



# OVERVIEW OF HAWAII REVISED STATUTES CHAPTER 127A

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 127A creates state and county emergency management agencies and defines the responsibilities and authorities of the Governor and Mayors related to emergency and disaster preparedness and

response. Select duties and powers conferred by the statute are listed below. The full chapter is available here:

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol03\\_Ch0121-0200D/HRS0127A/](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol03_Ch0121-0200D/HRS0127A/).

HI-EMA Responsibilities	General Emergency Management Powers (Mayor and Governor)	Gubernatorial Powers with an Emergency Proclamation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Perform emergency management functions within the state.</li> <li>▪ Maintain a state comprehensive emergency management plan and standards for county and state agency plans.</li> <li>▪ Assign responsibilities to state agencies for emergency support functions.</li> <li>▪ Coordinate state response and recovery activities and all resource support to counties.</li> <li>▪ Maintain a statewide system for detection, alert and warning of emergency conditions, including operation of a State Warning Point and maintenance of the Statewide Outdoor Siren Warning System.</li> <li>▪ Institute public preparedness programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Declare an emergency via a mayoral or gubernatorial proclamation.</li> <li>▪ Identify emergency workers required to report for duty</li> <li>▪ Develop mutual aid agreements.</li> <li>▪ Lease or lend county/state property for emergency purposes.</li> <li>▪ Re-allocate county/state public property to be utilized for emergency purposes.</li> <li>▪ Direct non-compulsory evacuations.</li> <li>▪ Establish special accounting forms and practices to expedite access to financial resources.</li> <li>▪ Fix or revise hours of government business.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Apply for federal assistance by requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration.</li> <li>▪ Suspend any law that impedes or is detrimental to the expeditious and efficient execution of emergency functions.</li> <li>▪ Assume direct operational control for events deemed beyond capabilities of local government.</li> <li>▪ Suspend state holidays.</li> <li>▪ Assure continuity of service by critical infrastructure facilities, publicly and privately owned, by regulating or taking over operations.</li> <li>▪ Shut off or suspend utility services.</li> <li>▪ Take action to prevent price gouging and hoarding of supplies, commodities and services.</li> </ul>