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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO INCLUDE IN ALL  
LIVE AND RECORDED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM VIDEO BROADCASTS,  
AN ON-SCREEN INTERPRETER DISSEMINATING THE EMERGENCY  
INFORMATION IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AT ALL TIMES,  
INCLUDING DURING GRAPHIC PRESENTATIONS.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency established  
2 within the Department of Defense plans for and responds to both  
3 natural and human-caused emergencies, including emergencies  
4 resulting from all hazards, including tsunamis, wildfires, and  
5 hurricanes, and incidents involving hazardous materials or  
6 nuclear power; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency manages  
9 Hawaii's Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is a public alert  
10 and warning system that leverages the communications assets of  
11 EAS participants, including terrestrial broadcasters, cable  
12 television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital  
13 audio radio service providers, direct broadcast satellite  
14 services, and wireline video service providers, to allow the  
15 President of the United States the capability to address the  
16 American public during a national emergency; and  
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18           WHEREAS, Hawaii's EAS is also used by state and local  
19 authorities to deliver important emergency information,  
20 including America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response  
21 (AMBER) alerts and the National Weather Service's emergency  
22 weather alerts and advisories; and  
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24           WHEREAS, upon eruptions of volcanoes, information that is  
25 critical to the safety of Hawaii residents, including volcano  
26 alert levels, aviation threat levels, seismic activity levels,  
27 lava flow, and other threats to the community are disseminated  
28 to the public through the EAS; and  
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1           WHEREAS, due to the critical nature of EAS alerts and  
2 warnings, and to prevent confusion caused by misinformation,  
3 lack of information, or difficulty in finding accurate  
4 information following sudden disasters, EAS broadcasts should be  
5 provided using every communication tool available; and  
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7           WHEREAS, during the recent volcanic eruptions on Hawaii  
8 Island, the EAS live video broadcasts did not consistently  
9 provide American Sign Language interpretation on screen, thereby  
10 depriving many Hawaii residents who are deaf or hard of hearing  
11 of emergency information that is imperative for the protection  
12 of their lives and property; now, therefore,  
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14           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Emergency  
17 Management Agency is urged to:  
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- 19           (1) Include in all live and recorded EAS video broadcasts,  
20           an on-screen interpreter disseminating the emergency  
21           information in American Sign Language at all times,  
22           including during graphic presentations;  
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- 24           (2) Provide training for American Sign Language  
25           interpreters by including them in all training  
26           provided to EAS broadcasters; and  
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- 28           (3) Have all video broadcasts have one camera showing the  
29           American Sign Language interpreter at all times; and  
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31           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
33 Adjutant General.

