
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is vulnerable
3 to a tsunami or hurricane disaster and recognizes the importance
4 of remaining vigilant in protecting its residents and visitors
5 from these disasters. In view of lessons learned from the 2004
6 tsunami in Southeast Asia and Hurricane Katrina in Florida and
7 Louisiana in 2005, and because these natural disasters could
8 cause tremendous devastation in Hawaii, the legislature deems it
9 vitally important to ensure that the State is adequately
10 prepared to deal with these disasters. While state and private
11 agencies have made great strides in improving their ability to
12 respond to a tsunami or hurricane disaster, more resources are
13 needed to upgrade and decrease coverage gaps in the existing
14 warning systems.

15 The legislature also finds that it is critical to have
16 effective emergency warning systems to protect residents who
17 live in areas of the state that lie in tsunami inundation zones.



1 In the event of a tsunami, the brief notice provided by a
2 tsunami warning can mean the difference between reaching a safe
3 area or remaining in the path of danger. As more and more areas
4 of the state become developed for residential use, there is
5 greater need for additional tsunami warning sirens in these
6 areas. In fact, tsunami warning sirens are a critical piece of
7 infrastructure in neighborhoods around the state.

8 The purpose of this part is to provide for tsunami warning
9 sirens in new residential developments by requiring the counties
10 to condition the approval of permits for the construction of new
11 residential housing in tsunami inundation zones on the
12 installation of tsunami warning sirens.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
14 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
15 read as follows:

16 "§46- Installation of tsunami warning sirens. (a)
17 Prior to issuing permits for the development of any new
18 residential housing consisting of fifty or more residential
19 units within a tsunami inundation zone, the counties shall
20 require the developer requesting the permits to install tsunami
21 warning sirens within the development, to be linked to the civil
22 defense warning system. The department of defense shall



1 determine the specifications for the tsunami warning sirens and
2 their placement.

3 (b) Prior to issuing permits for the development of any
4 new residential housing consisting of less than fifty
5 residential units within a tsunami inundation zone, the counties
6 may impose impact fees pursuant to this chapter for the purpose
7 of installing tsunami warning sirens within the development."

8 PART II

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2008-2009 for the state civil defense emergency supply
14 program to effectively equip emergency shelters to support
15 special needs populations and to maintain the development of the
16 emergency supply program.

17 The sums appropriated by this section shall be expended by
18 the department of defense for the purposes of this section.

19 PART III

20 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that it is crucial to
21 provide notice of an impending natural disaster or emergency to
22 segments of the population that are hearing impaired or cannot



Report Title:

Civil Defense; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the counties to condition the approval of permits for the construction of new residential housing in tsunami inundation zones on the installation of tsunami warning sirens. Appropriates funds for the State Civil Defense Emergency Supply Program to equip emergency shelters. Requires the disability communications access board to identify internationally recognized symbols to be used in the event of a disaster or emergency to communicate notices to persons that do not understand verbal or written communications. (SB796 HD2)

