URGING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO IMPROVE ITS MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, on the morning of January 13th, 2018, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency broadcasted an alert to cellphones, televisions, and radios, stating that a ballistic missile was inbound to Hawaii, instructing people to seek shelter immediately, and stating falsely that "THIS IS NOT A DRILL"; and

WHEREAS, in the ensuing panic, people rushed to shelter, fled city centers, contacted friends and family to find comfort, and said their final prayers in what they thought would be their last moments; and

WHEREAS, the United States Pacific Command confirmed with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency that there was no threat just three minutes after the alert went out, but it took twelve minutes for the first public false alarm notification to appear on social media; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency took thirty-eight minutes before it issued a comprehensive false alarm broadcast to all cellphones, televisions, and radios; and

WHEREAS, reports indicate that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency was completely unprepared for a false alarm situation, and had not even considered the need to send a false alert broadcast until the thirty-eight minutes of panic, during which the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency called the Federal Emergency Management Agency for help and advice; and

WHEREAS, the false alarm incident revealed the utter incompetence of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and showed the necessity for an overhaul of the agency's management and operations procedures; and

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WHEREAS, the residents and guests of Hawaii should be able
to have absolute confidence in the truthfulness of official
messages about potential threats, and in the trustworthiness and
competence of the public officials responsible for their
protection; and

WHEREAS, the near-total confusion during those thirty-eight
minutes of panic also show the need for further disaster-
preparedness education and readiness training; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii cannot afford to be anything
but prepared, educated, and ready because global tensions are at
their highest point since the end of the Cold War and the
enemies of the United States have explicitly targeted Hawaii;
now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
of 2018, that the House of Representatives condemns the thirty-
eight minutes of terror unnecessarily experienced by residents
and visitors to Hawaii on Saturday, January 13th, 2018,
expresses sympathy for all those affected, and resolves to do
everything in its power to prevent such a mistake from
reoccurring; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management
Agency is urged to conduct a comprehensive review of its
management and operational procedures to create more
accountability, efficiency, accuracy, and preparedness for the
State of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management
Agency is urged to work closely with schools and other community
organizations to conduct additional public education campaigns
concerning the proper way to prepare and react in the
catastrophic event of a ballistic missile or other threat
becoming a reality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the Director, the Administrator,
and the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Emergency Management
Agency, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Mayor of Honolulu, the Mayor of Maui, the Mayor of Kauai, and the Mayor of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY: [Signatures]

JAN 19 2018