

FEB 01 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE ALL CELLULAR PHONES TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY ALERTS WITHOUT AN OPTION TO OPT OUT OF RECEIVING EMERGENCY ALERT MESSAGES AND WITHOUT ANY ADDED COSTS TO SERVICE PLANS.

1 WHEREAS, it is critical that a reliable and timely
2 communication system is in place for disseminating information
3 to the public about matters of national and local concern,
4 including natural disasters, severe weather, and other local
5 civic emergencies; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii state emergency alert system is part of
8 the national network that enables the President of the United
9 States to address the American people during periods of national
10 emergency; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Federal Communications Commission regulations
13 allow the Hawaii state emergency alert system to be used by
14 state and local authorities in times of local emergencies; and
15

16 WHEREAS, on January 13, 2018, many residents and visitors
17 of Hawaii received an emergency alert on their cellular phones
18 that contained a warning of an incoming ballistic missile threat
19 inbound for Hawaii; and
20

21 WHEREAS, although the initial emergency alert was
22 erroneously sent out and a subsequent message indicated that the
23 first alert was a false alarm, not all residents and visitors of
24 the State received the emergency alert or subsequent message, or
25 both; and
26

27 WHEREAS, as it relates to something as serious as a
28 national emergency, regulatory steps must be taken to ensure
29 that all persons receive emergency alert messages; now,
30 therefore,



S.C.R. NO. 26

1
 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
 3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
 4 House of Representatives concurring, that the Federal
 5 Communications Commission is requested to establish regulations
 6 to require all cellular phones to receive emergency alerts
 7 without an option to opt out of receiving emergency alert
 8 messages and without any added costs to service plans; and
 9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the
 12 Federal Communications Commission and Director of the Hawaii
 13 Emergency Management Agency.
 14
 15
 16

OFFERED BY: Michelle D. Sidani

For ERL

Transmitted
Maivae R. Inoué

