested to develop a
33 strategic plan to increase the number of Level II shelter spaces
34 available for individuals with Level II disabilities and special
35 health needs during an emergency by fifty beds per year for the
36 next ten years; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Defense Division of
39 the Department of Defense is requested to develop the strategic
40 plan in consultation with the Civil Defense Agency and the
41 agency responsible for planning functions in each county, the
42 State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Disability and
43 Communication Access Board, the Hawaii Centers for Independent
44 Living, the American Red Cross, and the Healthcare Association



1 of Hawaii, who, in turn, are requested to cooperate with the
2 Civil Defense Division in the development of the strategic plan
3 and to provide information, support, recommendations, or other
4 relevant assistance upon request; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Defense Division of
7 the Department of Defense is requested to provide any
8 administrative support necessary for the development of the
9 plan; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civil Defense Division is
12 requested to submit to the Legislature, no later than twenty
13 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009, a
14 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
15 necessary legislation, on the strategic plan to increase the
16 number of beds available in Level II shelters in an emergency
17 for individuals who have Level II disabilities and special
18 health needs; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General,
22 the Vice Director of Civil Defense, the Administrator of the
23 Civil Defense Agency and the planning director of each county,
24 the Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental
25 Disabilities, the Executive Director of the Disability and
26 Communication Access Board, the Chair of the Board of Directors
27 of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living, the Chief
28 Executive Officer and the Chair of the Board of Directors of the
29 Hawaii chapter of the American Red Cross, and the President of
30 the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:



FEB 12 2008

