

MAR 09 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO IMPROVE HAWAII'S EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND HAZARD MITIGATION MEASURES.

1 WHEREAS, scientific consensus posits that storm activity,
2 including hurricane activity, is becoming more intense and more
3 frequent due to climate change; and
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5 WHEREAS, especially in light of the effects of Hurricane
6 Maria on Puerto Rico, it is critical to be prepared for repeated
7 intense weather events, such as Category 4 hurricanes, because
8 Hawaii is remote and isolated; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii relies primarily on school buildings for
11 emergency shelters; and
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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces major challenges in the use of
14 schools as shelters, including the safety and security of these
15 structures and a lack of governance to implement solutions
16 adequately; and
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18 WHEREAS, more attention is required to harden Hawaii's
19 school facilities that serve as evacuation shelters, including a
20 system that provides for:

- 21 (1) Hardening and maintenance of school shelters;
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23 (2) Training of shelter volunteers and school staff;
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25 (3) Periodic evacuation drills;
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27 (4) Safety and security measures; and
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29 (5) Appropriate resources; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency funds
2 three Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs, including
3 the:

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- 5 (1) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which matches a
6 fraction of disaster relief funds to help states
7 mitigate harms from future, similar disasters;
- 8
- 9 (2) Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program, which
10 provides funding to reduce or eliminate long-term
11 risks to properties insured under the National Flood
12 Insurance Program; and
- 13
- 14 (3) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, which assists
15 with implementation of a sustained pre-disaster
16 natural hazard mitigation program to reduce the
17 overall risk to the population and structures,
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19 which make funds available to state, tribal, and territorial
20 governments for hazard mitigation; and

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22 WHEREAS, for states with Standard Mitigation Plans, the
23 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program matches estimated aggregate
24 disaster assistance up to fifteen percent of the first
25 \$2,000,000,000, up to ten percent for amounts between
26 \$2,000,000,000, and \$10,000,000,000, and up to 7.5 percent for
27 amounts between \$10,000,000,000 and \$35,333,000,000; and

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29 WHEREAS, for states with Enhanced Mitigation Plans, such as
30 California, Florida, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, and the
31 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program matches estimated aggregate
32 disaster assistance up to twenty percent for amounts up to
33 \$35,333,000,000; and

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35 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a Standard Mitigation Plan; and

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37 WHEREAS, in the event of a major natural disaster, Hawaii
38 could receive hundreds of millions less in hazard mitigation
39 grants to prepare for and mitigate the potential harms of future
40 natural disasters than if the State had an Enhanced Mitigation
41 Plan; and

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S.C.R. NO. 161

1 WHEREAS, an Enhanced Mitigation Plan will also help the
 2 State prepare for and reduce the potential harms and costs of
 3 future disasters; and

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 5 WHEREAS, the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program and
 6 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program could also provide
 7 assistance to help Hawaii prepare for future disasters before
 8 they occur, including by upgrading critical facilities such as
 9 shelters; now, therefore,

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 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
 12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
 13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor and
 14 Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency are urged to
 15 improve Hawaii's emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation
 16 measures; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Director of
 19 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency are requested to apply
 20 for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program and
 21 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Hawaii
 24 Emergency Management Agency is requested to develop an Enhanced
 25 Mitigation Plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management
 26 Agency, including plans to harden schools used as emergency
 27 shelters; and

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 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant
 31 General, and Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

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OFFERED BY:

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