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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF SMOKE DETECTORS IN EVERY  
HAWAII HOME BY 2010.

1           WHEREAS, fire safety in the State and the safety of its  
2 citizens are of great concern to every legislator, public  
3 servant, and first responder; and  
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5           WHEREAS, after prevention, smoke detectors are the first  
6 line of defense against fire and can cut nearly in half the risk  
7 of death in a house fire; and  
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9           WHEREAS, in recent years, approximately three-fifths of  
10 house fire deaths occurred in homes without smoke detectors; and  
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12           WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and  
13 Prevention, in 2006, a total of 2,580 people died in 412,500  
14 house fires in the United States that resulted in more than  
15 \$11,000,000,000 in property damage; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the Honolulu Fire Department, the sixteenth  
18 largest fire department in the nation, responds to over 10,000  
19 fires annually; and  
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21           WHEREAS, with a house fire occurring in this country every  
22 eighty-six seconds, the diligence, determination, and devotion  
23 of Hawaii's firefighters can be supported by the installation of  
24 a smoke detector in every Hawaii home; and  
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26           WHEREAS, inexpensive household smoke detectors can mean the  
27 difference between life and death by sounding an early warning  
28 in the event of a fire and alerting people before they are  
29 overcome by smoke and other poisonous gases; and  
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31           WHEREAS, most low-income families in Hawaii cannot afford  
32 home smoke detectors; and  
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1 WHEREAS, low-income families are defined as families  
2 qualifying for the State's general assistance program or the  
3 federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program; and  
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5 WHEREAS, low-income families in Hawaii deserve the  
6 protection that smoke detectors can provide; and  
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii's senior citizens are also a vulnerable  
9 population when it comes to house fires, and sometimes need  
10 assistance with installing or maintaining a smoke detector; and  
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12 WHEREAS, in states that observe daylight savings time, the  
13 day used to convert to daylight savings time is also used to  
14 check smoke detector batteries and ensure the safe operation of  
15 smoke detectors; now, therefore,  
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
19 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature  
20 supports the installation and use of smoke detectors in every  
21 Hawaii home by 2010; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that fire departments throughout  
24 Hawaii are urged to designate April 15 as the day to remind  
25 Hawaii's residents to check the batteries in their smoke  
26 detectors and to make sure they operate effectively; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Fire Chiefs  
29 Association and Hawaii State Fire Council are requested to  
30 provide free smoke detectors to low-income families and senior  
31 citizens if funds become available; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local fire departments are  
34 requested to consider implementation of a program to provide  
35 free smoke detectors in exchange for a fire safety inspection of  
36 low-income family homes; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Public Housing  
39 Authority is requested to consider installing smoke detectors in  
40 all existing public housing projects in Hawaii and requiring a  
41 working smoke detector as a requirement of residency; and  
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local fire departments and the  
44 Hawaii State Fire Council make every effort to develop an



1 outreach program with senior citizen-focused organizations to  
2 educate people about the need for our senior citizens to be  
3 safeguarded with a smoke detector properly installed and  
4 maintained in their home; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's fire departments and  
7 senior citizen advocate groups and organizations are urged to  
8 designate a day during Fire Prevention Week, which occurs ever  
9 October, as "Fire Safe Senior Day," for the purpose of educating  
10 seniors about the need for these life-saving devices; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of each  
14 county, to the Chairperson of each county council, to the fire  
15 chiefs of each county, the Chairperson of the State Fire  
16 Council, the President of the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association,  
17 Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Director of  
18 the Executive Office on Aging, and President of the American  
19 Association of Retired Persons for Hawaii.

