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# SENATE 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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1 WHEREAS, due to deafness, hearing loss, or other reasons,  
2 many members of the public are not always able to hear  
3 information from the Emergency Alert System and therefore need  
4 to receive that information in a textual form; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the purpose of information matching and  
7 synchronization is to ensure all populations in the public,  
8 including people with disabilities, persons who are blind, deaf,  
9 or hard of hearing, or people with cognitive disabilities, all  
10 receive the same accurate information about disasters that may  
11 impact them; and  
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13 WHEREAS, it is important that the textual information  
14 broadcast on television from the Emergency Alert System match  
15 and be synchronized with the broadcast audible information,  
16 which includes more details than the textual information; now,  
17 therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,  
21 that the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal  
22 Emergency Management Agency, and the National Weather Service  
23 are urged to make necessary updates to ensure that textual and  
24 audible information from the Emergency Alert System are matched  
25 and synchronized during television broadcasts; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management  
28 Agency is requested to work with the Federal Communications  
29 Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the  
30 National Weather Service to update and deliver accessible  
31 emergency information for all, including persons who are blind,  
32 deaf, or hard of hearing, or people with cognitive disabilities,  
33 and to deliver matched and synchronized information during  
34 television broadcasts; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Federal  
38 Communications Commission, Administrator of the Federal  
39 Emergency Management Agency, Director of the National Weather  
40 Service, Governor of Hawaii, and Adjutant General of the State  
41 of Hawaii.

