
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTRIC GRID RESILIENCY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in September 2017,
2 Hurricanes Irma and Maria struck Puerto Rico with devastating
3 force, causing an estimated \$95,000,000,000 in damages to the
4 island, including extensive damages to the island's electrical
5 infrastructure. Recent estimates predict that power in Puerto
6 Rico will not be fully restored until spring of 2018, thus
7 leaving some residents without power for half a year. The
8 prolonged lack of electrical power has left the residents of
9 Puerto Rico without essential services and has created a
10 humanitarian crisis. The interdependencies between different
11 critical infrastructure sectors, including energy, water,
12 transportation, and communications, have further complicated
13 restoration efforts in Puerto Rico, underscoring the need for
14 systemic resiliency planning.

15 The legislature further finds that a direct hit on Oahu
16 from a similar category five hurricane would almost certainly
17 cause extensive property damage and extended power outages



1 across the island. Moreover, much of the State's energy-
2 generating infrastructure is susceptible to storm surges due to
3 the structures being located at or near coastlines. The Hawaii
4 emergency management agency estimates that under a best-case
5 scenario, it would take at least fourteen days after landfall of
6 a category four hurricane on Oahu to restore eighty per cent of
7 grid power. Most public emergency shelters in the State do not
8 have the capacity to provide two weeks of electrical service,
9 and relief from the mainland is dependent upon a functioning
10 airport and seaport. Furthermore, the risks of a natural
11 disaster increase with the impacts of climate change.
12 Scientists have described 2017 as the most weather destructive
13 year on record and have opined that the number of extreme
14 weather events will continue to increase.

15 The legislature hereby declares that it shall be the policy
16 of the State to ensure that the State is prepared to withstand
17 natural disasters and other emergencies and protect the State's
18 critical infrastructure and its citizens by making investments
19 in grid resiliency. The goals of this policy are to:



- 1 (1) Prevent or reduce the severity of damage to the
2 electric grid from a natural disaster or state of
3 emergency;
- 4 (2) Enable faster recovery of normal grid operations after
5 a grid outage due to a natural disaster or state of
6 emergency; and
- 7 (3) Maintain critical loads at critical infrastructure,
8 such as hospitals, fire stations, police stations,
9 airports, and seaports during a grid outage due to a
10 natural disaster or state of emergency.

11 The purpose of this Act is to create a homeland security
12 and resiliency council to identify electric grid and other
13 critical infrastructure needs and provide recommendations for
14 enhancing grid and critical infrastructure resiliency throughout
15 the State.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 128A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
18 and to read as follows:

19 "§128A- Homeland security and resiliency council;
20 membership; duties. (a) There is established a homeland



1 security and resiliency council, which shall be placed within
2 the office of homeland security for administrative purposes.

3 (b) The council shall comprise the following members or
4 their designees:

5 (1) The director of homeland security, who shall serve as
6 the co-chair of the council;

7 (2) The director of the office of planning, who shall
8 serve as co-chair of the council;

9 (3) The administrator of the Hawaii emergency management
10 agency;

11 (4) The director of transportation;

12 (5) The executive officer of the public utilities
13 commission;

14 (6) The directors of each of the county emergency
15 management agencies;

16 (7) The directors of each of the county water supply
17 departments.

18 (c) The president of the senate and the speaker of the
19 house shall jointly invite:

20 (1) Representatives of each electric utility company
21 operating in Hawaii;



1 (2) Representatives of each telecommunications company
2 serving at least one hundred thousand customers in
3 Hawaii; and

4 (3) Representatives of each fuel importer and fuel refiner
5 operating in Hawaii.

6 (d) In addition to the members listed in subsections (b)
7 and (c), the co-chairs of the council may request the
8 participation or input of members of the public; experts in the
9 field; county, state, or federal officials; or others as
10 necessary.

11 (e) Members of the council shall serve without
12 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses
13 incurred in the performance of their duties.

14 (f) The council shall:

15 (1) Establish strategies, goals, priorities, and
16 recommendations to enhance the security and resiliency
17 of the electric grid and other critical infrastructure
18 sectors in the State, and give appropriate
19 consideration to interdependencies between the sectors
20 and to differing needs of communities based on



1 location, access to resources, and vulnerabilities;

2 and

3 (2) Assess the capacity and availability of existing

4 resources and identify new sources of revenue

5 necessary to enhance resiliency of critical

6 infrastructure sectors.

7 (g) The council shall submit a report summarizing its

8 findings, recommendations, and the status of actions to enhance

9 electric grid and other critical infrastructure sector security

10 and resiliency to the governor, legislature, and mayor and

11 county council of each county no later than twenty days prior to

12 the convening of the regular session of 2019, and every two

13 years thereafter.

14 (h) In carrying out its duties, the council, to the extent

15 permitted by law, shall take appropriate measures to protect

16 from public release any confidential or sensitive information if

17 the release of that information could expose critical

18 infrastructure to attack or damage.

19 (i) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to delegate or

20 detract in any way from the functions, powers, and duties



1 conferred by law or ordinance on any state or county department
2 or agency."

3 SECTION 3. Section 128A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately
5 inserted and to read as follows:

6 "Critical infrastructure sector" means a sector whose
7 assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are
8 vital to the State's security, economic security, public health
9 or safety, or any combination thereof, including but not limited
10 to the water, transportation, electrical energy, fuel import and
11 refining, and communications sectors.

12 "Electric grid" means the network of electric generators,
13 transmission and distribution lines, substations, energy storage
14 devices, and supporting infrastructure used to produce and
15 deliver electricity to end-users.

16 "Resiliency" means the capacity to prevent or reduce the
17 severity of damage from natural disaster or manmade emergencies,
18 and to enable faster recovery of normal infrastructure
19 operations after a natural disaster or manmade emergency."

20 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
2 the homeland security and resiliency council to perform its
3 duties under chapter 128A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
5 homeland security for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



S.B. NO. 2910
S.D. 2

Report Title:

Homeland Security and Resiliency Council; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a homeland security and resiliency council to assess the resilience of the State's electric grid and other critical infrastructure to natural disasters and other emergencies and make recommendations. Requires the council to report to legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2050.
(SD2)

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