
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO WORK WITH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO MAKE NECESSARY UPDATES TO ENSURE THAT TEXTUAL AND AUDIBLE INFORMATION FROM THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM ARE MATCHED AND SYNCHRONIZED DURING TELEVISION BROADCASTS.

1 WHEREAS, in times of national, state, and local
2 emergencies, it is important for members of the public to have
3 timely and often life-saving information; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal
6 Emergency Management Agency, and the National Oceanic and
7 Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service work in
8 conjunction to implement the Emergency Alert System at the
9 federal level; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Emergency Alert System is a national public
12 warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television
13 systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio
14 service providers, and direct broadcast satellite providers to
15 provide the communications capability to the President to
16 address the American public during a national emergency; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Emergency Alert System may also be used by
19 state and local authorities to deliver important emergency
20 information targeted to specific areas; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency will be
23 able to assist and has authority on a state and local level to
24 work with the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal
25 Emergency Management Agency, and the National Weather Service to
26 ensure information broadcast from the Emergency Alert System on
27 local television stations is accessible to people with
28 disabilities; and



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 2 WHEREAS, due to deafness, hearing loss, or other reasons,
 3 many members of the public are not always able to hear
 4 information from the Emergency Alert System and therefore need
 5 to receive that information in a textual form; and

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 7 WHEREAS, the purpose of information matching and
 8 synchronization is to ensure all populations in the public,
 9 including people with disabilities, persons who are blind, deaf,
 10 or hard of hearing, or people with cognitive disabilities, all
 11 receive the same accurate information about disasters that may
 12 impact them; and

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 14 WHEREAS, it is important that the textual information
 15 broadcast on television from the Emergency Alert System match
 16 and be synchronized with the broadcast audible information,
 17 which includes more details than the textual information; now,
 18 therefore,

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 20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
 21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
 22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Federal
 23 Communications Commission, the Federal Emergency Management
 24 Agency, and the National Weather Service are urged to make
 25 necessary updates to ensure that textual and audible information
 26 from the Emergency Alert System are matched and synchronized
 27 during television broadcasts; and

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 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management
 30 Agency is requested to work with the Federal Communications
 31 Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the
 32 National Weather Service to update and deliver accessible
 33 emergency information for all, including persons who are blind,
 34 deaf, or hard of hearing, or people with cognitive disabilities,
 35 and to deliver matched and synchronized information during
 36 television broadcasts; and

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 38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 40 Federal Communications Commission, Administrator of the Federal
 41 Emergency Management Agency, Director of the National Weather



1 Service, Governor of Hawaii, and Adjutant General of the State
2 of Hawaii.

